

Britain wants to bury hopes of legacy justice

By **Martin Galvin, National FFAI Chairman**

Congressman Brendan Boyle, Irish Consul General Ciaran Madden and key representatives of Irish and British political parties, joined Hibernians to hear victims' relatives and survivors appeal for help during a webinar on July 17. Jacqueline Butler, daughter of a Springhill Massacre victim; Steven Travers, a survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre; and Martin Mallon, whose aunt Roseann Mallon was one of 17 collusion-murder victims killed with the same weapons, told how new British legacy plans would remove their chance for truth. Watch on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/UHK7ARh9o4U>.



Jacqueline Butler

Legacy truth

Britain plans an amnesty for Troubles killings, to benefit British Army and Royal Ulster Constabulary members who never faced charges for murders like those in Ballymurphy or collusion killings. They will take away inquests and civil actions to stop more verdicts like the Ballymurphy inquest. Britain wants to cut out the Historical Investigations Unit from its Stormont House legacy mechanisms, agreed with the Irish government in December 2014.

Springhill massacre

Victims and survivors described the stakes. Jacqueline Butler, the daughter of Paul Butler, spoke about the Springhill-Westrock Massacre and her 49-year battle for truth. On July 9, 1972, British snipers, following a ceasefire and formal peace talks with Republicans, murdered five people, including Catholic priest Fr. Noel Fitzpatrick, Paul Butler, Margaret Gargan (13 years old), John Dougal (16) and David McCafferty (16), in the Springhill-Westrock Massacre.

The British then said all five were gunmen wearing black. For years afterwards, British regiments repeatedly searched her home and hassled her widowed mother.

Ms. Butler said, "All we want is for the British to admit what they did." Her father's inquest is scheduled for next year but now it may never take place.

Stephen Travers was a member of the Miami Showband returning from a performance when they were flagged by what seemed a routine British UDR checkpoint. They were ordered to stand by the road. Two members of Britain's Ulster Defense Regiment were planting a bomb under the driver's seat when it exploded, killing both of them. The others opened fire, killing bandmen Fran O'Toole, Brian McCoy and Tony Geraghty. Stephen Travers was wounded and left for dead. The killers were connected to the Glenanne gang, which killed 120 people and carried out the Dublin-Monaghan bombings. He is now suing the British Ministry of Defense and Constabulary Chief Constable because of proven British state involvement.

Martin Mallon, an ex-prisoner and well-known Republican in East Tyrone, described how his aunt, Roseanne Mallon, 76, was murdered and his mother wounded, shot by loyalists using the same weapons used in 17 collusion murders over a six-year period, including American citizen Liam Ryan. British troopers posted

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Hibernian Heroes

Matt Joyce, AOH Pennsylvania, Dauphin County Division 1 – Bobby Sands Division

AOH Brother Matt Joyce is a young man with Down Syndrome who earned his Major Degree on July 31. Matt has a strong Catholic faith, and is extremely devoted to Mary, our Blessed Mother of God.

Matt is a very strong role model for people with Down Syndrome and all disabilities. He is extremely involved in his community and leads a life of dignity and inclusion. Brother Joyce graduated from the Penn State Harrisburg Career Studies Program, and currently works two jobs, serving as an assistant custodian at an elementary school and as a cleaning and sanitizing specialist in a business office. Matt also serves as a manager for the Penn State Harrisburg Men's Varsity Basketball Team. He loves sports, and played in the 2016 Little League World Series Challenger Game in Williamsport, PA. Matt also loves to play the guitar and sing, and participated in the National Down Syndrome Congress Talent Show the past three years.

Matt is a loving older brother to AOH member David Joyce. David is profoundly impacted by autism. Matt's father, Joe Joyce, is also a member of the AOH Dauphin County Division 1, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the



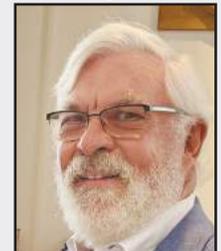
Vice President Sean Pender, Joe Joyce, Hibernian Hero Matt Joyce and President Danny O'Connell take time for a photo following the Major Degrees during the Pennsylvania State Convention.

Autism Society of America.

Congratulations Brother Joyce, our first Hibernian Hero to be featured in the Hibernian Digest.

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New York

Rockland Division 1 recruits at Irish Night game

Division 1 members participated in recruiting new members at a July 24th Irish Heritage Night at the New York Boulders baseball game. The festivities for the day included an afternoon featuring an exciting baseball game with the New York City Police Department facing the NYC Fire Department. Also, there was great musical entertainment

by the Narrowbacks who had everyone singing and dancing to our favorite Irish tunes. A great day!

Many stopped by the Division 1 recruitment table where info was provided on the four AOH Divisions in Rockland County, and new candidates are expected to attend fall meetings when once again they resume.



At the game were, from left, Maureen Connors, visitor to our recruitment table; AOH members: Rich Caunitz; Gerry Walsh; Bob Fitzsimmons; Jim Clarke; sons of Bobby Fitzsimmons: Danny and John Fitzsimmons, and Division 1 President Bobby Fitzsimmons. And the gentleman on the right is Tom McGuire, from Pearl River, a prospective member who stopped by our recruitment table.

Support Project St. Patrick

Please keep those studying for the religious life in your thoughts and prayers. Project Saint Patrick is a wonderful way of putting those prayers into action.

Send your check, made payable to: Hibernian Charity
to P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179.

Mark the Memo section: "Project Saint Patrick."

<https://aoh.com/project-st-patrick/>

The National HIBERNIAN Digest

"The Land, One and Indivisible, Though the Heavens Fall"

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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president's message

By Danny O'Connell

It's hard to believe I am looking back at my first year in office. It seems like just last month I was sitting in the kitchen creating my first Zoom webinar in order to host the 2020 Ancient Order of Hibernians National Convention in Youngstown, Ohio. Since that time, I have hosted more than 100 webinars and meetings and joined countless others. The success of these events is a credit to each and every member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.

Our virtual success has raised the bar for everything we do as Hibernians. Simply look at the impact of Irish American Heritage Month. We had four heritage events with guests live from Ireland. Look at the success of the Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal, which set a record for our collections, in part due to the dozens of FFAI events providing a first-hand opportunity to see and hear the individuals and groups we support.

From the Ballymurphy Families to the Hunger Strikers, from a United Ireland Campaign to Brexit, the AOH has made a mark of support. Look at the success of our book reviews hosted by Tim Noonan. The bottom line is we now have an excellent virtual library, which can be found on the AOH YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AncientOrderofHibernians>.

Focus on the future

As convention season is wrapping up, we should all be focusing on the future. Members of the national board had the opportunity to join most conventions, either live or virtually. Our national directors did brilliant work creating a report that would be consistent for every convention and giving a comprehensive look at what you need to do in order for us to continue our success. I know everyone has heard or read about the four pillars of focus we need everyone to participate in. I believe they are worth noting again today.

AOH Pillars of Success

Dues and membership.

Pay your dues on time and recruit a new member at least twice a year. Be sure your division national and state per capita for the previous year is paid by the annual February 15 deadline. Mentor your new recruits and be sure to join them for their first three meetings.

Hibernian Charity Appeal.

Formerly referred to as the Label Program. This is an opportunity for every member to make an impact on our national charity work. Our primary efforts support our seminarians, our heritage (History Day), Hibernian Hunger and our study abroad programs.

Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal.

Our opportunity to support Justice Initiatives, a United Ireland, and Cross Community work in the north of Ireland. We ask each division, county and state board to strive to raise \$1,000 or more for the annual appeal.

Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal.

Our opportunity to support local seminarian grants. We ask that each division, county and state board strive to raise one \$500 grant and that larger divisions and boards strive to raise two or three \$500 grants annually.

As with every donation you choose to make, no donation is ever too big nor too small. Together we can succeed.

My final thought is that now is the time to look at the Order at every level and evaluate what we do and how we do it. Over the next several months we will have focus groups looking and evaluating much of what we do, including membership requirements. We will be evaluating possible changes that will guarantee our success today and well into the future. The most important thing you can do to guarantee our success is to participate with an open mind and provide the critical feedback we need.

In closing, I want to thank each and every Hibernian for making this national board's first year a success. Together Everyone Achieves More. God Bless.



vice president's report

By Sean Pender

Hibernian Charity Appeal

The Hibernian Label Program has been rebranded to the Hibernian Charity Appeal. For years, this program has been a constant means by which individual members were able to contribute to the success of the National Board. Changes over time, including the overall decline in the use of first-class mail thereby decreasing the need for return labels, the 2016 decision to use all labels receipts to fund our 501c3 Hibernian Charities, and the clear feedback from many members that labels are no longer needed, have encouraged us to consider a change to this program. The fact that our participation rate has remained at nearly 8 percent for several years has prompted us to decide that the time for that change is now.

All members will receive a mailing that will include an Ancient Order of Hibernians card magnet and asked to consider a tax-deductible donation to the Hibernian Charity. The rebranded program will allow for members to claim fully tax-deductible donations. We have had many discussions in recent years with members who have requested this opportunity. The Hibernian Charity Appeal now provides this option. Members will have the ability to direct donations of more than \$50 to specific charity programs, such as Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger, History or Irish Way Scholarships. Donations less than \$50 will be distributed between the programs in need. Donating online will continue to be available. Additionally, this improvement will enable us to promote the AOH on a broader scale as well as update the products annually as needed.

For members who have grown accustomed to getting labels on a yearly basis they will still have the ability to purchase labels through the National Secretary's office. Precise details on ordering will be included with the October mailing.

Brothers, we have listened to your concerns, comments and requests and we believe this change has met them, along with promoting the Order through a new marketing option. We eagerly look forward to this year's inaugural Hibernian Charity Appeal and hope we can see a dramatic increase in our participation rate.



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."



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

Engaging Young Members and Leaders

As our Order focuses on recruiting new members, we need to explore all options. Obvious options include promoting your Division through social media, having a presence at public events and a "one-on-one" approach where each member brings in a new member. But what appeals to a younger population? If your Division has a few or several younger members, engage them by asking them what they think would attract their friends into the AOH. What can our organization offer more younger members? Is there something your Division can add to the menu of offerings (issues, events, initiatives, etc.)?

As Hibernian leaders of today, we need to "set the stage" for tomorrow. We need to approach younger members informally by asking a few questions to learn what is

meaningful to them. How can we reach other younger men? Is it through social media? Is it by embracing a cause or social or human-rights issue that is relevant to them?

For our younger members, how can we encourage them to serve as our leaders? We need to offer them these opportunities and support them by sharing our knowledge and our mentorship. Additionally, we need to showcase our young leaders because, hopefully, these young leaders will be the example for other young members to our join our ranks.

Online Donations

I am using this opportunity to remind everyone of the option to donate online through our national website at AOH.com. Your donation supports AOH charitable work that includes:

- Hibernian Disaster Relief
- Hibernian Hunger Projects
- Project Saint Project, which supports religious vocations
- Irish Way and Study Aboard scholarships
- And much more.

No donation is too small to demonstrate your interest in sustaining the critical work of our Order and our initiatives. Thanks in advance for your consideration.



Director's report

By ETO Halligan

As I put this report together, we are in the middle of the State Convention Season. It is great to get out and meet with fellow Hibernians. It is even better to hear what states are doing and their plans for the near future. No doubt that the partying is fun, but the information that you come away with is invaluable. We encourage all members to attend their State Conventions, the meetings and participate in the break-out sessions. Don't forget our 2022 National Convention will be in Pittsburgh, PA, July 13 through July 16.

Thank you

Congratulations to all new and returning State Officers. Best wishes and thank you to outgoing officers. You guided us through the pandemic, stayed positive, kept our membership active with Hunger Projects, taking care of our Veterans, supporting medical personnel, stepping up when our Churches were desecrated and so much more.

New Officers good luck. Please be active especially with recruitment and retention. Our numbers are down slightly in 2020. We can use the excuse that it was because of the pandemic. Okay, but no excuses for 2021.

Recruitment

I had a request to share some ideas as to how successful Divisions recruit. One of the most important tools are websites. So many websites are not current. How are you advertising who you are and what you are doing? This tool is vital if you want to attract younger members. Put your events on social media, invite the community to participate and then share your results. Use the advertising that National has produced. Refer to our YouTube events. Contact the Pastors in your area. Let them know who you are and what you do. Talk with their secretaries or office managers about advertising in their parish bulletin. If you can't gain access to the bulletin, ask if you can say a few words after Mass or hand out AOH pamphlets after Mass. If affordable, offer coffee, orange juice and donuts after Mass. Take pictures of your charitable activities. Include in the caption how to contact the Division. Read the Hibernian Digest from cover to cover. See what other Divisions are doing throughout the country. Some of the Divisions in my territory have road bowling, some have given sweatsuits to vets, some have established their own food bank for the community, some have tank pulls to raise money for Catholic schools, some have food drives and then distribute the food to local charities, some do essay contests and award monetary scholarships for Catholic High School tuitions. Use your imagination. Make sure you get names and contacts if someone is interested. Follow up and keep following up. Don't let them get away.

If any Division has something unique that has proven successful, please share.



Secretary's report

By Jere Cole

Preparing to close out 2021

Now that convention season is almost behind us, we should turn to looking at our rosters.

It is always a good practice to keep your roster up to date rather than waiting until year end to make the adjustments. Remember that we no longer send out a hard copy of your roster, but rather you are expected to update yours on line using the Roster Management Tool. Specifically, you should update your officers immediately after the convention and not wait until year end. A PowerPoint of the instructions is available, just send us an email and we will send it right out.

Things to keep in mind: It is imperative that the division President and Financial Secretary have an email address and phone number. This is a requirement of the position.

Remember, too, that when communicating to this office you should always provide your division number. We have everything catalogued by number and not division name so providing the division number will facilitate our ability to help you quickly.

It is always preferable to email us rather than call as this will result in a quicker response.

Remember, the Financial Secretary is the most important position in a division as they are responsible for not only keeping their membership data up to date, but also recording all officers.

If you are in need of supplies, medallions or forms please go to AOH.com and download the order form. Complete and forward with your check to the National Office at P.O. Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007.

Recently we added the capability for the financial secretary to update the Form 9 online, eliminating the tedious process of completing a paper form and mailing it to the office.

If you have just been elected to this important position of Financial Secretary and you aren't sure how to begin, first contact my office. The most efficient way would be to email Joe Ryan at: joe.ryan.aoh@gmail.com Joe will see that you are set up and go over any instructions necessary for you to become productive from day one.

Again, if anything is amiss, CONTACT JOE RYAN. Joe.ryan.aoh@gmail.com



Director's report

By Ray Lynch

Brothers, I hope you all are enjoying the summer months and have given yourselves permission to go out and breathe in the clean air. It feels great to be able to get out and shake hands again and it seems the "Business of the Order" is falling back into place and at full steam. Recently, I travelled to Atlanta for the Georgia State Convention (Jul 23-24) and was honored to be able to represent the National Board while joining them at their business meeting, Installation Mass and Midsummer Irish Celebration at a restaurant owned by a brother Hibernian. During my visit I was grateful when asked to swear in the new State Officers as well. Our brothers in GA were very hospitable and welcoming and I am glad I was able to attend. On August 14, the Florida Innisfail Major Degree team will be holding a Degree in Lake County, if you are interested, please reach out to Jim Cahill the Degree team Secretary for details or visit the AOH State of Florida Facebook page. South Carolina will be holding their State Convention virtually in September and both North Carolina and Florida have theirs scheduled for October.

I am so grateful to this Order for keeping on a supportive path during all of the uneasiness and reminding our Brotherhood to focus on the individual/ family first, because without us we have no AOH. I am looking forward to the months ahead with the challenges of growing and strengthening the Order. As the summer moves along, my hope is that more people venture out and enjoy all the beauties of what God has given us. In closing, I am sending prayers for continued safety and wellbeing to be able to make educated decisions for our families with all the new information that we are receiving daily. 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.

Does your financial secretary have your email address?

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.



Director's report

By BOB MEHRENS

Pride, History, Tradition. As we wind down the summer there are so many examples of these three words from our brothers across the country.

In Colorado, there is currently a memorial being developed in Leadville that will recognize the Irish buried in unmarked, sunken graves. These were mainly miners who immigrated to work the mines and smelters in the 1880s.

In Montana, the summer kicked off with Irish Days in Virginia City. This annual event includes the upkeep of The Thomas Francis Meagher cabin, followed by a parade and ending with a night of storytelling and plenty of Irish entertainment. The Smeltermen's Day celebration, including a parade in Anaconda, Montana, is a nostalgic throwback to our smelter stack history and the people who created it. What these three events have in common is the majority of workers that helped create these small communities were Irish immigrants. They were hired and employed by the likes of Copper King Marcus Daly who himself immigrated from Ballyjamesduff, County Cavan, Ireland. The roots that these Irish immigrants put down have had a lasting effect on Irish communities far and wide in America.

Over a century since these mines were opened, members of the AOH have fought tirelessly to help maintain this rich Pride, History and Tradition of our brother and sister Irish immigrants. We all try to resonate our motto — Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity — when recruiting new members. A large part of that recruitment is sharing the traditions and stories passed on by all those who came before us with the hope that we can continue to keep those traditions alive.

As we head into fall, keep in mind that like those early miners and smeltermen who helped build and maintain so many cities and towns, it is up to all of us to keep the foundation and help to build our future.

Support Project St. Patrick

<https://aoh.com/project-st-patrick/>



Director's Report

By Richard Thompson

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. With fall on the horizon, it is time to return to our Hibernian activities with a renewed vigor.

As reported in my last column, in June I attended the Massachusetts State Convention. President Jack Lahey ran a productive convention with breakout sessions to inform and educate the Delegates about our National objectives. National Treasurer Liam McNabb was also in attendance. As expected, Jack Lahey, his officers and board were reelected and appointed.

I had the pleasure to attend the New York State Convention in Syracuse with a large contingent of National Board Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs and Past National Presidents. It allowed many of us our first face-to-face interaction since being elected in July 2020. Congratulations to outgoing NYS President Tom Lambert on a great Convention and successful term of office. Best wishes to new NYS President John Manning and his Board for their term of office. I would like to extend a big thank you for the hospitality I received from the Brothers and Sisters from New York.

One underlying theme at both of these Conventions is the decrease in our membership. Nationally our membership is down 4 percent. Does the pandemic of the last year and a half have something to do with it? The simple answer is yes, but our membership was on the decline before the pandemic. Membership is the life blood of any organization; to survive we need members. Recruitment and retention of members must become a priority for us from the National Board down to our Divisions. I would suggest every Brother has a family member, a friend or fellow church goer who he knows qualifies for membership in our Order. Wouldn't it be great if each of us sponsored a new member this fall? We could instantly double our membership and help to sustain our organization into the future.

The Connecticut State Convention is scheduled for September 24-26 and is being hosted at its Stamford Division. The fall meeting of the Massachusetts State Board is scheduled to start off with a joint meeting with the LAOH State Board on September 12 and will be held in Lawrence. Division 1 in Manchester, NH, will resume meetings in early September and I plan to get down to Rhode Island this fall to meet with the Brothers down there.

Please sponsor a candidate for membership this fall!



Director's Report

By Sean O'Dowd

The AOH continues to contribute to celebrating our Irish heritage and culture in the towns, cities and states where we live. Everyone is familiar with St. Patrick's Day and the celebrations surrounding it, but what about all the festivals, feis and GAA tournaments throughout the spring, summer and fall. These are great opportunities for us to show off who the Irish are without all the stereotypes and derogatory mischaracterizations that unfortunately accompanies St. Patrick's Day. They are also an excellent time for recruitment of new members, with so many families attending dance competitions, GAA games and live music. These are great venues for your State, County or Division organizer to set up a tent.

Here is a short list of the many Irish festivals throughout the Midwest that AOH/LAOH are contributors: Iowa Irish Fest (Waterloo, IA), Peoria Irish Fest (IL), Irish American Heritage Center and Gaelic Park (Chicago, IL), Naperville Irish Fest (IL), Indy Irish Fest (IN) and, of course, Milwaukee Irish Fest (WI), the largest Irish Festival in the U.S.

In June, it was my honor to attend the Ohio State Convention in Cleveland. Thank you to Co-Chairs Ray McGann and Patty Lavelle for organizing a terrific event. Congratulations to Ohio State President Bob Harper and his Board. State conventions here in the Midwest have been pushed back to the fall, with Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan taking place in late September and early October.



National Director O'Dowd, left, and JFK Division 59 Chicago President Tim Noonan were privileged to attend the First Mass of newly ordained priest Ryan Brady, a Division 59 member, at Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago.



Director's Report

By Tim McSweeney

The New York State AOH Convention was held July 8-11 in Syracuse. The Convention began with an opening Mass at the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception, celebrated by NYS AOH Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid. The venue for the convention was the newly renovated Marriott Downtown Hotel. Hotel owner and Syracuse AOH Brother Ed Reilly was a truly gracious host. Thursday brought opening business and a joint session of the NYS AOH/LAOH. Friday included awards night in the hotel's beautiful Persian room.

Saturday's Major Degree Ceremony conducted by the Cu Chulainn Warriors Major Degree Team. This ceremony was the final ceremony for Team Chairman and Chief of Escort Jack King. Congratulations, Jack, for your many years of service to the team.

The Convention concluded with closing mass and the Installation of Officers conducted by National President Danny O'Connell. John Manning, of Queens County, was elected President; Tom O'Donnell, of Niagara County, was elected Vice President; Tom Beirne, of New York County, was elected Secretary; and Kevin O'Reilly, of Albany County, was elected Treasurer.

P.J. Higgitt, John Greer, Tim Barry, John Walker, Ed Burke, Dennis Grogan, Kieran Mahoney and Jack Ryan were elected District Directors. Congratulations to Tom Lambert for a successful term as State President for the last two years.

The Convention Committee, led by Bob Buntz and Annmarie Ferguson, did an outstanding job and provided true hospitality all week. The 2023 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention will be held at the Woodcliff Resort hosted by the Rochester AOH/LAOH.



Hibernian Hunger Project

By Bill Sullivan, Chairman

We hope that you have had a great summer and have had time to recharge your batteries, as we move into the last four months of 2021. Hopefully, you have had some time to gather some thoughts and ideas on your Hibernian Hunger Project. If you haven't, why not consider and take some suggestions from the projects of other Divisions around the country that are noted in this column and put your own spin on it.

Recently David Riordan of the Frederick, Maryland, Division 1, contacted us regarding his Division's Hunger Project, which is run in conjunction with Farmers and Hunters Feed the Hungry. David noted that hunters donate their prey, and the processed meat is then donated to local food banks, soup kitchens and other feeding ministries. One of the groups that receives the processed meat is the Frederick City Food Bank, which serves over 800 families.

I also received an email from Kevin Delaney of Division 1 in Bristol Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Kevin told me that that Division 1 had recently donated \$325 to the Bristol Borough Community Action Group. Kevin noted that Division 1 had partnered with BBCAG because they have been a dependable resource for those most in need in their community for nearly 50 years.

In the last several issues of the Hibernian Digest, we recognized the recipients of our \$1,000 2020 Hibernian Hunger Project Awards. In this issue we will detail the projects of some of our \$500 Hibernian Hunger Projects Awards recipients.

Saint Patrick Division 2, of Babylon, New York, has for many years worked closely with local parishes, government and private agencies. When the pandemic hit, Division 2 was no longer able to help out in those places. Division 2 President Jim Killen and his Division officers devised an initiative to help out at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center. With the assistance of Division 2's in-house caterer, Division 2 provided "Irish Comfort Food" – trays and trays of shepherd's pie to the hospital's front-line hospital workers, nurses and doctors. In all, Division 2 fed — in one day alone — five separate hospital units, with over 250 people.

Division 39, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to the needy in the Philadelphia area, as well as assisted the City of Philadelphia's Food Warehouse and Transportation Center during the pandemic, which helped over 650,000 people in a joint project by Division 39 and the City of Philadelphia. At the Warehouse and Transportation Center, city workers, AOH and LAOH volunteers packed 32,000 boxes of food weekly and delivered them to food banks, churches and community centers. Division members also contributed Personal Protective Equipment as well as \$700 in donations to purchase PPE for the volunteers.

The Father Donnelly Division 1, in Johnson County, Kansas, collaborated with the local K of C in an effort to increase donations for the Harvesters Regional Food Bank. The results of this collaboration were impressive, with a total of 22,040 pounds of food and \$8,627 in cash collected. Division 1 also donated an additional \$2,500.

Without doubt, AOH Divisions are making a difference to eradicate hunger in their communities. In future Digest articles we will continue to highlight our 2020 Hibernian Hunger Projects Award recipients, as well as what your division is doing to fight hunger. Please email me a short article on an activity your division is doing or has done. When available, photos are most welcome too.

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



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catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

Conscious of the efforts of our brother and sisters working on pro-life issues, I don't mean to steal their thunder by talking about some of those issues here. But I do want to add my voice to theirs. There is certainly an intersection of pro-life advocacy and what has traditionally been known as Catholic Action.

Our bishops have continued to raise the alarm over recent budget bills and amendments coming out of the U.S. House of Representatives. Domestic budget proposals do not contain the Hyde Amendment, named after the late Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL), which has for many years prevented the use of taxpayer-funded support for abortion in domestic programs. Foreign aid packages similarly do not contain the Helms Amendment, named after the late Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), which has forbidden the use of taxpayer funds to promote abortion overseas. In addition, many measures for various health-related issues do not contain conscience provisions to protect healthcare workers who object to participating in procedures or practices, such as abortion, euthanasia and sex-change operations, which violate their consciences. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, of New York, head of the bishops' Committee on Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph Naumann, of Kansas City, head of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, have issued statements on these matters. For information and resources for action, visit www.usccb.org.

On another issue entirely, one of the trends this observer has noticed is a revival of many Catholic devotional practices, which fell upon hard times since the 1960s. One of these is devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. The upcoming month of October has often been a time when Catholics have turned to Mary to venerate her and seek her intercession. Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated October 7, and October 13 marks the final apparitions at Fatima at the time of World War I. My suggestion is for Hibernians to get involved, as individual, families and groups, in Marian activities. I'm guessing that somewhere near you, there are people saying the rosary or undertaking processions or pilgrimages. If not, why not start something on your own? Perhaps you have an opportunity to explain to a Protestant friend that we do not "worship" Mary. As always, I'm interested to know what you may be doing.

Deadline for the Oct-Nov-Dec issue NO LATER than October 1



charities & missions

By patrick ryan, chairman

I want to congratulate Irish Gold medalists Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy in their outstanding accomplishment in rowing to win Gold at the Olympics. This is Irish Determination at its best! The Olympics is a great opportunity for all nations to shine and we have seen some great performances by many of these athletes. As we start getting into the 'going back to school' mode I ask that you think about your local parish schools and the needs that they may have and how you at the Division and County levels can help make them shine as well. There are still many challenges schools and students must overcome but that is what our Irish heritage is about - determination! I encourage you to speak with your local pastor and principal and ask how we as Hibernians can help make the school year better and learn more about the AOH.

One of the best tools I have seen is the St. Patrick's Coloring Contest, which many Divisions have implemented. This contest was designed by Ken McKiernan, father of Kentucky State President Shaun McKiernan, and is an institution in the Louisville Archdiocese for nearly 50 years. This contest is for children from kindergarten through 4th grade and offers us a chance to directly connect with each school in your diocese. This is a great way to show your community involvement and gain notoriety. If there are other Divisions that are close to you then I encourage you to work with them and coordinate your efforts. Not only is this a chance for kids to have fun learning about St. Patrick, but it also gives us an opportunity to teach these students about being Catholic and our Irish heritage and forming a multi-generational relationship with the AOH. The Louisville Division now has members that remember being in the contest and are now members who have children of their own who are experiencing what they did - what a great legacy that has been created! I have found that many radio and TV stations will pick this up as an awesome local story and gives you another opportunity to shine. Writing an article and promoting it in your diocesan newspaper is another outstanding recruiting tool.

As part of our mission to spread the word about the AOH, we need to engage at all levels. As we know, children are our future and this is a great way to connect with them and to create life-long memories. I look forward to hearing from you if you want to implement this project into your yearly schedule. I am also looking for wonderful ideas that you do that would benefit other divisions. Please contact me with any questions or to learn more about the St. Patrick's Coloring Contest and your own ideas at patrick@rivierstad.com

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pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Being a Pro Life Committee Chair is a challenging position, partly because of the political entanglements that can strain relationships and incite political arguments. However, the duties of an AOH Pro Life Committee Chair are critically important to all of our Hibernian brothers, their families and loved ones. Personally, I consider education as the most important aspect of Pro Life chairs. Educating our brothers on the true teachings of Holy Mother Church and Sacred Scripture as they relate to pro-life issues provides our members with the truth about abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide and capital punishment. Because the world prefers pleasure and convenience to chastity and discipline, we have all been presented with many lies, half-truths, and misinformation about pro-life issues, published in all manner of media. Possibly because of the constant barrage of misinformation and apparent acceptance of abortion by so many celebrities, politicians and writers, many Catholics have allowed these worldly views on pro-life issues to change their personal opinions on critical issues that bear eternal consequence. By consulting the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and its brief version, the Compendium of the Catechism, we can easily find the true Catholic teaching on abortion and all pro-life issues.

While there is a lot of chatter in the news and social media that the Catholic Church is going to change its position on abortion, and commentators frequently quote Pope Francis to lend validity to their claims, we all need to examine these claims and look for articles with direct quotes and video clips of Pope Francis, and it will become obvious that he is very clear in speaking out against abortion.

Although many of our brothers actively follow the political issues surrounding pro life, legislation alone will not bring pro-life issues into accord with the teachings of Holy Mother Church. Culture will need to change to the point where every life is sacred, the unborn are granted full protection as human beings under the Constitution, and children are seen as true blessings from Almighty God, and that change will require education and faith. As Pro Life Committee Chairs, we can promote cultural change by using our appointment to educate our brothers on pro-life issues using the teachings of Holy Mother Church and Sacred Scripture.

There is one line from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 6, Verse 34, that demonstrates how Jesus responds with love and education. "When he (Jesus) disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." It's also critically important, as a Pro Life Chair, to love and respect all of our brothers, even if we disagree, because the goal of all Hibernians should be that we want to spend eternity in Heaven together!

By the time you read this, the 40 Days for Life fall campaign may have already started, on September 22 through October 31. Regardless, just google "40 Days for Life Fall Campaign" and you'll be able to find a prayer vigil near your neighborhood. These vigils have provided me with the very best pro-life education. The volunteers have no political aspirations, and their hopes and prayers are for the spiritual well being of all pregnant women, as well as the expectant fathers and unborn children. Most of the volunteers are also involved in the financial, moral and spiritual support of mothers and children in troubled pregnancies. If you haven't already, please consider joining a vigil this fall!



Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

We will likely be at the halfway point to Irish American Heritage Month and St. Patrick's Day by the time you read this. *There can be no understating the importance of Irish American Heritage Month at this point in time; it is a Hibernian Duty as a National Program for every State, County and Division Board to support this program.* It is not an exaggeration to say that the future of our Order and identity depends on it.

Brothers, we are at an inflection point in our history as Irish Americans and Hibernians. Many of us grew up in environments where being Irish was in the air we breathed. Those days are sadly gone, and we see evidence of it in our own Order in our challenges with membership. We do not see our sons, daughters and grandchildren joining our Order or identifying with being Irish American Catholics. We need to ask "Why?" and start first with a long look at ourselves in the mirror. Do we merely talk about "keeping the tradition alive," or are we doing it both individually and as Hibernians?

Let us be honest, the current educational and media climate is not predisposed to promote the struggles and triumphs of Irish Americans. We are living in an age of Politically Correct penal laws, and we must respond as our ancestors did with the 21st century equivalent of the Hedge Schools if we are to keep our Faith, Heritage and Identity alive in the next generation.

The National Board is already beginning to plan around Irish American Heritage Month 2022; is your Division doing the same? Is your Division planning to answer the challenge posed by the preamble of our Constitution: "To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people," or will our epitaph be that we were "Fighters in every clime, in every cause but our own"?



Irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

As we move into a new academic school year despite these challenging times in which we live, many students, whether in high school or college, just might be considering studying abroad in Ireland. Should this be the case, the AOH National Board has scholarship resources available to assist the children and grandchildren of AOH members.

For high school students who may want to study in Ireland, the AOH National Board offers a \$1,000 scholarship for the Irish Way Program, which is conducted by the Irish American Cultural Institute in New Jersey. The Irish Way Program is a nationally recognized summer study-abroad program for high school students that was established more than 45 years ago. American students travel to Ireland in the summer to take part in a unique cultural and educational experience that is supervised by the Irish American Cultural Institute, (IACI). The Irish Way is a personal discovery and an experience of a lifetime. The dates for the 2022 Irish Way Program are expected to be announced in early November. We will keep you posted.

For college students who might be considering a semester or a full year of study at a college in Ireland, the AOH National Board offers scholarship opportunities for the children and grandchildren of AOH members.

Realizing the unpredictability that the pandemic has caused for those hoping to study abroad for the upcoming 2021- 2022 school year, the scholarship application deadline for studying either for the fall or for the spring semester, or for a full year of study, has been extended and is open until filled. These scholarships are available for undergraduate and graduate studies in Ireland.

Certainly, one might wonder if under the present world situation if travel to Ireland is permitted. At the present time [August 1], fully vaccinated U.S. travelers can travel to Ireland without having to quarantine. Vaccinated travelers must show proof of their completed vaccination, and for those travelers who are not vaccinated, upon their arrival in Ireland they must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test and self-quarantine for five days upon arrival. Please check with the Irish government and the educational institution you are considering for more complete and updated information, as these requirements can change at will.

We strongly encourage you to visit the AOH National website at aoh.com for more information on all National Board Scholarship opportunities. Among the items you will find is a direct link to the Irish Way Program website, various educational informational sites on studying abroad in Ireland, and links for the Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarship applications.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or your questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net Stay safe and well!

Hibernian Success Story

Member Census: a critical step to move beyond the pandemic

President Jim Killen and the officers of St. Patrick's Division 2, Babylon, NY, developed a Hibernian Census form in order to update the information on their more than 400 division members as a way to improve communications coming out of the pandemic. To date they have an over 65 percent return rate, which demonstrates their membership is excited to get moving again.

The Census form is a basic information sheet allowing them to update the local and national records of their division. Following a review of the Census Form, the AOH National Board is providing a general form for every division in the country to take advantage of. Current updated information is the key to success in all of our communications. We encourage every division to take advantage of this program.

The 435 members of St. Patrick's Division 2 will celebrate their 75th Anniversary October 1-3. Congratulations from your AOH Brothers around the United States!



Front row, seated, Marshal Frank Collins, Financial Secretary Jerry Belmont, President Jim Killen, and Chaplain Monsignor Brian McNamara; standing: Treasurer Bill Corrigan, Vice President Dennis Harty, Recording Secretary Jim McGrath and Sentinel Mark Tynan.



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

As the Ballymurphy Massacre families fought their 50-year battle for justice, Britain's attitude to these 11 murders and all crown-force or collusion murders was to deny, delay and die. Britain denied the truth, until the truth became undeniable. They delayed justice, until no more delays were possible. They waited for relatives and witnesses to die, hoping all others would lose heart and give up the fight. Ballymurphy overcame Britain's strategy, getting the truth and forcing a reluctant apology from Boris Johnson.

Since the British could not beat Ballymurphy, they decided a better ploy was to just take away any Irish rights to get legacy justice.

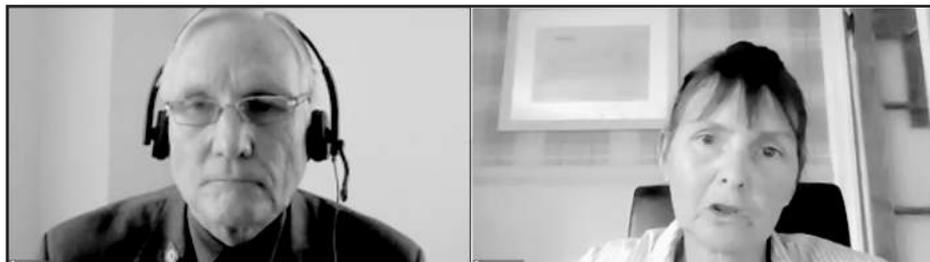
Burying Legacy Truth

Britain's proposed laws, titled "Addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past," are a plan to bury Britain's legacy in the Troubles. Westminster will enact an Amnesty dressed up as a statute of limitations, wiping out current or future murder prosecutions, inquests or Historical Investigations of crimes during the Troubles. Since murders committed by British crown forces or carried out in collusion with loyalists during the conflict were whitewashed, the new proposals are just intended to make the whitewash permanent.

The AOH responded with a special webinar, hosting victims and survivors like Jacqueline Butler, Steven Travers and Martin Mallon, and inviting American politicians, Irish politicians and Irish-American leaders to join with us and hear first hand why legacy justice is critical.

We are following up with a Congressional initiative letter the success of which will depend on AOH members contacting your Congressman and telling them that they have voters in their district who want their support.

The British government clearly does not care about justice for the Irish. These proposals have been rejected by the Irish government, six county political parties, the Catholic Church, and human rights and relatives' groups. Britain does not seem to care. The Tories worry about getting votes in the six counties. The new laws will be popular in England, among those who believe that no one should ever be bothered for murders committed in the name of the crown.



Martin Galvin and Jacqueline Butler on the AOH webinar.

'Counting on America'

All of us have heard victims' relatives and been deeply moved by speakers from Relatives for Justice, Sean Graham's Massacre, Springhill-Westrock Massacre, plastic bullets victims, Miami Showband and so many others fighting for justice. Some of them are scheduled for inquests next year and on the edge of getting the truth. Now their hopes for justice are being smashed. They are counting on America and that means Irish America led by the AOH. Don't let them down!

January 2022 Fact Finding Tour

In 2022, we are planning an FFAI fact-finding tour around the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Beginning on January 25 and ending on February 5th, we will be visiting Derry, Tyrone, Belfast and Dublin.

Because of the high profile that the AOH now has, we are getting numerous offers from Ireland to hold special events scheduled to coincide with our arrival.

We are limiting this tour to one bus holding 50 people. Places are filling up quickly so I urge you to book with National VP Sean Pender right away. No one who goes on this tour will ever forget it!



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.



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

Issues involving Immigration were expected to be 'front and center' by this time. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Not much is happening publicly now, but there still appears to be a lot going on behind the scenes in Washington. As noted previously in this column, the Preamble of our organization's Constitution sets forth our goals. One of the goals of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is to "encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration Law for Ireland, and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy..."

Our noble Order will continue to advocate for equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland. To do so, we need to be ready when expected legislative proposals emerge from Washington. In the coming months there will be an urgent need to enlist the help of many of our AOH Brethren to contact their Representatives and Senators as an expected Irish-related Immigration Bill is introduced. Just as National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin has been saying, I encourage all Brothers to reach out now to their local Representatives in Congress and introduce yourself and ask for their support on Irish issues. When the time comes, hopefully a connection already will have been made! We will then have the chance to begin the process of reversing the downward trend of legal Irish Immigration over the last 50 years, as well as pursuing a goal outlined in our Constitution. I look forward to reporting on the successful adoption of this expected legislation. The process continues!

I mentioned the book "Unintended Consequences" by Ray O'Hanlon, editor of the Irish Echo in the last article. This book chronicles the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 and its effect on the Irish. As Ray also notes, it is the story of Irish Immigration to the United States and how America's door was closed to the Irish. There are great lessons in this book for understanding today's Immigration environment. A webinar should soon be scheduled featuring Ray with a focus on "Unintended Consequences" and its lessons on Irish Immigration.



LEGACY continued from page 1



Louise Haigh

nearby were ordered not to intervene. He has been fighting for a legacy investigation linking all these killings to crown collusion.

Congressman Boyle

Congressman Brendan Boyle pledged his support for the victims. He said this is a dangerous step where Britain rips up agreements that go back more than 20 years. "As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I will not be interested in any Free Trade Agreement if the British continue to make agreements and violate them." Brendan applauded the AOH for being the leading Irish American organization working toward peace and Justice.



Congressman Brendan Boyle

Ciaran Madden, representing the Irish government, said that for the Irish government the Stormont House Agreement is our starting point and our ending point. There is no room for unilateral action by the British government.

Louise Haigh, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, sent her solidarity to the victims and survivors in Northern Ireland, stating "they are owed truth and justice." She reminded everyone

that the current British government "promised that they would deliver that through the Stormont House Agreement." It is disgraceful that instead they have decided to "rip up the current agreements and, instead, deliver amnesty to those who committed troubles-related offenses."

Other speakers included Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice; Neale Richmond and John Deasy, of Fine Gael; Ciaran Quinn, Sinn Fein; Susan Elliot, of the National Committee Foreign Policy; and members of the AOH and LAOH, led by National President Danny O'Connell.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, by the time you read this, the hazy, lazy days of summer shall be past us. While at the moment there is continuing uncertainty on COVID-19 and new variants, we have made progress to the point when we can start meeting again and beginning to return to “true normal” and ending the “new normal” that was anything but normal. We cannot have gone through the dramatic experiences of the past year and a half and not have learned something; I think that one of the key takeaways is how vital personal human interaction is. No matter how much Big Tech promotes social media and the ‘Virtual World,’ people have evolved over millions of years as social animals, and nothing beats personal interaction.

To be frank, we used to be worried about the person who lived like a hermit, eschewing social contact; it is concerning that we are now elevating them to the title of “influencers.” Frankly, I am amazed at the insight some pundits have who have never left their P.C. Much of the discord in this country and worldwide can be attributed to people on the left and right living in their social media echo chambers. Before the “Social Network,” there was “personal networking,” and no one did it better than the Irish. As we start the new Hibernian year, let us make reviving that tradition a priority.

Turning this to Political Action, it is vital that we as Hibernians engage in that personal touch with our elected representatives, whether we voted for them or not, whether they are of our party or not. As I write this, we currently have a letter in support of FFAI that is

sponsored by Representatives Boyle and Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania denouncing the plans of the British Government to create a special statute of limitations — amnesty — for murders committed during the conflict in Northern Ireland. This is a non-partisan issue; how can anyone argue that families should be denied their right to the truth as to how and why their loved ones died and who committed the act?

The letter by Congressmen Boyle and Fitzpatrick denouncing Britain’s Trouble’s Amnesty proposal is a noncontentious issue rooted in the fundamental American principles of justice and due process; there should be no reason why it does not have the signatures of 435 House members. We need all Hibernians to contact their Congressional Representative and ask them to sign. Per the very reasons given in the opening of this article, an effort should be made to ask them in person. Call their local office and ask for the Aide who handles European Affairs and say you want to set up a meeting to speak to your Representative. Practice your “elevator pitch,” planning on getting only a few minutes and keep your discussion focused; if this goes well, you are opening the door to discuss “that other matter” you want to discuss at another time. If they agree to sign, we say thank you, if they do not, we ask respectfully why; in either case, we remember. This is one example of the “Action” in Political Action, and the action starts with you. While the example at hand is FFAI, this approach can similarly work for Right to Life, Immigration, or any of our Hibernian causes.

One closing note. I frequently get emails asking, “Why is the national board note working on” To that, I have to respond, “What are you doing, Brother, in that area?” The purpose of the Board is to try and coordinate and focus activity, but real activism always starts at the grassroots level. Don’t wait for “the other guy” to take action; be “that guy.” While other causes have multiple organizations advocating for them, there is only one organization advocating on Irish American issues, and being the “Voice of Irish America,” the Hibernians. We have much to do that no one but us will do.



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I have to begin this article by redressing an omission from the article for the immediately previous August-September piece. Specifically, I extend to all of my fellow Dogface Soldiers a very belated Happy Army Birthday, which occurred on June 14, the same date as Flag Day. Army Birthday commemorates the date of June 14, 1775, on which the Continental Congress formally adopted the various colonial militias operating against British forces in New England as the Continental Army, under the command of General George Washington. This makes the Army one year older than the United States itself (July 4, 1776).

I also extend my best wishes to our Brothers who have served or are serving in the Coast Guard and the Air Force. The Coast Guard was created on August 4, 1790, when President Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten “revenue cutters” to enforce federal trade laws. The Air Force, formerly the Army Air Corps, was formally created as a separate military branch on September 14, 1947, with the enactment of the National Security Act from that same year. The predecessor of the Air Force first appeared during World War I as the Army Air Service in 1917 and was later reorganized into the Army Air Corps in 1926.

Veteran Services Spotlight: VA Cemetery Administration

In this edition we take a quick look at the third major leg of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stool, the National Cemetery Administration. The NCA provides services and support to veteran families through six major programs: national cemeteries, headstone/ grave marker/ medallion services, supplying burial flags, supporting military funeral honors, providing allowances for grave plot and transportation costs and

facilitating the burial of unclaimed veterans’ remains.

Veterans are strongly encouraged to examine their eligibility for these benefits and ensure their families are both informed of their wishes regarding veteran burial and the location of key military records, such as their DD-214 military discharge record. The VA maintains a great informational website at www.cem.va.gov with links to eligibility information and how to assist families in obtaining records and starting the process.

The website also contains links to great information services, such as the Veteran Legacy Memorial & VA Grave Locator. These programs allow families to build an online memorial that commemorates a veteran’s service and to locate any veteran burial site where a VA-supplied marker or headstone has been supplied.

20th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks Commemoration

Brothers, the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is a meaningful opportunity for our country to reflect on the service and sacrifice of our veterans and first responders, both on that first day and during the 20 years of war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and around the world.

Starting on August 4, the National Veterans Memorial & Museum in Columbus, Ohio, will begin a 26-day presentation of the Honor365 9/11 Exhibit, a presentation that commemorates the loss of life on 9/11/2001 as well as the service of those who worked at the attack sites in their aftermath. On September 4, the exhibit will begin the last leg of its tour, visiting Shanksville, PA, and Arlington, VA, before ending its journey in New York City. More details can be found at the exhibit website at www.honor365.org/911exhibit. I extend my heartfelt prayers to all of our Brothers and their families whose lives were irrevocably changed by that fateful day.

All members, especially veterans and VA Chairs, are encouraged to participate in VA Committee meetings held online every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. ET. Please contact me directly for details if you would like to participate. A quick reminder that links to online VA facility location and healthcare enrollment information are maintained on the AOH Veterans Affairs website at www.aoh.gov/veterans-affairs. Best wishes for a wonderful summer and a grand Independence Day! Garryowen!



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Nuair a smaoinítear ar shliocht na hÉireann i gCogadh Cathartha Mheiriceá, smaoinítear ar an 69ú Trodach, go formhór. *When thinking of the Irish in the American Civil War, people think of the Fighting 69th, mostly.* Ach gan aon amhras, is iomaí aonad eile a raibh Éireannaigh iontu, ar an dá thaobh. *But undoubtedly, there were many other units in which there were Irish, on both sides.* Bhí muintir na hÉireann scaipthe ar fud na tíre, ach bhí áiteanna áirithe in a mbíodh i bhfad ní ba mhó dinn. *Irish people were spread all around the country, but there were certain places in which there were a lot more of us.* Agus i Nua-Eabhrac, bhí ní ba mhó Éireannach san arm ná i stát ar bith eile – faoi dhó! *And in New York, there were more Irish in the army than any other state – twice as many!*

Tá suíomh iontach ann chun eolas a fháil agus scéalta an-phearsanta a léamh faoi shliocht na hÉireann sa chogadh seo, <https://irishamericancivilwar.com/>. *There’s a great website to get informatin and to read very personal stories about the Irish in this war...* Mí Aibreáin, bhí scéal ann faoi Chath Williamsburg. *In April, there was a story about*

the battle of Williamsburg. Cuid d’Fheachtas na Leithinse ab ea an cath seo. It was part of the Penninsula Campaign. Agus maraon le trúpaí eile as Nua-Iorsaí agus as Massachusetts (Éireannaigh go leor acusan araon freisin), bhí Briogáid Excelsior ansin, as Nua-Eabhrac. And together with other troops from NJ and MA (they both had lots of Irish too), the Excelsior Brigade was there, from NY. Ba é seo a gcéad chath, agus chaill siad mórán daoine. This was their first battle, and they lost a lot of people. B’olc an lá é don bhriogáid, agus do shliocht na hÉireann ina measc. It was a bad day for the brigade, and for the sons of Ireland amongst them.

Tharla an cath seo ar an gcúigiú lá Bealtaine, 1862. This battle happened on May 5th, 1862. Bhí an Ginearál McClellan i mbun arm na Cónaidhme. McClellan was in charge of the Union army. Bhí an Ginearál Dan Sickles i mbun na briogáide seo. Sickles was in charge of this brigade. Ceithre reisimint a bhí iontu. They consisted of 4 regiments. Agus i gceann acu, an 74ú, complacht C, bhí mo shinsear féin, William Keane, i láthair. And in one of them, the 74th, company C, my own ancestor was present. Mhair seisean, buíochas le Dia, ach cailleadh fir as a chomplacht. He lived, thank God, but men were lost from his company.

Chuaigh siad chomh fada sa bhfeachtas seo go bhfaca siad spuaiceanna na neaglaisí i Richmond. They got so far in this campaign that they could see the spires of the churches in Richmond. Ach theip orthu i ndeireadh na dála, agus lean an cogadh ar aghaidh le trí bliana fuilteacha eile. But in the end they failed, and the war continued on for 3 more bloody years.



RITUALS & DEGREES

By Jack Schneider, chairman

I rarely write about individual Major Degree ceremonies unless they involve a new Degree Team Certification or a major anniversary milestone by one of our teams. However, given that the pandemic had shut down our national Major Degree Program for approximately one full year, and in the case of my team, the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team (IOEMDT), it was a full 17 months, 3 weeks and 1 day since our last Degree in Bristol, PA, before returning on Saturday, July 31, at the Pennsylvania State Convention. The many emotions and sub-plots associated with this particular exemplification merit a recounting here.

IOEMDT managed to get in three practices starting in May to get up and running for the State Convention Degree. Two of them went fairly well and we questioned whether it was enough to shake off the rust as our Team had never been sidelined that long. Since our founding in 1995, we had always done at least two Degrees a year and in some years up to six.

A State Convention Degree usually means playing to a capacity crowd and this Degree was no exception. We were greeted by a jam-packed, full house of 30 candidates and 57 observers. With our 27 Team members performing the ritual, a total of 114 Brothers, including the Order's four top national officers, experienced our return. The consensus afterward was it actually turned out to be one of our best exemplifications ever. As our Team is fond of saying, our departed Team Founder, "St. Paul McNulty," is looking after us as always.

The Degree also served to reinforce many Hibernian Principles in so many ways.

"Aiding a Brother in distress" – a tragic auto accident claimed the life of a local firefighter while assisting at an accident scene the week before the Convention Degree. His funeral coincided with the Degree date. We have at least four of our Team members who are first responders and three chose to attend the services for their friend. This left us a little short manpower-wise in certain areas. Our Brothers from the Tri Abhainn MDT, of Allegheny Co., enthusiastically jumped in and helped us out, greatly filling voids where needed. Many thanks to Brothers Bob Kelly and Rick Duffy for helping us out in our time of need. Much appreciated. We owe you!

"Honoring our deceased" – IOEMDT always tries to properly honor Brothers from our Team upon their passing onto their eternal reward. Given the length of time since our last Degree, sadly we lost three former team members, Chuck Cannon, Jimmy Hansen and Charter Member Gerry Corrigan. Our team is blessed to have several bagpipers within its ranks. Near the end of the Degree, Brothers Mark Ryan, Mike Brown, Ken Young and Eddie Mongan switched over to the pipes and provided a most moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" to culminate our tribute to the deceased during the Degree.

"Paying proper tribute to the deserving" – We had planned on presenting a most deserving Team Member with the Order's prestigious Commodore John Barry Medal on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary Major Degree of our Team's founding in April 2020. That event was sadly canceled due to COVID. As the Degree drew to a climactic close, we were finally able to make this presentation. Following the death of Team Founder Paul McNulty, at a Degree in 1995, the IOEMDT has been led through most of the 26 ensuing years by its current Team Chairman, Jim Murphy, who serves as Pennsylvania's Ritual and Degrees Chairman. Jim is the heart and soul of the IOEMDT. I had the extreme honor of introducing the presentation and turned the proceedings over to National President Danny O'Connell for the actual medal presentation to Murph. As the Worthy President so poignantly noted, "Jim Murphy is a legend within the Order!" Indeed.

Thus concluded one of our most memorable Degrees in recent years. It was so good to be back.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Tentative - Montana State Convention. Butte, MT. September 16-18. Copper King Hotel and Convention Center, 4655 Harrison Ave, Butte, MT 59701, <https://www.guestreservations.com/copper-king-hotel-and-convention-center/>

Florida State Convention. Orlando, FL. Oct. 1-3. Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL. Innisfail (FL) MDT exemplifying. www.aohflorida.org

Patchogue, NY. Saturday, October 23. Noon. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center, 495 Ocean Dr., Patchogue, NY. Tara Court (NY) MDT exemplifying in their 50th Anniversary Major Degree.

Philadelphia, PA. Sunday, October 24. Noon. Commodore John Barry Cultural and Arts Center, 6815 Emlen St., Philadelphia, PA. Isle of Erin (PA) MDT exemplifying. Candidates may pre-register at www.isleoferin.com

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.



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

This issue of the Digest highlights the good deeds of Hibernians all across the country. There have been Hunger Projects conducted in Pennsylvania, scholarships awarded in Rhode Island, and fundraising events held for local charities in South Carolina and Virginia.

There is much to celebrate: there's a new Division in Ohio, major degrees conferred at state conventions, and a return to in-person meetings in Divisions nationwide.

We Hibernians — as individuals and as At-Large members, and also at the Divisions, Counties, States and on the National Board levels — have been volunteering in our communities to perform works of Christian Charity and to raise funds to support Catholic education and organizations doing good for others consistent with our Motto and with the Church's social gospel.

Many of these Hibernian actions — if well publicized — can show strangers in the area what the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is, the good that it does, and how integral we are to the health of the community. Elected officials will see how important and popular we are, how much influence we have at all levels, and how seriously we take our mission of service and leadership, and our pride in our heritage and culture.

Please try to read this issue of the Digest from cover to cover. You can adapt and adopt what other Divisions and individuals are doing and localize actions to benefit your own communities. Make it your job to recruit new Hibernians. Start planning a program now that educates your community about Irish-American history and culture. Publicize Project St. Patrick within your Division. Have a program on Freedom For All Ireland. Start planning now about an "Irish Christmas Party" to get Division members involved in learning about Irish customs and heritage. Induce your library to create an Irish-American cultural program. Many of these actions take planning to develop a worthwhile and effective program, so it's never too soon to start.



DIGITAL COORDINATOR

By Chris Cooke, chairman

Is your information up to date?

We have been working on updates to our membership roster system to improve the interface used by our Financial Secretaries to better keep contact information for our members up to date. We use this contact information to send out the Hibernian Digest as well as to send email blasts and other communications. If you have recently moved or have a new email address, please reach out to your division's Financial Secretary so they can make sure we have current contact information on file.

Who will be our 1,000 YouTube Subscriber?

Earlier this year we set a goal to reach 1,000 subscribers for our YouTube Channel by the end of the year. I am happy to report that we are already close to our target and have less than 100 subscribers 'till we hit this milestone.

Subscribe at: <http://aoh.com/subscribe>

Join the Digital Team

We are looking forward to starting more digital projects in the near future. If you have a technical background and would like to join the Digital Team, please email me at chris@chriscooke.com.

HIBERNIANS 101

Presidential Appointments

Article VIII of the AOH National Constitution addresses our officers of each level that includes both Elective and Appointive by the President. Please take a moment to review this section of the constitution today.

In this issue of the Digest we address the importance of the officers appointed by a State President: Chaplain, (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Organizer, Historian, Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Freedom For All Ireland Committee, Chairman of Pro-Life, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of the Immigration Committee and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee.

The critical line in this connotational directive is "all are to serve at the pleasure of the State President."

When we change presidents, officers are not terminated by the new president, their term is simply over. Although the president has the option to re-appoint any officer, it is critical that everyone understands the president is obligated to appoint a group of men who can help lead his state during his term of office. Newly elected state presidents should not take this obligation lightly nor should newly appointed of former appointed officers. Remember our membership oath and our pledge to follow the dictates of our legally elected officers.

Kansas

'War Horses For Veterans' D-Day Ride

On the D-Day anniversary, June 6, the Father Donnelly Division in Kansas hosted its first ever D-Day Memorial Benefit Motorcycle Ride to support the incredible work of War Horses For Veterans, Stanley, KS.

WHFV provides compassionate equine therapy for combat veterans and first responders suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. The transition from active-duty military to civilian life is often very abrupt, taking soldiers accustomed to high-intensity existence and placing them immediately back into somewhat foreign environment of home. The magnitude of the transition for veterans and psychological challenge is often overlooked. This is the mission of WHFV; to give our heroes a focused, horse-training and networking experience in a safe and comfortable environment.

Patrick Cassidy, of the Father Donnelly Division, organized and spearheaded the benefit ride, held on June 6. Everyone received a hearty, home-made breakfast of biscuits, gravy and potatoes with kickstands going up at 9:30 a.m. One-hundred and fifty-four motorcycles with more than 200 riders rumbled out of the War Horses Ranch and rode for 110 miles in parade formation. We had stops at two American Legion Halls and a VFW Post before ending at the Rawhide Harley-Davidson dealership, Olathe, KS. Presentations about War Horses and the AOH were made at Rawhide and the winners of various raffle items were announced.

In all, the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division of Kansas raised more than \$5,000 to assist the work of the great people at War Horses for Veterans.

Written by Past Division President Denny Dennihan. Submitted by Seán Thomas Kane.



At the D-Day Ride were, from left, Denny Dennihan, AOH; Patrick Benson, founder and director War Horses For Veterans; Patrick Cassidy, AOH; Scott Stephenson, breakfast chef; Zack Kittle, AOH Division president; Bret Cortright, marketing director, WHFV.

Maryland

Helping to feed the homeless

The brothers of Division 3, Towson, MD, have adopted the Small Portions Farm as one of their dedicated charities. The farm is located at the Franciscan Friary, St Anthony's Center in Ellicott City, and provides vegetables and herbs to the Franciscan Center in Baltimore to help feed the homeless. There are hopes to add fruit trees in the near future.

The Division initially donated three wheelbarrows and a walk-behind seeder after hearing of the farm's needs. This assisted in the farm being able to significantly increase their output from 6,000 pounds of vegetables in 2019 to 18,000 pounds in 2020.

The Division continues to make financial contributions as well as performing necessary manual tasks around the farm. Most recently, several members spent the day building wire racks that are used in the refrigeration units to store the vegetables grown on the farm.



Members toured the Small Portions Farm in June 2021. From left, Sean Hackett, Jack Smith, Terry Brennan, Joe Dougherty, Rick Saylor and Ron McEvoy.

Massachusetts

Taking action in Lawrence

Division 8, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, held a cornhole tournament on July 17 at the Claddagh Restaurant and Pub in Lawrence that drew members and guests from as far away as Georgia. Division 8 member Tim Doherty headed up a large committee that conducted this activity.

Division 8 member Jim Murphy spearheaded a membership drive in the neighboring town of North Andover at the annual National Night Out on August 3, which is attended by hundreds.

Division 8 looks forward to resuming in-person meetings in September, as well as kicking off celebrations in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Division 8. In conjunction with this milestone, a committee is working on plans for several lectures, a concert and cabaret that will take place this fall.



For all the good he does

The City of Peabody, Massachusetts, Council on Aging selected Peabody Division 11 AOH President Jack Lawless to have his picture placed on their new Council of Aging Van that serves their community. Pictured on the van aside of Jack is Carolyn Wynn, the Peabody Council on Aging Director. Jack was honored to have his photo on the van for his 25 years of service to the Council of Aging for helping out in the Senior Center lunch room, writing articles for the council's monthly newsletter, being the summer BBQ Assistant and other Council on Aging jack-of-all-trades assignments. Jack Lawless is also a Past President of the Massachusetts AOH State Board and is a retired teacher from the Peabody Public Schools.



Scholarships presented in Lawrence

On Wednesday, June 16, 2021, Division 8 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, presented their 2021 Scholarships at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant on June 16 during the annual ice cream social. In the front row, from left, Past LAOH State President Margaret O'Connor, Andrew Bernal, Sean McCarthy, Ashtyn Sipse, Declan Murphy, Abigail Cain and the LAOH History Award recipient Will Guggenburger; second row, from left, AOH Essex County President Mike Miller and AOH Massachusetts State President Jack Lahey. Not pictured is Scholarship recipient Gianna Fiore.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

<https://aoh.com/join/>

<https://aoh.com/organizer-resources/>

Colorado

Hibernians' Service day and Shamrock ceremony at historic Irish Denver church

Members and friends of the Michael Collins Division 1 of Denver did some important sidewalk maintenance outside of St. Patrick's Church in North Denver on June 12.

The red sandstone paving stones are beautiful, but a bit heavy. Some had sunk and settled to become a tripping hazard. A little bit of teamwork, leverage and the tactical application of dirt made the sidewalk straight and safe.

St. Patrick's was designed in the California mission style due to the influence of local Irish-American legend Father Joseph P. Carrigan in the early 20th century. The parish was a center of Irish-American life for decades, with strong support from earlier generations of



Hibernians.

After the service work, the division held an especially touching Shamrock Ceremony for two new members inside the church.

On June 27 AOH and LAOH members attended the final Mass of Cathedral rector and Collins Division member Father Ron Cattany, who is moving to another parish. Though his roots are Italian, his family lived alongside the Irish of Leadville and other mountain communities before moving to Denver. In a wonderful coincidence, his own parents were married at St. Patrick's Church!

Let us hope these great days mark the beginning of a post-pandemic life.



Spotlight On At Large members

By Joe Casey

I've mentioned about the At-Large membership program in previous Digest articles and have listed some bios for a few of the members. I mentioned in the last Digest article of one member in particular who is currently serving in the Mideast. He will soon be coming back stateside, but thought I'd include his biography in this issue. It is because of him and all the other At-Large brothers that I am proud of what we have done with this program.



At-Large Hibernian Kevin J. Malloy

Kevin J. Malloy is 31 years old, the oldest of four children and the proud husband to Amanda and father to Nathan Malloy. He was born and raised in Middletown, Connecticut, whose ancestors immigrated from County Cork, Ireland. While growing up he attended St. John's Irish Catholic School. "While living in Connecticut my parents brought me up with strong hard-working values and taught me to be a respectable Irish Catholic male. We attended mass every Sunday and I was confirmed into the Catholic Church in 2003."

He enlisted in The United States Army shortly after high school as a combat engineer, and in 2009 served in Baghdad in Operation Iraqi Freedom and again in southeast Afghanistan in 2012-2013 conducting route clearance and other various combat operations during the war on terror in the Third Infantry Division; Ft. Stewart, GA. He became a police officer in the State of Georgia in 2014. For seven years he enforced both criminal and traffic law in central GA. After getting married and taking on the role of becoming a father he then went back into the Army in 2020 to finish his career as a soldier. He now works with patriot missile defense systems that serve as a global deterrent to threat of both nuclear and air attack on the United States and its allies. He is currently deployed for the third time in operation Enduring Freedom to the kingdom of Bahrain.

"I decided to join the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 2020 to expand my involvement with like-minded gentlemen of Irish Catholic descent, and I hope to be a long-standing member of the brotherhood."



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Connecticut

Road Bowling is back!

Irish Road Bowling returned to Connecticut for the first time in five years as Hartford Division 2 sponsored a tournament on July 17. More than 30 teams and 120 participants took part in the 2021 Hartford Irish Road Bowling Tournament at Riverside Park in Hartford.

The event raised money for the charities that Hartford AOH supports, particularly in the area of hunger. It was also a great day of camaraderie among AOH Brothers from across the state and others who took part in the event.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin was in attendance to throw out the "first bowl" and addressed the contestants at the starting line. A number of AOH Connecticut State Officers were in attendance, including State President Brenden Walsh.

Led by Brother Brendan Sullivan of the Hartford Division, the team won the tournament, followed by the second-place team of Brother Rory McGloin, also of Hartford. Third place went to Danbury AOH, who won a hotly contested tie breaker over four other teams.

Following the awards ceremony and a raffle drawing, contestants socialized at the Hartford Food Truck Festival and at nearby Vaughan's Public House, who offered discounts for contestants. "Two for the Road" – a local favorite Irish band – performed, as did the "Mulcahy Academy of Irish Dance."

The tournament will now be held on an annual basis and we look to grow the number of teams involved.



Hartford Brothers Kevin Morton and Kieran Devenney (in hat) were the marshals at the finish line. (Photos by Nick Caito)



Hartford AOH's Road Bowling event brought Hibernians and potential recruits together in an atmosphere of sport and fun.



Danbury Hibernians got together for this photo at the road bowling event.

by Phil Gallagher

The Connecticut River was transformed into the River Lee as Division 2 revived its Irish Road Bowling Tournament. The sport of road bowling is especially popular in Cork and Armagh and involves teams of four who attempt to take the fewest throws to propel a metal ball along a predetermined course of country roads.

Thirty teams with 120 participants competed over a one and half mile course.

After a Covid-caused lapse of one year, the annual Father's Day Golf Tournament was revived by the AOH of Danbury. Chairman Don Bicklehaupt reported a record 72 entrants who played the 9-hole Sunset Hill G. C., which has been hosting the event since its inception in 1979. The event will henceforth be known as the James Palardy Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament in honor of the late Brother Jim who as Chairman worked so hard to make it a success over the years.

John Barry Day, hosted by the Fairfield Country Board, will be held on September 11, with special ceremonies planned for the observance.

Connecticut Hibernians will be heading to Stamford the weekend of September 24-26 for their Biennial State Convention. Stamford President Peter Green promises a great weekend. The Friday Night mixer will have appetizers, entertainment and fraternity with the popular band Keltic Kick playing for Saturday night's dinner. Breakout sessions are scheduled for Sunday the 26th. jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Matt Palardy, Jim Palardy Jr., John Krafick and John Krafick Jr. line up for tee-off at the newly named Jim Palardy Sr. Fathers Day Memorial Golf Outing, sponsored by the Danbury AOH. (Photo by Tom McCauliffe)



Waterbury AOH Chaplain, the Very Reverend James M. Sullivan, prays for deceased Hibernians at the foot of the historic 1904 Celtic Cross at the AOH burial plot in St. Joseph's cemetery. (Photo by Shaun Regan)

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

A Nation in Limbo

The Irish War of Independence came to an unceremonious end, following a final crescendo of violence, at noon on Monday, July 11, 1921. A truce had been reached between representatives of the Dáil Éireann and British forces in Ireland, bringing hostilities to a halt. The British government, while outwardly decrying the IRA as a "murder gang" whose days were numbered, had intermittently communicated with Sinn Fein through various intermediaries throughout 1920 and into 1921. Serious talks never materialized, as the British would not contemplate any terms that did not include the unilateral surrender of Irish arms, a proposition deemed tantamount to surrender by Irish republicans.

The British, in the meanwhile, continued to press their traditional response to unrest in Ireland – the application of blunt force, with decidedly less than stringent distinction between combatants and non-combatants. When British Prime Minister Lloyd George declared, in November of 1920, that "by the steps we have taken [in Ireland] we have murder by the throat," discerning observers, including international media, increasingly understood that the "steps" taken included the state-sanctioned burning of Irish homes and businesses and the murder of Irish civilians. British rhetoric characterizing Irish republicans as a small group of "criminals" rang hollow in the face of the government's 1921 election for "Southern Ireland," in which Sinn Fein candidates were unopposed in 124 of 128 constituencies. The British Labour Party, disgusted by the Government's actions, introduced a resolution in Parliament in October of 1920 declaring that the "house regrets ... the lack of discipline in the armed forces of the Crown, resulting in the death or injury of innocent citizens and the destruction of property [in Ireland]."

King George V, seeking to staunch the bleeding of British credibility, delivered a reconciliatory speech upon opening the new "Northern Ireland" Parliament on June 22, 1921, suggesting that "Few things are more earnestly desired ... than a satisfactory solution of the age long Irish problems, which for generations embarrassed our forefathers, as they now weigh heavily upon us." Two days later, Lloyd George wrote to invite Éamon de Valera, whom he conceded was the "chosen leader of the great majority in Southern Ireland," to a conference in London. De Valera, in response, issued a prescient caveat, warning that there was "no avenue by which [peace] can be reached if you deny Ireland's essential unity and set aside the principal of self-determination." De Valera signaled that negotiations with London could not commence without a ceasefire.

The British agreed and terms were quickly agreed upon. Rather than executing a single

document, the British signatories signed one document and the Irish another. The British document, not accidentally, was signed by British commanders in Ireland and not by London, a face-saving measure of sorts. The British agreed to withdraw their forces to their barracks and forego the pursuit of Irish officers and men.

The Irish side, in a document signed by members of the Dáil, agreed that the IRA would cease attacks on Crown Forces. Significantly, the terms did not include the long-standing British demand for the surrender of Irish arms. The truce was widely seen as a victory in and of itself, as the British, by entering into the truce and reporting it to the nascent League of Nations, had implicitly acknowledged the IRA as a belligerent force under international law. The war weary Irish people enjoyed a summer of hope, as martial law was lifted, men on the run returned home and British forces remained in their barracks. Summer turned to fall and then, with December came winter, the Anglo-Irish Treaty and civil war.

Virginia



Donations to Catholic Charities

Bishop Michael Francis Burbidge, Bishop of the Arlington Diocese, thanked VA State President Jay McCarthy for a recent Hibernian donation to Catholic Charities. An additional donation to the Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Richmond was also recently made.

New Jersey

Eleventh Annual Army Tank Pull Challenge

Every year since 2010, New Jersey Hibernians have been sponsors and taken an active part in the annual Army Tank Pull Competition, which benefits combat-wounded members of the U.S. Military. Under the co-chairmanship of brothers John Hughes and Ray Lill, of Passaic Division 16, and an outstanding community committee, the Army Tank Pull raised more than \$1.5 million for our wounded heroes.

This year, on Sunday, June 13, in Clifton, under the leadership of NJ State Board President Rich O'Brien and three division presidents, more than 60 Hibernians from Divisions Bergen-32, Monmouth 1 & 2 and Passaic 16 took part in an event that gives full meaning to the AOH Motto. President O'Brien, declared, "that we Hibernians are totally grateful to be part of such an amazing community and such a fantastic event honoring veterans."

The Tank Pull Competition is a unique and fun opportunity for a caring community to show support to those who "Serve, Protect and Defend" our rights and freedoms. Twenty individuals band together to form a team and raise a \$1,500 team fee to pull 80,000 pounds of a truck-mounted tank of good old American steel twelve in the fastest time or the same distance with the fewest people or raise the most amount of money for the cause. The funds raised are donated to local veterans, The Independence Corps, which provides high tech mobility devices for military amputees, Paramus, NJ Veterans Home, Catholic Charities Unmet Needs Veterans Fund, Wreaths Across America, Semper Fi Odyssey Fund, NJSOSVETS Women Veterans Committee and Medal of Honor Grove, Valley Forge, PA.

Contact NJ State Treasurer Leo McGuire at NJ AOH Charity Fund, 604 Roosevelt Blvd. Paramus, NJ 07652 for more information.



New Jersey Hibernians again participated in the annual Army Tank Pull Competition to benefit local veterans and veterans' organizations.

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

Hibernians award scholarships

The Dennis E. Collins Newport Division 1 has been busy this summer as Covid restrictions have been lifted. The Division participated in the Irish American Night at the Newport Gulls baseball game, complete with the AOH Men Singers singing “God Bless America” at the start and then “Wild Rover” during the 7th inning stretch for the crowd. The Newport AOH Cigar Club once again hosted their biannual fundraiser. As always, the night was filled with good food, fine cigars and great camaraderie. After such a long time, the Division is very happy to see brothers together.

This year the Newport AOH Scholarship Trust Committee is proud to announce they have awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to students entering their first year of college. The awardees for this year are Gavin Crowley (University of Rhode Island), who received the Steve Lepley Scholarship; Alexandra Cranson (Sacred Heart University); Megan Lehane (University of Notre Dame); Pierson Garcia (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); Katherine Kirwin (University of Rhode Island); Page Sullivan (Rhode Island School of Design); Eamon Warner (University of Rhode Island); Patrick May (University of Rhode Island); and Margaret Coen (Mount Holyoke College).

The Division would like to congratulate all our winners and wish them the best of luck. With sincere thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their work over the past few years revitalizing this program and helping local students.



In front of Newport’s 1876 charter were scholarship winners Pierson Garcia, Margaret Coen, Page Sullivan, Alexandra Cranson, Megan Lehane and Scholarship Committee member David Behan.

South Carolina

Hibernians meet the challenge

The BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament is held in Greenville, SC each year, with the one exception of 2020, due to the threat of the Covid-19 virus. The tournament this year, June 10-13, is memorable, not only for the world-class golfing but also for the benefit of local charities: Cancer Society of Greenville County, Cliffs Residents Outreach, Gibbs Cancer Center and Research Institute, Meyer Center for Special Children, Mobile Meals of Spartanburg and Roper Mountain Science Center.

In addition to raising funds for these life-changing organizations, the tournament raises awareness of each philanthropic mission. Additionally, the AOH along with the Knights of Columbus join forces to assist in parking cars for those attending the tournament. The challenge this year had the added constraint that there was only one parking lot available over the four-day period, and half of the lot was also used by Michelin employees.

The Hibernians and Knights were able to park more than 2,740 cars over the four-day period in an area that had only 1,185 spaces available, with a maximum capacity lot of 395 physical spaces. Extra attention and care required the volunteers to utilize each available space as traffic arrived, left, came back, and left again during the tournament hours.



At left, Hibernian Tom Ennis and Joe Carey led golfers to their parking spaces during the charity golf event.

California

Commemorating the Rising

Hibernians from across Southern California gathered in Orange County on April 2 for the annual 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration, which the AOH has hosted since 1967.



Hibernians gathered for the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration. Captain Tristan Wolffe, left, of the 3rd West Cork Brigade, reads aloud the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Lieutenant Michael O’Hare of the 3rd West Cork Brigade stands at right.

in memoriam

Lynn Michael Callahan

The Akron, Ohio, Hibernians said goodbye to Lynn Michael Callahan, 73, who passed away on June 26, 2021. Lynn, a lifelong resident of Akron, brought joy and laughter to all who knew him. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a parishioner of Visitation of Mary Parish (formerly Annunciation) and the F.O.P. Lodge 7. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting and golfing. Above all, he cherished spending time with his family.

Lynn was born to Paul and Margaret Callahan. He is preceded in death by his beloved parents and brother David. He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 50 years, Jo-Ann (Hall). He was Superhero to his daughter Michelle (Tim) Harvey; son Brian (Lori) Callahan; grandchildren Corey, Brianna, Liam, Olivia, and Finn. He is also survived by brothers Tim, Paul (Debbie), John (Susanne), and sisters Mary (Jeff) Morgan, and Kathleen (Frank) Livak. He leaves behind many brothers- and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends Fred, Blaine and Rick, who dearly loved him.

After graduating from Ellet High School, Lynn attended the University of Akron, where he was a member of the Lone Star fraternity. After his education, Lynn joined the Akron Police Department, which he served proudly for "41 years, 3 months, 20 days, but who's counting?" He retired as Captain on January 21, 2011, after serving as SWAT and shift commander. In the words of then-F.O.P. president Paul Hlynsky, "The troops would follow Lynn into hell to fight Satan for him."



Robert R. Heffernan

Robert R. Heffernan, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, passed away on May 23, 2021, at 86. Robert died peacefully with his son, Bill Heffernan, and stepson, Michael McGetrick, at his side.

Robert was very active in the Danbury community. A dedicated member of the John A. Gildea Division 3 of the AOH. During his time with the Hibernians he was named Hibernian of the Year, served 12 years as a house committee chairman, two years as division president, and also served as vice president and president of Fairfield County AOH, as well as a director on the Connecticut State Board AOH.

Robert was born in 1934, to David and Anne. One of 11 siblings, he was raised in Manhattan, NY. He joined the Army and served in Germany from 1956-'58 in the Armored division. After his honorable discharge, he worked for 39 years in the food brokerage industry. First as a store supervisor for Gristede Bros. in NYC, next as a sales rep for H.C. Boerner, and then as an assistant sales mgr. with Sperber Peterman. He left the food industry to start the Tipperary Painting Co., which he operated out of the Danbury area until his retirement.

Robert is survived by his wife Margaret "Peggy" Heffernan; stepchildren Peg McGetrick and Michael McGetrick, son Bill Heffernan and daughter-in-law Laura; grandchildren Jack, Charlie, Brianna, Devin and Mickeyshane; siblings Estelle McKnerney and Rita Conboy, and his many nieces and nephews.

Timothy Patrick Reardon

Timothy Sean Patrick Reardon, 63, of North Port, FL, and formerly of Sayreville and Millstone, NJ, died on June 5, 2021, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 21, 1958 in South Amboy, NJ, to John J. and Shirley Reardon. He was a member of the Colonel D.B. Kelly, Middlesex 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians, in South Amboy. He was awarded Hibernian of the Year in 2018 and was a very active member working on the kitchen crew, organizing weekly karaoke events and was instrumental in having the legendary Irish tenor, Andy Cooney, perform at our club, whom he had been friends with for the last four years. He spent his occupation as a technician at PSE&G for 37 years before retiring in December 2017. He was very proud that he was a fireman for Sayreville Engine Company 1. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus in Parlin, NJ. Besides his love for his family, his passions included traveling, golf, singing, softball, cooking, entertaining, celebrating his Irish heritage and always found a way to make people laugh.

He is survived by the love of his life, Kathryn Demko Reardon, of North Port; his beloved children, Jennifer Demko and Chris Demko of Hopelawn, NJ, and Brian (Michelle) Demko of North Port, his sister, Erin (David) Murphy of Virginia; brother, Mark (Tina) Reardon of Florida; many cherished nieces and nephews whom he adored; and beloved great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and beloved great aunt Loretta Kohler who was like a second mother to him.

Tim was one of a kind, who never met a stranger. He leaves his footprint behind on every heart he touched. His infectious smile will be remembered and his spirit will live on in us.

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.

New Jersey

Hibernian heroes

Two of our AOH brothers from the Fr. Solanus Casey Division 32, in Bergen, New Jersey, were recognized this past year for their efforts as law enforcement officers.

Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence, a national nonprofit organization committed to protecting children from the risks of drugs and bullying, recently awarded Detective Lieutenant James Teehan, of the Paramus Police Department, its "L.E.O. Award" for his commitment to teaching children about the dangers of drugs. Teehan teaches the L.E.A.D. curriculum to 5th grade students. He currently serves as Division 32's Vice President.

Earlier this year, Paramus Police Detective Lt. John Devine was hailed as a hero for his rescue of a barefoot man with special needs found lying in a snowy park. Devine was part of search team looking for the missing 42-year-old. Devine carried the man over a stream and up a slippery hill, finally arriving at his patrol car before rushing the man to the hospital because of possible hypothermia. The victim is home safe with his family after recovering in the hospital.



Division members James Teehan, left, and John Devine, hailed as heroes.

Ohio

By Joe Casey, Ohio State Organizer

New Division in Ohio

The State of Ohio AOH grew by one division on July 19! The Stark County Division 1 formed at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Canton, with a combined 19 new members and transferees. This has been a long road that was made even more challenging because of the pandemic. The National Chaplain, Fr. John Keehner (also Ohio State Chaplain), is a charter member and was very instrumental in getting the division formed.

The Shamrock Degree was conferred, elections were held and officers were installed. They are President Tom Fickes; Vice President Joe Harrison; Recording Secretary Erik Keenan, Financial Secretary Bill Keenan and Treasurer Tom Wolf. Fr. John Sheridan accepted the appointment of division chaplain. The photo shows most of the members standing in front of the St. Patrick statue in St. Joseph's church. Congratulations to all involved and welcome to our noble Order.



Stark County Division 1

Pennsylvania

Div. 32 helps with food drive as Hibernian Hunger project

Members of Allegheny County Division 32, in Carnegie, PA, teamed up with America250PA and the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to volunteer at a food drive.

At a recent Division meeting, new member Grant Regan announced that the organization he works for was having a food drive on July 20 — Pennsylvania Day. Brothers quickly stepped up to the plate to tackle Hibernian Hunger. Regan, who works for America250PA, thought that this would be a good way for the Division to practice Christian Charity.

From 9 until noon, brothers helped to assemble more than 1,500 boxes of frozen food and drink at the Food Bank's Duquesne location. The boxes will go to food-insecure families in the area who order them.

Founded in 2017, America250PA is the state's branch of America250. It is responsible for preparing the state to celebrate the country's semi quincentennial, which will take place in 2026. Every Pennsylvania Day henceforth, America250PA will volunteer at food banks. Division 32 is proud to help Pennsylvanians in need.

— Submitted by Joseph Leckenby, a member of Division 32 since 2018. Recently, he has been giving reports on Irish Arts and Culture.



Division President Tim Regan places a newly-assembled box on to a conveyor belt to be filled with food for those in need.



Brother Roger Horgan stands with boxes that were assembled by Hibernians and other volunteers. Photos courtesy of Grant Regan, Division member.



From left, Division President Tim Regan, Bill Delaney, Grant Regan (nephew of Tim), Financial Secretary Denny Donnelly, Roger Horgan and Joseph Leckenby pose for a photo.



Brothers Bill Delaney and Denny Donnelly assemble boxes Brothers prepared over 25 tons of food for those in need.

Support Project St. Patrick

Please keep those studying for the religious life in your thoughts and prayers. *Project Saint Patrick* is a wonderful way of putting those prayers into action. Send your check, made payable to Hibernian Charity, to P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179. Mark the Memo section: "Project Saint Patrick."

<https://aoh.com/project-st-patrick/>



Major Degree exemplified at convention

The 24 brothers who received their major degrees on Saturday, July 31, at the PA State Convention. This was the 95th exemplification of the Major Degrees for the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team, and their officer, Jim Murphy, figures they have degreed about 3,000 brothers over the years.

Virginia

Honoring Veterans

The Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division, Loudoun, VA, again arranged for patriotic dessert on June 14 — Flag Day — for the 225 residents at the Martinsburg Veterans Facility in WVA. Costs were covered through a Division dinner gathering held

earlier that month. Pictured, from left, are State President Jay McCarthy, Tim Melia and Bob Neiman from the Cunningham Division along with Terry Stotler, the Chief of Voluntary Services, and Regan Noad, Canteen Manager. The Division is attempting to make this a quarterly event for the Veterans.



From left, VA State President Jay McCarthy, Cunningham Div. Treasurer Tim Melia, Regan Noad, Canteen Mgr.; Brother Bob Neiman from the Cunningham Div., with Terry Stotler, who is the Chief of Voluntary Services at the Martinsburg Veterans Facility.



Tim Melia and Bob Neiman presenting a sample of the dessert.

Supporting the Feis

On the weekend of June 18, AOH State President Jay McCarthy, along with the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division, in Loudoun County, participated in financially supporting the Regional Feis Fleur de Lis Irish Dance Competition, in Herndon. Approximately 250 dancers, along with their 500+ parents and coaches, gathered for this very competitive weekend event. State VP Bob Fay, Fred Vlcek, Frank O’Gara and Division President Bob Carmack assisted State President Jay McCarthy in promoting AOH initiatives. The young competitor standing between Fred Vlcek and Bob Fay is Emma.



Cunningham Division member Fred Vlcek, VA State President Jay McCarthy, and VA State Secretary Bob Fay.



Lauren O’Neill-James and VA State President Jay McCarthy. Lauren is the “Grand Dame” of Irish dancing in Virginia and has been a tremendous friend and supporter of the Virginia Ancient Order of Hibernians for many years

Fundraising dinner, finally

We had our long-awaited Divisional Dinner in May at the new Lost Fox Hideaway in Loudoun to raise funds for the dessert event for the Veterans in Martinsburg. Former State Chaplain Fr. Timothy Harris T.O.R. was in town and made the evening a total success!



At the fundraising event were, from left, back row, Cunningham Division Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hennigan, VA State President Jay McCarthy with LAOH Daughters of Erin President Margie McCarthy, Past VA and Past National Chaplain Fr. Timothy Harris, VA State Secretary Bob Fay and LAOH Daughters of Erin Treasurer Linda Fay, Mike Ching; in the front row, Past Division President Dave Lawlor, Division Treasurer Tim Melia, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Carmack (Cunningham Division President), and Francis and Theresa Thornton



Cunningham Brothers at the event were, in the back row, from left, Division Marshal Frank Hennigan, VA State President Jay McCarthy, Past VA and Past National Chaplain Fr. Timothy Harris, VA State Secretary Bob Fay, and Mike Ching; front row: Past Division President Dave Lawlor, Division Treasurer Tim Melia, Division President Bob Carmack, and Division Sentinel Francis Thornton.

West Virginia

By Tom Murphy, Division Vice President

Author in our midst!

Wheeling's Division 1 is proud of one of our members, Jack Bodkin, who has completed his first novel. A descendent of one of the Tribes of Galway, Jack has published "Briarhill to Brooklyn: An Irish Family's Journey to Freedom and Opportunity."

His book is an historical novel based on the Bodkin family's journey from County Galway to Brooklyn at the time of the Great Hunger. The book culminates at the death of one of the family members in 1902. The author tells of the lives of the seven Bodkin children and how each dealt with their American journey. Many of us can relate our own family's immigrant story to the Bodkins and their trials and successes. Overall, the book is a very positive read, and in today's negative culture, this is welcoming. I found myself rooting for the Bodkin family. For me, the youngest Bodkin brother — the Angel — who strays from the family while sowing his wild oats as a young man, is seen as the Prodigal Son returning toward the end of the novel. The Angel has an interesting story to tell as he seeks forgiveness.

If you like history, you will enjoy how Jack ties Ireland's Great Hunger, travel in the coffin ships and America's Civil War draft into the lives of the Bodkins.

The chapters are relatively short but contain the details the reader needs to become familiar with the family. When you finish the novel, you want to read more about what follows for the family. For those who like immigrant tales, no matter what the ancestry, this is a must read. The book is available on Amazon.

Here's a Q & A I had with our Hibernian author:

Q. I read your brief bio at BriarhilltoBrooklyn.com. Why did a retired CPA write a book?

A. "A couple of years after I retired, I began researching my ancestry. The tree I produced wasn't very interesting and I was afraid my family's real history would be lost — just names and dates on a family tree. My ancestry project evolved into Briarhill to Brooklyn. My hope from the beginning was that my granddaughter would pass the story of her Bodkin ancestors to her grandchildren 60 years from now. It's a story of Irish bravery and perseverance that we all share."

Q. Your book's premise is clearly an Ireland-to-America immigration story. What would you want Irish Americans to get out of Briarhill to Brooklyn?

A. "This could be my family! We all have similar stories. Indeed, there are different beginnings and outcomes, but the life experience in 1846-1852 was similar whether your family arrived in New York, Boston, Philly or Quebec."

Q. Was describing the journey on the coffin ship an important part of the book for you?

A. "Finding my family listed on the Cushlamachree's ship manifest is the cornerstone of their 1848 migration. Once I knew their ship's name and New York arrival date, that drove me to research the usual length of a crossing, the route they would have sailed, and conditions in steerage. I've known the term 'Irish coffin ship' for years. But now I had information about what crossing the Atlantic on one of those ships was like, and I wanted to share that information with others whose families withstood similar voyages."

North Carolina

Wake County Hibernians sponsor Gov. Burke Cup

The Raleigh GAA hosted their annual Hurling and Camogie Tournament on July 26 at the North Carolina State's Miller Field. Charlotte took home the Gov. Thomas Burke Cup, which is sponsored by the Wake County Division 1 and named after the first Irish governor of North Carolina. The women also competed for the new McCrudden Cup, which is in memory of recently departed Brother Gerry McCrudden and his wife, Connie.



Hibernian camaraderie is back!

Members of the Brunswick County, NC division, met at The Pub, in Southport, on July 22. The members and their wives celebrated an evening of good food and some well-deserved camaraderie after months of enduring the pandemic. The gathering was highlighted by Karl Adion, winner of the 50/50 raffle and \$390, and donating back \$170. Well done, Karl! Followed by John Butler, winner of a fantastic evening at D's Italian Restaurant, in Southport.

Next up for these Hibernians will be the Lady of Knock Mass and Picnic on Sunday, August 22, at Sacred Heart Church, in Southport, followed by a potluck dinner at Waterway Park in the St. James Plantation. Hibernian Joe Costy will donate and provide his special Boston Butt pulled pork sandwiches.

New York



Suffolk Hibernian earns Eagle Scout rank

On Sunday July 25th, at AOH Division 9 John Hennessy Hall in Mt. Sinai, Hibernian Sean Hallissey was awarded the hard-earned rank of Eagle Scout. Representatives of the Town of Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, the NYS Assembly, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Port Jefferson Fire Department (where Sean is a firefighter) came to honor Sean's achievement. Also turning out to show support and congratulations to Sean were his

father John (Division 9) and mother Judy. And also attending were NY State, Suffolk County and Division 9 Chaplain Father Henry Reid and a contingent of Officers and Brothers from the Division, including William Murphy, retired Suffolk County Police Inspector (Eagle 1971) and Mark McNulty, current Suffolk County Police Officer (Eagle 1982). Congratulations Sean, you make us all proud.

New York

by Bro Tom Loughlin Jr.

The hungry of Central NY win a golf tournament!

There were plenty of winners at the 25th annual Joe T. White Irish Scramble Golf Tournament at Whitesboro's Hidden Valley Golf Course sponsored by the Five Points Pub, Sullivan Contracting, CARite auto and the Oneida County Division of the AOH, named for 19th century Utica civic leader and activist for Catholics and the Irish, John C Devereux.

Among the winners were Mike DeCicco, Kevin Edic, Kevin Grimmer, and Mike Durr. They were the "Mike Durr and Friends" team and were the event's overall champion team. Power hitters Frank Redmond and Rebecca Durr were long drive winners in their respective divisions and Mike DeCicco won yet again with his 'closest to the pin' victory. Everyone who sat down to the chicken dinner provided by the Hidden Valley Golf Course was a winner. Certainly, no one went away from that feast hungry.

The event was the most charity-bountiful in the 25-year history of the tournament, and the winners weren't just the players. The biggest winners of all were folks here in Central New York who are NOT well acquainted with sitting down at a luxurious feast. They are our brothers and sisters in the family of God who are uncertain of their ability to obtain nutritious food.

Earlier in the year the AOH Oneida County joined other Irish interests in firing a 17-ton food salvo against hunger, in a first-person distribution at the Irish Center here. They also raised \$3,500 for distribution to Central New York food pantries. The unrelenting AOH War Against Hunger goes on.



Tournament champions Mike Durr and Friends, from left, Mike DeCicco, Kevin Edic, Devin Grimmer and Mike Durr celebrated with the Irish Flag under the event sign.



Event founder and namesake Joe T White enjoys yet another edition of the event he and other Irish founded 25 years ago. The ongoing golf/charity tradition has donated tens of thousands of dollars to charity since its inaugural.

Florida

Donation to seminarians

Division 2, Palm Beach County, Florida, has come up with a most fantastic idea. Division President Charlie Hagan went to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, in Boynton Beach, in order to request that a seminarian be sent over to the Division's meeting to say opening and closing prayers. In return for this request, a donation of \$500 per meeting would be given to the Seminary to help fund a needy seminarian. Pictured are President Charlie Hagan, who is on the Notre Dame Alumni's Executive Board, and Father George Nursey receiving the \$500 check at the Division's August meeting. I'm sure that the Division will now have more Chaplains than any other in the country. — Jim Sullivan



A pause that refreshes.... Golfers get a lunch at mid tournament.

New York



Irish Heritage Room visit

Past NYS AOH President Vic Vogel introduced the Suffolk County Division 7 Junior Girls to the new Irish Heritage Room at the East Islip Public Library. Vic explained that with the help of Kathleen Ring and a newly formed committee of Division 7 members, it grew to become the Irish Heritage Room. The room includes a collection of historical Irish fiction and non-fiction, Irish china, Waterford Crystal, Irish artifacts, pictures of Ireland's countryside, comfortable seating, Irish music CDs as well as past and current Irish newspapers. The Irish Cultural Collection is the only such collection in the New York State Public Library System and is maintained by donations. The room is open to the public and all books can be borrowed by those with library cards.

Suffolk Division 2 celebrates Life Members

Members of St. Patrick's Division 2, in Babylon, NY, assembled on July 15 for a luncheon to celebrate the 91st birthday of Brother John Keating, the Division's eldest member, who made his Major Degree in 1965, and was named an AOH National Life Member in 2006. Also celebrating were the Division's four other National Life Members! From left, Division President Jim Killen; Bob O' Shea (Life Member 2008), John Keating, John Rattigan (Life Member 2007), Leo Murphy (Life Member 2004) and John Biesty (Life Member 2009).



AOH Scholarships in Schenectady

Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons School, in Schenectady, was given an \$8,000 donation from the John F. Kennedy Division 1. The Hibernians hosted their annual golf tournament on June 4 with the proceeds earmarked for the school to support student scholarships. In presenting the check Division President John Humphrey said it made everyone feel very fortunate to give back. Treasurer Patrick Cremmins remarked that "we don't want a student to leave NDBG because of financial circumstances." From left, Treasurer Patrick Cremmins, President John Humphrey,

Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons School Principal Kiante Jones and Mickie Baldwin, NDBG Director of Development.

Support Project St. Patrick

Please keep those studying for the religious life in your thoughts and prayers. Project Saint Patrick is a wonderful way of putting those prayers into action. Send your check, made payable to Hibernian Charity, to P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179. Mark the Memo section: "Project Saint Patrick."

<https://aoh.com/project-st-patrick/>



The future is bright for Nassau AOH

Nassau County's Division 17, in Long Beach, congratulated the new charter officers and members of the newly installed Div. 17 Junior Division. Special thanks to Nassau County AOH President Jack O'Brien, County V.P. Ken Ferguson and National and NY State Board Member John O'Connell for leading the Installation. A great accomplishment for Division President Greg Schmalenberger and V.P. John Deely, making Division 17 Juniors the only Junior Division in Nassau County, and only the fourth active Junior Division in the state. Front row, from left, Jack Wheeler, Danny Gravina, Sean Biggins, Sean O'Hara; middle row, from left, Jack O'Brien, Ryan Gallagher, Jack Deely, Patrick Henry, Joseph Henry, Thomas Wheeler, Rory Ahearn, Brooklyn Mulligan; and back row, Ken Ferguson, Michael Carroll, Nation Editor John O'Connell, John Deely and Greg Schmalenberger. Photo by Past County President Peter Begley.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of the Ladies National President...

Karen Keane

Instead of hearing my thoughts and ideas, I am taking this opportunity to report to all on some issues presented by the National Political Education Committee. Below is only a summary and highlights of the Committee's findings and directions. Please refer to our website at www.ladiesaoh.com for the complete statement with citations and supporting documentation. Please read and provide feedback at natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) National Political Education Committee's mission is to educate our members on political and social justice issues. As part of this mission, the LAOH National Political Education Committee has developed its position statements on several social justice concerns. This article contains the first set of our position statements.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

The LAOH National Political Education Committee takes the following position on Disability Rights Issues

Disabled persons are not "other" and should not be marginalized in society. Persons with disabilities must have the same opportunities to contribute to society as non-disabled persons. All laws and policies that affect disabled persons must have input from the disabled community. All parishes should implement and follow the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities. All parishes must be a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space, for persons with disabilities.

Individuals should let their Local, State, and Federal elected officials know that they support legislation that promotes access to healthcare, housing, and employment for persons with disabilities, including legislation that helps the caregiving economy.

Persons with disabilities must be protected and free from abuse and neglect in their living, school, and work environments. Persons who provide services and care for persons with disabilities should receive the best training possible and should be recognized, in terms of salary and respect, for the critical and important work they do in caring for the most vulnerable.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The LAOH National Political Education Committee takes the following position on Environmental Issues:

Environmental justice is a social justice concern that continues to need to be addressed by Catholic Social Justice Policies, U.S. Government Policies and individual actions. The LAOH National Political Education Committee supports the efforts of the Catholic Church to work with Local, State and Federal Governments, as well as local community groups to address environmental injustice.

Past environmental policies in the United States have disproportionately and negatively affected poor communities, communities of color and indigenous communities. Environmental injustice may be considered a sin against man and all God's creations.

All United States citizens have the right to breathe clean air and have ready access to clean water. Local, State and Federal governments must strengthen the enforcement of existing Environmental Laws with input from the affected communities.

GUN CONTROL

The LAOH National Political Education Committee takes the following position on Gun Control Issues:

Making guns safer is a Pro-life issue.

We support the following gun control measures outlined by the U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops:

"A total ban on assault weapons; universal background checks on all gun purchases; limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines; federal law criminalizing gun trafficking; improved access to and increased resources for mental health care and earlier interventions; regulations and limitations on the purchasing of handguns; safety measures, such as locks that prevent children and others from using gun without permission and supervision; and an honest assessment of the toll of violent images and experiences which inundate people, particularly our youth."

Individuals should contact their elected officials, State and Federal, to support gun control policy and legislative measures that uphold the safety and wellbeing of all persons in our communities.

RACISM

The LAOH National Political Education Committee takes the following position on Racism:

It is our Christian duty to uphold the humanity of all human beings and to not make judgements on who is acceptable and who is not. As Irish-American women, it is important to take a stand against violence inflicted on people regardless of their personal origin. The struggles of our ancestors and our brethren who currently fight for equality in Ireland make clear that we must strive for a more inclusive world. We must decry racism and discrimination in all forms in order to truly practice our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. We must take this stand and do the hard work of combating racism in order to have a more just, equitable, and peaceful society.

Gail Dapolito
Chair, National Political Education Committee
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

Committee Members

Cheryl Daniels, Secretary, South Carolina; Anne Fisher, Legal Counsel, District of Columbia; Nan Alonso, Colorado; Barbara Flaherty, District of Columbia; Lori Shannon Forbes, Virginia; Patricia Lavelle, Ohio; Sandy Merrell, Missouri; Madonna Nolty, New York; Kathleen Norris, Maryland; Marilyn Madigan, Advisor, Ohio

LAOH National Irish Historian

Mary T. Leathem

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in National History Day, virtually. The LAOH and AOH have a special prize under the category title of Irish and Irish America. I was fortunate to be the first LAOH Historian to attend this wonderful program in College Park, Maryland at the University of Maryland many years, ago.

Students from across our great nation from every state participate in local and State judging before ever reaching presentation at National History Day. The students are provided with the contest theme and encouraged to use their creativity to bring the theme to life. This year's theme was "Communication in History: The key to understanding.

Michael McCormack has been a main stay in keeping the AOH and the LAOH involved in this wonderful program. The judges from each of organizations work together judging those submitted projects that apply to our award. Working on this project creates a real sense of comradery with all those involved even with many diverse opinions. The judges this year in addition to Mike were Dan Taylor, AOH Irish Historian, Mary Hogan, PNP, Marilyn Madigan, National Vice President, Gail Dapolito, National Political Education appointee, and myself.

The First Place Award of \$2000.00 was presented to the project entitled, **The Rambling House, How Irish Storytellers communicated to Preserve and Understand Culture**. Student performers were Callie McCall, Katherine Grady, Katy Sue Malt, Landon Pierron and Lillian Riddle. The Second Place Award of \$1500.00 was a group website on **John Boyle O'Reilly: Virtuoso of Communicator of Justice** by Evan McCrackin, Justin Yang, and Shoaib Jamil. These students had been through the local and state levels to reach National History Day participation. Their work ethic as well as enthusiasm was very evident.

The National History Day theme for 2022 is Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.

Please remember the theme for our History Contest 2021-2022 is **The 40th Anniversary of the Hunger Strike 1981: What was the impact on Irish History**. We will accept entries about any person, event or structure that has to do with the topic. Our Grades 6 through 8 may be encouraged to do a study on one of the hunger strikers due to the intensity of the topic.

New York

NYS Suffolk County AOH-LAOH Division 7 congratulates their very own, Kerri Davis (Junior Girls Past-President) as the 2021 Junior Hibernian of the Year. Kerri is the daughter of members Margaret (who has held many officer positions over many years) and Tom (a long time member of our Division who served in all chairs before serving as AOH President.)

Kerri continues to demonstrate strong leadership skills and serves as a mentor and role model to our Jr. Girls. She visits the girls as often as she can, as she just completed her first year of college. And, being the over-achiever that Kerri is, she made the Dean's List both semesters, earning a 4.0 this past semester.

Kerri is an exemplary example of a Junior Hibernian. She led the juniors in fundraising efforts which raised \$3000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the last three years. Kerri's list of accomplishments goes on and on. She is absolutely very deserving of this award. Division 7 AOH, LAOH and our Junior Girls are extremely proud of Kerri and would like to thank the NYS LAOH Board for this incredible acknowledgement and continued support of our junior members.



Pictured are: Suffolk County President Sue O'Neill, Suffolk County Immediate Past-President Alice Faughnan, Division 7 President Cathie Norton Doherty, Division & Junior Girl Kerri Davis, Division 7 Vice-President Patty Fitzpatrick, Division 7 Immediate Past-President and Suffolk County Treasurer Madonna Nolty and Division 7 member Margaret Davis (aka proud mom)! Photo by John O'Connell

New York

NY Hibernians meet in the Catskills

The NY AOH State Board meeting and AOH/LAOH Presidents Testimonial Dinner were held on May 1 in East Durham, in the lovely Catskills Mountains.



The New York State Board Spring Meeting was held at the Shamrock House in Greene County on May 1.



Past National President Brendan Moore, left, was presented with the Burns-Hayes Award, the state's highest Hibernian honor, by NYS VP (now president) John Manning.



State Hibernian Presidents Mary Beth Durkee and Tom Lambert were honored at their testimonial dinner at the Shamrock House in East Durham.



Andrea and State President Tom Lambert.



Gathering at the Mass Rock

This group photo was taken on May 2 after our Eucharist at Hibernian Mass Rock at the Michael J. Quill Fairgrounds, which concluded the state AOH-LAOH weekend. NYS Chaplain Henry Reid celebrated the Eucharist. (Photos by John O'Connell)

New York

NY Hibernians convene in Syracuse

The New York State AOH Convention was held July 8-11 in Syracuse. John Manning, of Queens County, was elected President; Tom O'Donnell, of Niagara County, was elected Vice President; Tom Beirne, of New York County, was elected Secretary; and Kevin O'Reilly, of Albany County, was elected Treasurer. Elected District Directors are P.J. Higgitt, John Greer, Tim Barry, John Walker, Ed Burke,

Dennis Grogan, Kieran Mahoney and Jack Ryan.

The Convention Committee, led by Bob Buntz and Annmarie Ferguson, did an outstanding job and provided true hospitality all week. The 2023 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention will be held at the Woodcliff Resort hosted by the Rochester AOH/LAOH. [See National Director Tim McSweeney's article in this issue for more details about the NYS Convention in Syracuse.] *Photos by John O'Connell*



National President Danny O'Connell, left, installed the new New York State AOH President John Manning, center, as State Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid looked on.



Mass was celebrated each day, including immediately prior to the Installations of the Ladies AOH and the AOH officers.



John Manning's family and many friends gathered in Syracuse after the convention to share his joy of being elected New York State AOH President.



New State President John Manning waves to the applauding attendees at the Saturday night banquet, with his wife, Donna, and State Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid at left.



The newly elected and installed officers of the New York AOH.