

The NATIONAL hibERNIAN DIGEST



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

Vol. LXXX No. 1 USPS 373340

January-February-March 2023

1.50

DATED MATERIAL

Marching for Life



The AOH National Board and Hibernians and clergy from Virginia, D.C., Maryland and other states were proud to participate in the 50th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 20. See page 7 for additional photos. — John O'Connell

President O'Connell Recognized among top 250 U.S. Catholic Influencers

Catholic Herald magazine has named Daniel J. O'Connell one of the top 250 Catholic Influencers in the United States, specifically recognized among leaders and influencers in the Charity, Non-profit sector. The Catholic Herald touted The Ancient Order of Hibernians as being "at the forefront for issues concerning Irish Catholics, such as the Right to Life." He joins the likes of Patrick E. Kelly, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus, and Donna Markham, President, Catholic Charities.

O'Connell credited his brothers nationwide and his national board for the recognition, specifically Pro-Life Chairman Larry Squires and Catholic Action Chairman Pat Lally.

"With members in all 50 states, we have Hibernians across the country supporting their local churches and advocating to support our Catholic Bishops' agenda to protect life, advance social justice, reform immigration policy, and care for those in need. We achieve this not only through advocacy and lobbying efforts, but through practicing Christian Charity every day in our communities," O'Connell said. "It is humbling to realize The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America plays such a role in shaping the Catholic agenda in the U.S."

From the likes of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Olympian Simone Biles to NFL great Joe Montana, U.S. Catholics are leaders in all walks of life.



The Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, D.D. and President Daniel J O'Connell at the 2021 Virginia State Convention.

Young Hibernian St. Patrick Centre Ambassador Applications now open

Hibernians aged 18 to 24, you could spend the first two weeks of June 2023 in County Down as part of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program. Use the button link on www.aoh.com and apply to be part of the initial class of ambassadors. Three members will be selected and receive all travel and lodging expenses of the program.

When you click our St. Patrick's Ambassador Program you will find three steps to follow. Please read the letter from Dr. Tim Campbell and the More Information link so you understand the program. Second, follow the Apply Now link and complete your application. Be sure to include your membership number. Then follow the link to notify National President O'Connell via email that you applied. Include your name, membership number and your state, county and division names. Best of Luck!

New York



Kevin and Ann Kearney— AOH Man of the Year and LAOH Woman of the Year.

Hibernians honored at gala

by Tom Loughlin Jr.

More than two hundred attendees at the Irish Cultural Center's "200 Years of Irish Spirit" Gala saw AOH members Kevin Kearney, Russell Brooks and Tom Malley, and LAOH member Ann Kearney, among luminaries earning honors for service to the Irish community.

AOH Man of the Year and LAOH Woman of the Year awards went to the "Founding Couple" of both the John C. Devereux Oneida County Div. 1, and the Oneida County LAOH Ladies of Knock, Kevin and Ann Kearney.

Kevin launched the new AOH division here on May 17, 1991. Since that time, Kevin has been active in every aspect of Irish life and culture in Oneida County. Katherine, who married Kevin in 1959, was a founding member of LAOH Division 17.

Receiving the Matthew Sullivan "Irish Spirit Award," Tom Malley's early life was steeped in exposure to first generation Irish speakers. That bloomed into his involvement in Irish language competitions, poetry, storytelling and drama. As well as celi dancing, Tom taught basic Gaelic at two area community colleges. He is a member of Comhaltas Ceolotri, Craobh Dugan .

Receiving the Gala's Lifetime Achievement Award, former Devereux Oneida County Division 1 AOH President Russ Brooks II served the city of Utica as Fire Chief until his recent retirement, received the Living Legend award from the Boys and Girls Club of the Mohawk Valley. One of the Founders Trio of the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, Brooks has been on the Board of Directors of the Great American Irish Festival since its inception and is a champion of the Utica Food Pantry. A Marine, Brooks is married to Marianne (Mulvihill) Brooks.

Pennsylvania

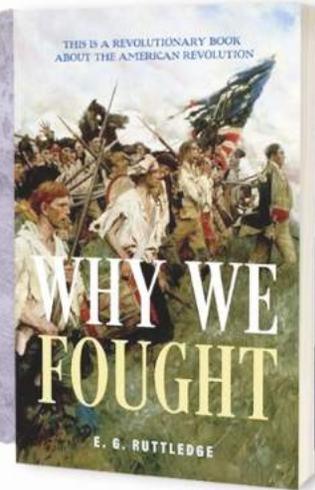


Penn Hibernians host Belfast sports team

In September 2022, the Dennis Kelly Division 1, Havertown, PA — after a two-year pandemic hiatus — once again hosted the basketball team of St. Malachy's College, in Belfast. Pictured are the boys from St. Malachy and the boys of 3 Leaf Basketball from Havertown, coached by Brother Tom Meakim, president of the Dennis Kelly division, and assisted by Brother Kevin Haney, of Black Jack Kehoe Division 4, Delco. The brothers of the Kelly Division have a long history of exchange with St. Malachy's basketball, track, golf and music programs. The boys from 3 Leaf Basketball will be heading to Belfast in March 2023 to play some games, learn about life in Ireland, staying with host families and building friendships. The past participants in this exchange program have built lifelong friendships over the years.

WHY THE IRISH FOUGHT

ATTENTION
ALL PROUD IRISH
AMERICANS!
ORDER
YOUR COPY
TODAY



For the first time in 200 years hear about the authentic American Revolution, how it was manned mainly by the Irish, how the Irish community was the only community to be heavily involved in the supplying it with goods material, money and men n boys. How it was the Irish community that bankrolled the whole Revolution, and were vital in its endeavors. Also our Brown n Black brother slaves, how they too fought in good numbers.

1 in 4 American soldiers at YORKTOWN were black/brown slaves
HEAR ONCE AGAIN THE TRUE AUTHENTIC REVOLUTIONARY STORY
BEFORE IT WAS HEAVILY CHANGED IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Buy this riveting exciting story today. You won't regret it.
Book Available in Barnes & Noble and bookshop@bookbay.com

You can buy this excellent book on Amazon "Why We Fought" a revolutionary book about the American Revolution, would make an ideal present for March for any proud Irish American. The Irish freed America! So said every defeated British general & every winning French general.

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



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Official Apparel

www.aohapparel.com

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



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

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



6' x 3'
with pole pockets OR grommets!

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



president's message

By Danny O'Connell

On behalf of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, the largest Irish organization in America, the only Irish organization with membership in all 50 United States, and the Oldest Irish Catholic organization in America, I wish you and your family a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Working together we are the voice of Irish America, demonstrating our strength in numbers leading the way in all things Irish, Catholic, American.

Past President Brendan Moore recently shared an article from The National Catholic Report discussing the fall-off in both attendance and membership in U.S. denominations. He shared two considerations provided in the article that we should apply to our work as The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.

- "While things are difficult, focusing on the future works better than just looking at things that are going wrong."
- "The focus should be on how we become a better church (in our case, Order) – rather than, how do we re-create what we used to have."

In our recent State President zoom meeting, we address these issues as related directly to the AOH. Our goal is focusing on the future and how The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America becomes a better organization. This clearly relates to our current push to have all presidents appoint their constitutionally required appointments. Our history has demonstrated that having our elected and appointed positions occupied builds our leadership numbers and bring new and innovated ideas for the future of the AOH.

Recently, we received an article about an AOH hall that was sold. The president was interviewed in the article and discussed several reasons he believed caused the failure of their hall, most related to the bar failing, lack of interest in heritage and our male, Irish, Catholic requirements. Missing was any accountability or responsibility of leadership. We reviewed their list of officers and found the division only has four officers listed on their roster. The only appointed officer was chaplain. Looking beyond the local officers we found that the state board had eight open offices. The lesson learned here is that without leadership we can't move forward. If we don't move forward, we can't survive as an organization.

Ambassador Program

Looking forward, during our recent national convention the AOH partnered with the St. Patrick Centre in the North of Ireland creating the Ambassador program. Three young Hibernians will be selected to join the AOH St. Patrick Centre program spending two weeks all-expenses paid, in Downpatrick, Ireland. Details and application can be found on WWW.AOH.COM in the green buttons on the right-hand side. Donations to the program can be made through the Donate to the Hibernians Charity button in the same location. Once you hit the ST. PATRICK'S CENTRE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM BUTTON you will see a letter from Dr. Tim Campbell, Director of the Centre, a More Info button where you can learn about the program, an Apply Now button that sends you to the online application and a link to my email so you can verify your application. Please encourage your younger members aged 18-24 to apply for the program today!

Four Pillars

As we move forward into the new year, please remember to include our four pillars in all your local activities. 1) Membership, Recruitment and Retention. 2) Hibernian Charity Appeal. 3) Freedom for all Ireland Christmas Appeal. 4) Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal. These projects have helped The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America to become and continue to be the leading Irish American Organization, embracing our Catholic Faith and our Irish Heritage. It is not too late to get your FFAI Christmas Appeal donations in and now is the time to be thinking about our Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal.

The future of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is in our hands, the hands of each member. Please do what you can to help our continued success. What you do today will make a difference. God Bless and again have a Happy New Year.

Form 9 Elected and Appointed Officer Electronic Form Update

All Divisions and Boards need to have a current Form 9 submitted via the new electronic form. This is a critical communication tool and requires the name, member number, telephone number and personal email of every elected and appointed officer. If you haven't already done so, please submit the form immediately in the electronic format. The information on the Form 9 is our primary communication tool. The electronic format is critical for us to import your information into our officer data base.

Presidents, you are required to fill all the appointments for your division or board. These appointments build our leadership base for all elected positions at the division, county, state and national levels. The appointments are a conduit for communicating between all levels of the Order and required by the constitution of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.

An updated Form 9 is required every year by February 15 and a NEW Form 9 is required whenever there is a change of any officer. Brothers, please verify your Division or Board Form 9 is up to date, has all appointments assigned, and has been sent to the national officer during your next meeting.



vice president's report

By Sean Pender

I was honored to be recognized by the Bronx, NY County Board on November 20 for my efforts in support of Freedom for All Ireland. I shared this honor with Senator Charles Schumer, Former Congressman Peter King, Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald and Patricia Megahey.

Concerns have been expressed that Senator Schumer was honored at this event as Hibernian of the Year. There can be no question that the name of the award bestowed on Senator Schumer was inappropriate. Naming someone "Hibernian of the Year" implies they are a member of the AOH in Good Standing. This has been addressed with the Bronx NY County Board and will be reviewed throughout the Order. However, recognition of Senator Schumer was well earned and deserved. National President Daniel O'Connell and National Chaplain Father Healy responded to several members regarding the issue; they recognized their concern but explained that it was an appropriate honor based on the senator's record.

It is critically important to understand that our organization advocates for multiple issues. As stated in our preamble, we are grounded in our Irish heritage and Catholic faith. The Constitution's preamble states the nine tenets/purposes of our Order and Article 2 section 1 restates the purpose as set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. It pledges to work in harmony with the doctrines and laws of the Roman Catholic Church, and to foster and sustain loyalty to country among its members.

We are not defending the name of the award given to Senator Schumer at the local event. However, given that our Order's strong support from the senator, it is necessary to acknowledge his partnership. Senator Schumer was specifically recognized at the event for his leadership and commitment to several tenets, as listed in our preamble: "To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland."

Since his earliest days as an elected official, Schumer has been a constant supporter of peace, justice and truth in a united 32-county Ireland. His remarks at the event unapologetically called for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, no hard border on the island of Ireland, legacy justice, and no post Brexit trade deal with the U.S. if there is any diversion from anything less than full implementation of the treaty. His remarks, which are in lockstep with our aspirations, were reported the next day in local, national and international papers, continuing to put pressure on the British government to live up to their commitments as agreed to in the Good Friday agreement.

Additionally, Schumer's recent efforts have supported our purpose: "To foster the ideas and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people."

The New York AOH and other Irish organizations contacted Senator Schumer regarding the sinking and damage of the destroyer, the USS Sullivan's, at dock in Buffalo. <https://www.irishcentral.com/news/uss-the-sullivans-aoh> The decommissioned WWII U.S. Navy Destroyer dedicated to the five Irish American Sullivan brothers who lost their lives during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942, while serving during WWII. The Sullivan family's loss was the most extensive loss by any one family in WWII. Senator Schumer was able to secure \$7.5 million in appropriations to complete repairs and fully restore the ship.

Additionally, when contacted by the AOH, the senator was the key player in ensuring that a new destroyer was named in honor of a young Irish immigrant, Corporal Patrick Gallagher, who was killed in the Viet Nam War. Note that this effort to have the young Marine recognized had been going on for some time, and we were down to the last destroyer to be built in this flight (it will be decades before a new series is launched). Only the senator's intervention with the Navy got this done.

<https://aoh.com/2018/03/14/ancient-order-of-hibernians-thank-senator-schumer-and-secretary-spencer-for-recognition-of-cpl-gallagher-in-destroyer-naming/>

Lastly, Schumer has been a leading voice to improve Irish immigration to the U.S., another tenet of our organization: "To encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy."

In his remarks on November 20, the senator restated his belief that the more Irish in America, the better America is. It is also critical to note that Senator Schumer, Senator Menendez and Congressmen Peter King and Chris Smith were the leading voices and instrumental in supporting NJ-AOH brother Malachy McAllister for more than 20 years.

It is important to note that while we recognize the Senator for his strong support in the issues above, we continue to strongly disagree with his stance on abortion. Recognition as given on November 20 does not in any way change our stance as a pro-life group or a Catholic organization nor imply agreement with the his position on abortion.

To effect positive change, we need to engage with all parties and elected officials to advocate for all our issues. It is simply not possible to engage only with those that align with us 100 percent on all issues. If we were to insist on complete alignment on all issues it would prevent us from implementation of good improvements on any issue. The ability

continued on page 6

Deadline for next issue
of Hibernian Digest
no later than April 1, 2023



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

Thank you to the many Divisions that submitted per capitas and Form 11s. Per capitas are assessments per member (dues) that are critical to our Order as this funding supports the ongoing operations of our National Board. More specifically, the expenses of our National Office and all services provided through our National Secretary are sustained through membership dues. A reminder, membership dues collected this year must be preserved and expended for your per capita requirement next year.

The per capita increase approved at the National Convention in Pittsburgh last summer strengthens our work as we continue to expand relationships with the Irish Government and work closely with the many stakeholders in both the Irish and Irish American Communities. Though our organization's advocacy efforts have always been consistent, we have developed new partnerships and our advocacy and lobby efforts are very robust. New scholarship programs and opportunities for young people are now in place. In addition, our marketing and promotions initiatives have never been stronger as we grow the Order. Local membership and Division leadership have contributed to this very important work, and we are thankful for the many investments in our Order's future.



Director's report

By Sean O'Dowd

New Kansas State Board Officers' Installation

In December 2022 it was my honor to represent the National Board and install the Officers for the first Kansas State Board. Officers include President Andy Sprehe, Vice President Denny Dennihan, Treasurer Gerard Walsh and Recording Secretary Tom Kane.

In 2022 Kansas formed new Divisions in Leavenworth (Brian Rogers, President) and Hutchinson/Reno County (Ryan Harris, President). In addition, the Kansas AOH is actively pursuing forming Divisions in Atchison, Topeka and Wichita. Our brothers in Kansas have done a tremendous job over the last few years of getting out and letting people know about the AOH. Keep up the good work brothers.

Hibernian Digest – Using as a Division Meeting Resource

The Hibernian Digest is an excellent aid in conducting informative and educational Division meetings. The reports from Officers and Chairmen give a great narrative of the causes and projects the AOH supports. The Digest is not only useful to Division Presidents, Officers and Chairmen, but to all members in order to facilitate discussions at meetings.

Call to Action Success Story

The National Board would like to ask you, again in 2023, for your help when a "Call to Action" is requested at the National level. We continue to need at the National level the same enthusiasm and support demonstrated by our brothers at the local level. I have traveled though the Midwest and have seen the wonderful work you, my brothers, do in your communities. The AOH makes up only a small percentage of folks in a community yet we make a large impact.

As an example, last summer the AOH had a "call to action" for the long overdue appointment of a United States Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. Our brothers jumped into action and wrote letters to the U.S. President requesting the appointment. We are thrilled that in December, Joseph Kennedy III was named the 7th Special Envoy. The National Board and PEC Chairman Neil Cosgrove appreciate all those who participated and took action. The AOH has always taken a positive role in the unification of Ireland and now at this pivotal moment in Irish history, we should not relent. Our Preamble item #3 states "To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland." We want to continue this impactful work locally and at the National level.

National Secretary Ed Halligan and National Office Update

Secretary Halligan is on the road to recovery following a stroke on Thanksgiving Day. We are happy to report Ed has returned home and continues outpatient therapy. Ed is in good spirits and excited about the progress he has made. We understand the challenges of recovery and ask all members to be patient with the national office as it will be some time before Ed can return to the office.

To assist the national office, we are asking all boards to submit their Form 9s both electronically through the AOH Roster Management system and manually by downloading the form and submit the completed electronic form (saved electronically named Form 9 and division information). Please remember, your 2022 per capita is due February 15, 2023, and you receive a \$4 discount per paid member by meeting the deadline.



secretary's report

Ed Halligan

By Maria McDonald, Office Manager

The power of prayer is a wonderful thing. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for Ed.

As we navigate through the days and weeks in this new year, we are learning how to better improve our services and how best to serve the membership.

One of the ways you can help us help you when making an inquiry, have an issue, need changes made or updates approved is to make reference of your **Division Number** and your **Member Number** in all correspondence to the Secretary's Office.

To reach the office of the National Secretary, email inquiries and questions to: emhalli26@gmail.com.

Ordering materials

To order Blue Book Meeting Manuals, Lapel Pins, Officer Medallions/Ribbons/Past President Pins, etc., go to Forms on the aoh.com site, scroll down to National Board Order Form, click Blue Books, Medals, etc.

Please use the new online form with the address for Ed Halligan in Oreland, PA. Forms sent to the New Jersey address will be returned to sender or take longer to forward to the address in PA. Include the division number and enclose a check.

Roster updates

Roster updates for new members need to have a proper mailing address and an email address for all members. New cards will not be processed without a proper mailing address. If you move, change your phone number or email address, please let your division Financial Secretary know so they can update the roster and you will not miss important AOH information happening in your area and across the country.

Reinstating former members will result in a new member number. We will no longer reinstate members with their former number. As with new members, new cards will not be processed without a proper mailing address or email address.

As newly elected Financial Secretaries are added to the officer roster, please note that access to the roster is being granted when the update is approved. Please make sure that the correct email address is on the new financial secretary's information. An email is sent out to create a password for access. Without a correct email address, you will miss the email granting access.

Remember that **Form 11** is online at aoh.com and the **per capita for 2022 needs to be postmarked by February 15 to get the \$4 discount.**

After February 15, the full per capita of \$16 will be due.

The online form will calculate the amount owed, so this *should be completed online*, printed and sent in with a check.



Director's report

By Ray Lynch

Brothers, as we head into a new year, it's good to reflect a bit on what the last 365 days have brought us as an organization. I'm sure everyone will find something that has affected them both positively and negatively. What we do with that info is what makes our involvement matter and our organization stronger. 2023 is a new starting point. Motivate yourself to embrace the positive, learn from the negative and adjust your involvement along the way. We all know that life is very delicate and it can change when we least expect it. Traditionally, we try to hold ourselves to resolutions at the beginning of each new year, so I challenge you all to recommit to the AOH and live our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, to the best of your ability. I'm looking forward to what 2023 might bring me, not only in my personal and professional life but also with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the organization I embrace sincerely. Also, as you go about your daily business, please keep our National Secretary Ed Halligan in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from medical issues. Please feel free to contact me at irishyankeenut@yahoo.com or (772) 224-4928 with any comments or suggestions. Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto....

New York

AOH makes donations in Hornell

Steuben County Sons of Ireland Division 1 President Mark VanDurme, center, presented a \$1,000 check to Barb Argentieri, left, from St. Ann's Academy. On the right, Kristof Kocan, from the Hornell YMCA, also received a \$1,000 check. These donations come from the proceeds from our Irish festival held on August 20. Argentieri and Kocan were present at our November meeting. Submitted by Jerry McAneney.





Director's Report

By Dan Devlinney, Deputy Legal Counsel

Brothers All, I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas season filled with family, fun and faith. The next big thing on the horizon as I write this is the Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C. scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2023. I hope to be there myself and hope to see a lot of you that day at the March. The Preamble of our National Constitution calls us to protect "all life born and unborn." Article II of our National Constitution states that our organization pledges to work in harmony with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. We as members of the organization also take that pledge. That is why it is important for those of us who can march on January 20, 2023, or any other day to do so. It is just as important for those of us who cannot march to pray for the end of abortion.

As we move into our next season of celebration, the St. Patrick's Day season I would like to wish you all very happy St. Patrick's Day. For most of us this is our favorite time of year when we get to enjoy parades along with the music and dance of our heritage. However, if you have followed some of the articles on some of the releases coming from the files of United Kingdom, you are aware that there are those in Ireland seeking justice for themselves and their families that need our support. These developments only reinforce the importance of a United States Special Envoy to Ireland.

We are also coming up on the time where we are starting to think about state and county conventions. As part of your conventions many of you will be setting up committees to review your Bylaws. I would like to suggest that in doing so you review Article XX of our National Constitution which covers Bylaws. It states, in part, "Each separate jurisdiction and Board of the Order shall adopt such By-Laws to govern the transaction of its business not covered by the By-Laws of any superior jurisdiction, or this Constitution." This will help you to streamline your Bylaws and more importantly help avoid future conflicts with the Bylaws of Superior jurisdictions or the National Constitution.

I have started to work with the states that I am responsible for on a project to identify activities within their areas that have been successful in the recruitment and retention of members. The plan is to identify activities that work within the current structure of the Order and put them into a workable format that can be shared with others. I know similar projects have been done by others in the past but I think it is time to revisit this issue to see what new information or activities are out there that may help us with what seems to be a continuing issue.



Director's Report

By Richard Thompson

As we begin a new year it is always good to review the "Four Pillars" of our organization as has been identified by the National Board.

- 1) Membership, Dues and Retention. It is utmost important to any organization to recruit, maintain and collect membership dues in a timely fashion. We need everyone's help in growing this great Order so please recruit a new member today.
- 2) FFAI Christmas Appeal. One of our most successful programs, thank you to the Boards, Divisions and individuals who donate. It truly is appreciated by recipients of this program. One thing that we have noticed is that it is a small percentage of our Order who contributes to this program, so if your Board or Division is not donating, please consider a donation to this most worthy program.
- 3) Project St Patrick. A program that is at the origins of our Order. This is a program we all need to support a whole lot more. This program supplies scholarships to seminarians and religious and is at the very tenants of our organization. Please participate in Project St Patrick.
- 4) Hibernian Charity/Label Program. We have changed this up a little last year and this year by providing magnets and now this year with stickers. While donations are up the overall percentage of participation in this program is low. The funds raised through this program enables the National Board to provide charitable donations to worthwhile causes.

Brothers, I hope your new year has started off well. Our organization is on solid ground. The National Board with the help of every member will continue to maintain and grow this organization. As always if I can be of any assistance, please contact me: rthomp521@comcast.com

Remember the AOH in your will

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



Director's Report

By Bob Mehrens

As we head into Irish America Heritage Month, I want to remind you of the importance of having the correct contact information for members. There will be several informative webinars upcoming, and the national board would like to see increased participation. We also need to ensure assignment of chairmen for each committee as outlined on Form 9. The importance of filling those positions is vital to our continued efforts to help promote our organization. Discuss each committee chair at your next meeting and you may be surprised by the number of members interested in participating in the many important causes the AOH supports. All our national chairmen continue to provide great information and are doing great work to achieve the goals of the Order. Recruitment and retention remain the priority of the Order. Retention begins at the local level. Please encourage new members to become involved with committees they may be interested in.

March also provides us with a great opportunity to recruit new members. Each division can set a goal to recruit one new member per year. In order to recruit good solid members, come up with a recruitment plan. Ask your President to call an officers meeting and brainstorm ideas. Look to set effective recruitment goals, create a recruiting schedule, and start using technology.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the Order and do not hesitate to reach out with questions or suggestions. Meetah2@hotmail.com 406-560-2699



Director's Report

By Tim McSweeney

The New Year brings an opportunity for our organization to grow and prosper. This takes effort from every member, at every level. Leadership on the Division, County, State and National needs the membership to provide support. Support means membership participation and the membership to share new ideas to help our organization function far into the future. All members need to ask themselves, "What can I do for this Noble Order?" Become involved with your division.

Installation of Officers

As described in the AOH National Constitution, Installation of Officers are to be conducted when a new term of office has begun. An Installation of Officers Ceremonies allows divisions to celebrate new leadership and for that leadership team to be introduced to the division membership. An Installation conducted at a division meeting or in a public ceremony: A public ceremony allows for friends and family to observe the ritual of installation. Many divisions use this opportunity as an awards night and recognize the accomplishments of outgoing officers. All divisions should be conducting installation of officers.

Form 9 Reports

The call for Divisions to submit Form 9 (Officer's Roster) has been reiterated many times in this Digest and has been communicated to divisions many times by the National Board over the last year. These reports are a vital communication link for the National Board to properly and effectively communicate information down to the division level. This organization can function at a higher level if information is properly disseminated.

Fr. Henry Reid

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate Suffolk County (NY) Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid on receiving the 2022 NYS AOH Burns-Hayes Award. This award memorializes Past NYS AOH Presidents Jim Burns and Jim Hayes. It is the highest honor bestowed by the NYS AOH Board. Fr. Henry is a truly worthy recipient of this award.



NYS AOH Vice President Tom O'Donnell, left, presented the 2022 Burns-Hayes Award to Fr. Henry Reid, center. Also pictured is Rockland County AOH President John McGowen.



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

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

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

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

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

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

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Daniel Taylor..... Historian / Archivist..... dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Ryan Curry..... Organizer..... aoh.natl.organizer@outlook.com
John O'Connell..... Editor Hibernian Digest..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin, Esq..... FFAI Chairman..... mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
Patrick Ryan..... Charities and Missions..... patrick@rivierstad.com
Pat Lally..... Catholic Action..... lally 8404@hotmail.com
Ron Hagan..... Project St. Patrick..... rhagan@hagancpa.com
Larry Squires..... Pro-Life..... lsquires@descomm.com
A.J. Smith..... National Legal Counsel..... asmith@bssnylaw.com
Neil Cosgrove..... Political Education..... ncosgrov@optonline.com
Danny Eakins..... Veterans Affairs..... dannyeakins@hotmail.com
Tom Lambert..... Immigration..... tomlambert12@aol.com
Chris Cooke..... Digital Coordinator..... chris@chriscooke.com
Judge James McKay..... Oversight Committee Chairman..... jfmaoh@me.com
Dennis Parks..... Oversight Committee..... dparks121@yahoo.com
John Wilson..... Oversight Committee..... johnj_wilson@yahoo.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Judge James McKay..... Past President..... jfmaoh@me.com
2016-2020 / Charity Liaison
Brendan Moore..... 2012-2016 / FFAI Committee..... brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle..... 2008-2012 / Political Education..... shayboyle@gmail.com
Jack Meehan..... 2006-2008..... meehanaoh1@aol.com
Ned McGinley..... 2002-2006 / Political Education Committee..... nedaoh1@aol.com
Notre Dame Fund
Edward J. Wallace..... 1994-1998 / Catholic Action Committee..... ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
George Clough..... 1990-1994 / Constitution Committee..... BookODays@aol.com
Veterans Committee
Nick Murphy..... 1986-1988 / Constitution Committee..... upkerry@optonline.net

The National hibernian digest

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

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

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



Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, when you read this, we will be nearing Irish American Month 2023. I hope you and your division have taken constructive steps to recognize Irish American men and women's contributions to our nation. It is not enough to say that we are proud to be Irish American; we should be honored to show the broader community why especially in this age of revisionism.

The importance of Irish American Heritage Month cannot be understated. If we do not continue to promote our heritage to the next generation, ours will be the last generation; how sad if a heritage that has survived war, oppression and famine should succumb to apathy. Many of us can likely remember when our communities had active Italian, Polish, German, etc., organizations that are now gone. Irish America is not immune to this; if we don't take action today, we will suffer the same fate.

Supporting this critical program is not difficult:

- Ask your local officials to issue a statement or proclamation recognizing Irish American Heritage Month, speaking to the importance of recognizing the contributions that the Irish have made to your community (perhaps, in your request, include examples you are aware of). This could also be an opportunity for them to recognize the year-round good that your division does in the community.
- The National will once again be doing its Irish American Heritage Video, posting our daily profiles recognizing prominent Irish Americans, and our seminar series. Please don't just read or watch these; share these on your division and personal social media accounts.
- Please review and clean up your Website and Facebook. Nothing sends a message of an inactive organization more than seeing under "Upcoming events" the fish fry from 2018.
- Please have your local division wordsmith send an op-ed to your local paper citing the importance of honoring Irish American Heritage Month.

Irish American Heritage Month can be a tremendous recruiting opportunity for your division; embrace it. Parades are wonderful, but our heritage needs and deserves more support than a once-a-year stroll down Main street. We need to show activity and relevancy if we are to reach the next generation of Irish Americans. Heritage is not a gift you receive; it is a gift you give.

Pennsylvania



AOH honors first Irish-born Medal of Honor recipient
Members of the Michael Collins Division 1, County Cumberland, PA along with their honorary piper, gathered to honor the 1st Irish-born Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War vet, Private Michael J. Madden, on November 5 for Veteran's Day."

VICE PRESIDENT

continued from page 3

of the Hibernians to get bipartisan support on issues even in these divisive times has been frequently noted and admired both here and abroad.

Brothers in the NJ-AOH wrote that it was ironic that at the same time of the award, our Order and the NJ-AOH were promoting right-to-life issues. Some of those members found that hypocritical. We would counter that hypocrisy would be if we tabled one issue to promote the other. The fact of the matter is that the concurrent advocacy shows our ability to work on multiple issues.

Just as we cannot expect our public figures to agree with us on every issue, we must also respect that of each other as brothers. The strength of the AOH is that we are a broad tent of many voices that come together in friendship, unity and Christian charity. We would certainly be a poorer and weaker organization for the loss of any brother or voice to work with us or challenge us.

This dialogue is an example of our strength and our collective passion. I hope we can all continue to focus our attention on our lengthy lists of diverse, critical issues and educate and empower our members to do the same.



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I trust all of you enjoyed a restful and joyous Christmas and New Year full of family, fun and fellowship. As we press forward, we look forward to our State Conventions and new opportunities to build on our bonds of Hibernian Brotherhood. With that in mind, I hope you have the opportunity to participate in all the traditional St. Patrick's Day events and parades in your respective communities.

Veteran Services Spotlight:

Changes to Federal Veteran Small Business Verification

The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act contained changes to Federal Government procedures related to the certification and evaluation of Veteran Small Business verification and evaluation, particularly as it relates to small business contracting and procurement with Federal Government agencies. On October 24, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ceased accepting new applications for Veteran-owned small business verification or reverification. Authority for those functions was transferred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as of January 1, 2023. SBA info on their veteran business support services can be found at the following link:

<https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses>

Veteran Services Spotlight 2:

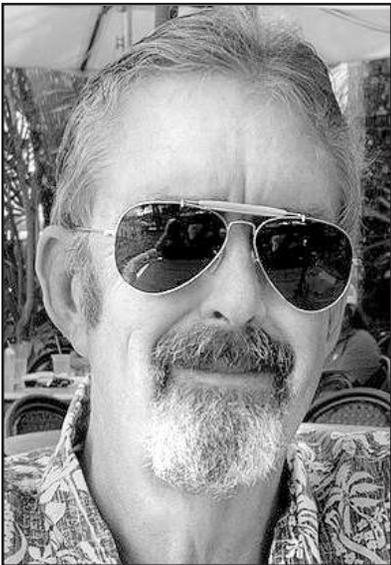
VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation Rates Rising

Veterans who receive disability compensation from the VA due to a service-connected injury or condition should see a significant increase in their compensation rates as of January 1, 2023. VA Disability Compensation rates are often tied to cost-of-living increases made to Social Security benefits and impacts disability compensation, clothing allowances, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), and other VA benefits programs such as GI Bill basic allowance for housing. On January 1, VA disability compensation rates increased by 8.7 percent. Veterans and their caregivers who want to learn more about their disability compensation rates, which can vary based on number of dependents and/or children, can find that information on this VA website:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates>

Hibernian Veterans

Brothers, over the last year I've included brief biographical features on the appointed members of our National VA Committee to highlight their accomplishments as servicemembers, veterans and Hibernians. Moving forward, I will continue to use this space to feature great veteran Hibernian members across the country. For this edition of



Mike Carey, VA Chairman, AOH Florida State Board

the Digest, we feature Mike Carey, VA Chairman for the Florida State Board and a regular participant in our National VA Committee meetings. Mike's military service in the United States Navy spanned four decades starting with his enlistment in December 1978 and took him around the globe. Duty stations after his initial training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago included posts in Indiana, South Korea, Italy, Diego Garcia and Virginia with sea tours in the Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas. During the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War, Mike was activated from the Navy Reserves and assigned to the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence. After active duty he worked for the Syracuse Housing Authority in New York before retiring in 2018 and moving to south Florida with his wife and pets. Mike is a longtime member of the AOH and has deep Irish heritage through both of his parents, with his mother arriving to the United States from County Tipperary. For Mike's service in the U.S.

Navy and his work in the community: Thank you, Brother Carey!

All members, especially veterans and VA Chairs, are encouraged to participate in National VA Committee meetings held online, generally every third Tuesday, at 7 p.m. ET. Please contact me directly for details. Also, check out the resources listed on the AOH Veterans Affairs website at www.aoh.gov/veterans-affairs. Best wishes to you all for a grand and celebratory 2023 Saint Patrick's Day! Garryowen!

Support Project St. Patrick

Virginia

Gaelic Mass in Falls Church

The Col. John Fitzgerald Division 1 will be holding its 45th annual Gaelic Mass on Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. The Mass will be held in honor of the Feast of St. Patrick, and will be celebrated at the St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church (905 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046). This is one of the longest-running Gaelic Masses in the country and receives the support of the Irish Embassy in D.C. each year. Printed missals in both Gaelic and English are provided for attendees, and the Mass is accompanied by Irish harp and Gaelic chorus. — Submitted by Hibernian Alex Wilson (703-969-7703 or ajwilzn@gmail.com.)

March for Life



Fr. Kevin Fields, center, D.C. State Chaplain, with members of the AOH National Board and our hosting local Hibernians and concelebrating clergy after our special Mass preceding our participation in the 50th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. From left, front row, National Treasurer Liam McNabb, Nat'l VP Sean Pender, Nat'l Pres. Danny O'Connell, Fr. Fields, PA Div. 1 Ed Olearczyk, MD Div. 1 Tom Robinson, MD Div. 2 David Willett; back row, from left, D.C. State Board Past Pres. Brian Curran, Past D.C. Chaplain Fr. Jack Hurley, Nat'l Catholic Action Chairman Pat Lally, Deacon Steve Mitchell, Nat'l Pro Life Chairman Larry Squires, Fr. Tim Harris, D.C. Pres. Don Connolly, MD Past Pres. Jay Linahan and VA Past Pres. Jay McCarthy. — John O'Connell



Hibernians attended a specially arranged concelebrated mass at St. Mary, Mother of God, Church before joining the March for Life.



Delaware



Hibernians honor our deceased veterans. Brothers of the Bernard McCarren Division 2 was present at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery on November 4 to help to flag the graves to be ready for Veterans Day. More than 13,000 graves were flagged. Many hands from many groups, Verizon, the American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, the AOH and Masons had the patriotic task accomplished. The Division's next project was supporting Wreaths Across America, placing wreaths on the graves and honoring the deceased veterans.



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

As we begin to plan our Irish Heritage Month events, if you have not already done so, now would be the perfect time to plan your Hibernian Hunger Project activity. The Hibernian Hunger Project during Irish American Heritage Month is a perfect way to honor the memory of those lost during the Great Hunger because many died as a result of hunger. The Irish more than any other ethnicity know what happens when there is a lack of food. March might just be the perfect month to have your division conduct a food drive. And there are many other activities that can be used to support a hunger campaign, as divisions throughout the U.S. have shown over the past few years.

As has been the case for the last several years, the AOH National Board in 2023 will present awards to Divisions who have developed Hibernian Hunger Projects that help to eliminate hunger in their local areas. Last year the AOH National Board awarded \$8,500 to Divisions for their Hibernian Hunger Projects.

To receive these awards a Division must fill out and submit a Hibernian Hunger Report Awards Application to the AOH National Board Hibernian Hunger Project Committee. To be considered for a Hibernian Hunger Award, all projects must have taken place between January 1 and December 31, 2022, and reports must be filed by February 15, 2023. An Application Form for these awards is posted on our AOH national web page, aoh.com

Our motto in action

Recently I heard from the brothers of the Bridgeport Connecticut JFK Division 1 noting a Hibernian Hunger event that took place on Friday, November 25, the day after Thanksgiving. The JFK Division Brothers served a hearty breakfast at Merton House, where they cooked vats of oatmeal, hundreds of pancakes, and pan after pan of scrambled eggs... needless to say things got a little hectic, but the JFK Division chefs got the job done with ease.

Likewise, the members of the Rev. William J. Shanahan Division 1 of Manchester, NH, have volunteered for more than 20 years at the Families in Transition - New Horizons Soup Kitchen as part of the Division's ongoing community service efforts. On the 5th Saturday in October and December members served dinner to the homeless at the Manchester Soup Kitchen. Division 1 members also secured Christmas dinners for needy individuals and families and delivered them to those families at Christmas so that they are able to enjoy a holiday meal.

Our congratulations to the officers and members of both of these Divisions, for stepping up to the plate and contributing to their community in the true spirit our AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

What is your division doing?

In future Digest articles and Web Blasts, we would like to highlight your division's efforts to fight hunger. Please email me a short article on an activity your division is doing or has done. Without your help we cannot showcase the efforts of your division. When available, photos are most welcome. My email address is williamjsullivan@verizon.net

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your Division's Hibernian Hunger Report by February 15, on what your division did during 2022. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or your questions. I look forward to hearing from you! williamjsullivan@verizon.net

Sincere best wishes for a terrific Irish American Heritage Month and Happy and safe Saint Patrick's Day!

Alabama



Father Tracy Division supported the Thanksgiving Mobile Pantry. From left, brothers Michael Bollinger, Mike Docherty, Neil Frazier and Dave Gray.

Fr. Tracy Division supported Thanksgiving Mobile Pantry

The Father Tracy Division of Huntsville, AL, recently formed a relationship with OneGenAway as part of our division's efforts to support addressing hunger in our local community. OneGenAway seeks to rescue high-quality food from grocery stores, restaurants, caterers and farms before it goes to waste. That food is then given to those in need via mobile food pantries on a monthly basis with no questions asked. Many local churches and others support the effort that feeds hundreds monthly. Our division was honored to be able to volunteer our labor with enthusiasm and support of this worthy effort and especially right before Thanksgiving. It was cold and rainy, but our brothers along with all the other volunteers were there to serve. Those who drove through the lines to get their cars loaded with food and 20-pound turkeys were thankful and we all were appreciative that we were able to serve. Our division will continue our relationship with OneGenAway and look forward to making this a routine effort to support our local community.

Hibernian Hunger Project - 101

The Great Hunger took place in Ireland from 1845 to 1849, during which more than one million men, women and children died from starvation. At the same time, many Irish men women and children emigrated to Britain, Canada and the United States in hope of escaping this horrific tragedy. In remembrance of this period in Irish history, in 2003 AOH National President Ned McGinley established the Hibernian Hunger Project as a means to honor those who died during the Great Hunger; to educate Irish America and beyond about an Gorta Mor; to help with the hunger problem in the U.S. and to show the generosity of the AOH. Each year the Hibernian Project Committee awards over \$8,500 in grants to Divisions who do a Hibernian Hunger Project and fill out a Hibernian Project Application Form. These grants can help your division in its efforts to help address hunger in your community and so much more. Interested in learning more? Please see our AOH National website, aoh.com

New Jersey



Giving thanks through service
Brothers from the Middletown Division served 200 Thanksgiving dinners on November 19 at Saint Ann's parish in Keansburg, led by Steve Mulvey, NJ AOH Hibernian Hunger chairman. Pictured in the photo are Fr. Richard Vila, Jim Shaw, Pat Monaghan, Jerry Doherty, Rich O'Brien, Jim Bruncati, Gerry Whalen, Jim Brogan and Tim Hourican.



New Jersey Hibernians take action on hunger
Brothers from the Clifton, NJ, Division collected and distributed 8,000 pounds of food under the leadership of Financial Secretary Sean Hughes. And brothers from the Division in South Amboy division collected more than 500 lbs. of non-perishable food items that were donated to food banks in Sayreville and South Amboy. Nine frozen turkeys were also delivered to St Joseph's Church food bank in Carteret.

New York



Oneida County President Pat Roach personified the Hibernian energy at the Thanksgiving dinner giveaway, hauling a two-fisted thanksgiving load to the front-line distributors.

Hibernian Hunger project delivers turkeys in Utica

by Tom Loughlin, Jr.

With hustling Hibernians in seeming perpetual motion at Utica's Central Fire Station, the AOH coordinated efforts of several local charities, the Utica Fire Department, Oneida County Sheriff Dept. and others in distributing Thanksgiving dinners to hundreds of Utica families.



Crowds wrapped around the block at Utica's Central Fire Station to get their turkeys and potatoes from hardworking Hibernians.



Hibernians filled a truck with food for the pantry at St. Jude Church in Mastic Beach, New York.

Suffolk Hibernians help feed the needy

Mary & Joseph Thompson Division 5, in Suffolk County, NY, held a desperately needed food drive for St. Jude Roman Catholic church's food pantry, located in Mastic Beach, NY.

"People are having a tough time getting by these days," explained Larry Hurley, Division 5's President. "With inflation at historic highs, many people who would regularly donate to food pantries have stopped donating, and this is happening at a time when more and more people are in great need of those donations. As Hibernians, we understand how poverty and hunger can adversely affect a community. We're just trying to make life a little easier for struggling Long Islanders."

Parishioners of St. Jude certainly agreed. A truck load of food was collected at the church, and Hibernian volunteers were on-hand to deliver the donations to the pantry. "The people of Mastic Beach are so generous," said Frank Nappe, Division 5's Financial Secretary and a parishioner of St. Jude Church. "Just look at that truck, we can barely fit anything else into it. It's great to see so many people make such an effort to help."

The effort continues into 2023 as Division 5 is already in the planning stages of another food drive. "Unfortunately, the need never ends," said Hurley. To learn more about Division 5 and their charitable efforts, visit aohdiv5.org.

— Submitted by Ed Kelly, Division 5 Recording Secretary/Public Relations



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

Happy New Year to all! I hope the Christmas season was a happy and joyous time for all. The AOH has continued to push hard for a revision of the current E3 Visa to allow approximately 5,000 unused visas, from the 10,500 visas previously allocated to Australia, to be reallocated to Ireland on an annual basis. Unfortunately, the new year has not brought an agreed upon revision. It was hoped that such a revision would be agreed on during the recent "lame duck" session of Congress. However, immigration issues were not successfully dealt with during that session.

A change in the House of Representatives resulting in a Republican majority does not appear to negatively change the prospects for a revision of the E3 Visa. Previous votes on an E3 revision were passed with bi-partisan support. This is not expected to change.

During the lame duck session, the Senate voted down two amendments to Title 42. This provision, which originated during the Trump Administration, allows the U.S. government to expel migrant asylum seekers based on Covid 19 concerns. At the present time, Title 42 remains in place. This issue will be addressed by the Supreme Court during this session. The net effect is that the border issue will need to be addressed during this congressional session.

We have also received information that even though immigration was not otherwise dealt with during the lame duck session, there appears to be a growing sense it will be dealt with soon. There is an urgent need for an agreement on an immigration farm-labor bill. Representatives and Senators from farm areas know all too well there is a need for more farm workers. The framework is now in place for finalization of a package, with a revised E3 Visa as part of this package. It appears that Congress ran out of time during the lame duck session.

The Order has also continued to work with our elected leaders in Washington to maintain a "vital relationship" with the Irish government. During the Nation Convention this past July, then Tanaiste Varadkar directly addressed the immigration issue. Mr. Varadkar officially released details concerning a program that would permit Irish Americans to retire to Ireland. This program was originally developed in 2018 by Fine Gael Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan and his successor, Simon Coveney. The program was intended to be a quid pro quo for more U.S. working visas for Ireland. The proposal to make such working visas available continues to be at the core of AOH efforts to obtain a modified E3 visa. Current Taoiseach Varadkar is expected to move forward on his earlier proposal.

It was hoped that the retiree proposal announced by the Tanaiste during our Convention would lead to movement on the E3 revision. Movement in this direction would help fulfill the original intent of the Irish government when the retiree program was developed in 2018. Continued AOH support for the E3 modification will also help promote our directive as noted in the Preamble to the AOH Constitution to advocate for an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland. Taken together, both proposals add up to positive change in the Immigration laws of both the United States and Ireland.

Patience has been the watchword on the immigration front. Although continued patience in this area is difficult, we need to hang tough for a while longer! Hope remains high that we may see immigration bills passed before the end of the year!

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



Michigan



Grand Rapids Hibernians make donations

The members of the Fr. John Whalen McGee Division, Grand Rapids, MI, made two donations: \$1,000 to Aquinas College for the Tullycross study abroad program, which enables students to stay in authentic Irish cottages in Connemara; and \$500 to the AOH Ukrainian relief fund.

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



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

Britain's New Year's Message

This year began with a heartbreaking New Year's message for Troubles victims' relatives. The message came in response to a public plea from none other than the crown's own Victims' Commissioner, Ian Jeffers, to shelve the Troubles amnesty bill, saying "we would love to see the bill withdrawn, it is as simple as that." Britain's Lord Caine haughtily dismissed this plea saying, "The bill certainly will not be voted down and I see no circumstances in which it would be withdrawn."

It was a heartbreaking message for hundreds of families who saw loved ones killed by British crown forces or loyalist agents, and then saw their innocent family members branded guilty in order to conceal or whitewash British state murder. The Good Friday Agreement began by promising them a fresh chance for the truth. Instead of keeping these Good Friday Agreement promises, the British government stalled hopes for justice.

Stalling

Sixteen years later, the British and Irish governments announced the Stormont House Agreement in December 2014, offering renewed hope. Four new legacy bodies were agreed to, among them a Historical Investigations Unit, which could investigate controversial conflict killings, including those by British forces or collusion killings, together with an Independent Commission on Information Retrieval, an Oral History Archive and an Implementation and Reconciliation Group.

Britain then refused to create the truth mechanisms to which it had agreed. However when some families began to get truth anyway through inquests, Ombudsman Reports and civil suits, the British showed how swiftly they could move on legacy.

They dropped their Stormont House Agreement and announced an Amnesty — dressed up as a statute of limitations — so that no one could be prosecuted for murders

during the Troubles. They said they would apply amnesty to all killings, but their intended beneficiary was always members of the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who never faced charges for murders like those in Ballymurphy or collusion killings. During the Troubles, crown forces and non-jury Diplock Courts had no hesitancy in jailing Republicans, while only a literal handful of British troopers were jailed for conflict murders.

Gimmick

But the British did not stop there. They also extended the statute of limitations gimmick to take away legal rights to inquests, Ombudsman Reports and civil actions. They would end any more proceedings, like the Ballymurphy inquest, which could reveal the truth about British crown killings.

Instead of a Historical Investigations Unit investigating hundreds of controversial killings, including British crown force and collusion killings, Britain would allow only a review by their appointed "independent body" which has been likened to the Widgery Commission that whitewashed Bloody Sunday.

The Irish government, all six county political parties, United Nations, Council of Europe, Catholic Bishops, legal experts and Human Rights campaigners publicly castigated British plans on crown legacy killings, calling them a clear violation of European law on Human Rights.

U.S. House members and senators have loudly opposed Britain's amnesty bill, with the support of the AOH.

The appeal by Victims' Commissioner Ian Jeffers, who represents nationalist and unionist victims, gave a face-saving opportunity to the British government. It could announce it was withdrawing the bill at the request of the British official representing victims and not seem to be bowing to pressure.

Jeffers noted sadly, "I am genuinely worried we are going to see the bill pushed through by government for its own means and not really for reconciliation in Northern Ireland." In plainer English, the British crown's New Year's message to victims' relatives was that the Tory government will ram through its Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) bill to please Tory voters in England, no matter the heartbreaking impact on Irish victims.

Webinar



McAnespie appeal charge Britain in European court

A niece of Aidan McAnespie, whose murder produced a historic guilty verdict against a former British Grenadier after 34 years, called upon incoming Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to charge Britain in the European Court of Human Rights if Westminster passes its amnesty legislation. Una McCabe spoke during a webinar broadcast, hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians on December 10, where she was joined by Fergus O'Dowd, the Chair of the Irish Parliamentary Committee for the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, leading Belfast civil rights lawyer Niall Murphy and Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice.

The verdict

Aidan McAnespie was shot in the back by British Grenadier Michael Holden — firing a machine gun — on February 21, 1988. McAnespie had just been passed through the Achnacloy British Army checkpoint, near the County Monaghan border. Holden claimed his hand had "slipped." Trial Justice O'Hara dismissed his claims as "a deliberately false account of what happened" and found him guilty of manslaughter on November 25, 2022.

Holden, became only the fourth British soldier convicted of killing Irish civilians during the entire period of the Troubles.

'They got him'

Una McCabe was 7-years-old when her mother's brother, Aidan, said goodbye and left

to play Gaelic football. She remembered cars coming up the road and shouting for family members to come at once. As she was driven to the murder scene, her mother kept shouting, "they got him...they got him."

Her mother campaigned ceaselessly, became a founding member of Relatives for Justice, and spoke about the case in America, Downing Street and Strasbourg.

During the trial, she and other family members had to pass members of Northern Ireland Veteran holding banners and supporting the killer. Una McCabe said she wanted this verdict to be a platform for all of the victims' families still hoping for truth. She appealed to Leo Varadkar and the Irish government to take a case to the European Court on behalf of all Irish victims.

Legal horror story

The British amnesty bill will shut down Inquests, Ombudsman Reports, civil lawsuits and criminal prosecutions. Niall Murphy described the British amnesty bill as a "legal horror story," which "would close the courts to victims' families."

Families would fight the law but it would take at least five years to go through the British courts before they could begin any case in the European Court. A case by the Irish government would go directly to the European Court.

GFA Committee

Fergus O'Dowd, a Fine Gael party member of the Irish parliament or Dail from County Louth, chairs the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee, which includes Irish Dail and Seanad members, plus British Parliament MPs elected from the six counties. The GFA Committee has made this issue "an absolute priority" and fully supports Ireland taking a case to Europe.

The GFA Committee will ask the Irish Foreign Minister to appear before the Committee in the New Year, and will raise the issue directly.

Relatives for Justice

Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, described a meeting last week with Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, attended by Maureen Rafferty, age 90, whose son was murdered 50 years ago. Mrs. Rafferty said that unless the Irish government takes a case to Europe, she did not expect to see any chance of justice. Meanwhile the British government continues to push ahead with the amnesty bill despite Irish the opposition.

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.

Deadline

Articles for the April-May issue are due no later than April 1, 2023



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Dearly Beloved Brothers in Christ Jesus and St. Patrick,
As we enter into the Post Roe Era, it will become ever more important for all Division, County and State Boards to have a solid Pro Life Chairman. Two reasons come to mind. Number one, some of the legislators at the federal level will keep up pressure to codify abortion into national law, making abortion legal in all 50 states. Number two, unless there is a national law passed, abortion laws will remain under the purview of individual states. While the legality of abortion is certainly important, keeping our brothers properly educated about all pro-life issues, especially abortion, is critical for a variety of reasons. One of the most important reasons is the apparent confusion about abortion that comes from Church officials. For instance, during the March for Life Vigil Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in 2019, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, then Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, centered his Homily on his recent visit and discussion with Pope Francis. Archbishop Naumann went on to say Pope Francis emphasized the need for the Church to work toward ending abortion in the United States and called it the "Preeminent Issue for the Church in the United States." Just shy of four years later, we have the same Pope Francis suspending Fr. Frank Pavone's priesthood. For those of you who may not know, Fr. Frank Pavone is the Director and CEO of Priests for Life, and sister organizations like Rachel's Vineyards and Silent No More, comprising the largest Pro Life Organization in the world. Historically, the Vatican has been, and continues to be, very secretive about their internal reasoning for making decisions with global impact. While the secular media buzzes with speculation and gossip on this issue, it's easy to see how people, even those in Catholic families and Catholic educated, are influenced by the apparent confusion, especially considering how personal devices now command the attention of the younger audience, without parents or teachers having any influence on the material they consume.

Reflecting on the Gospels for the Feast of the Holy Innocents and the Feast of the Holy Family, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, we see that political issues weren't any better at the time of Jesus's birth. It's not too hard to imagine messages in the News, Twitter and Facebook blaming Jesus for the death of male infants and speculating on what type of ruler would allow such an atrocity to happen, let alone have an insider tip off the parents to get out of town, before the massacre begins. The diabolic brutality of Herod would be spun to make Herod look at once like a victim of Jesus and a hero of the people. Is it any wonder so many people despised Jesus during his public ministry. Again, it's not too hard to imagine gossip about Jesus being the reason for the death of their son 30 years ago.

So, a very important duty of an AOH Pro Life Chairman is to sift through the noise that's broadcast through the media and gossip, create a message based on genuine teachings of the Holy Catholic Church and Holy Scripture, and, like the Angel appearing to St. Joseph, keep our brotherhood informed of the real and eternal dangers of abortion and praying for the spiritual and physical protection of our precious families.

The National AOH Pro Life Committee meets via Zoom every month. All Pro Life Chairs are welcome to join. Send me an email at lsplitcmf@gmail.com and I'll send you an invitation to the meeting each month. Please have a Happy and Blessed St. Patrick's Day!



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, we closed off 2022 with a significant success in the appointment of Joseph P. Kennedy III as a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. It had been over 700 days since there had last been a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. To me, it is no coincidence that shortly after we kicked off our advocacy campaign to the President, a Northern Ireland envoy was appointed. While other groups talked, the Hibernians took action.

More than 1,100 brothers took the less than 5 minutes to send a message to the President, telling him that peace in the north of Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement was important to them. To each and every one of you, I say "Thank You"; don't doubt for a moment that you made an impact. To the many who sadly did not participate, I hope this will convince you of your participation's importance. To that end, we have two more advocacy efforts that are about to kick off, and we ask for your support.

Our first effort will be to ask every member of the House who is not currently a member of the Friends of Ireland caucus to join. The Friends of Ireland Caucus is an essential voice on Irish American issues and a forum where congressional members unfamiliar with the issues of Ireland can learn of them firsthand. It is an important symbol of the closeness of our two nations, whose friendship dates back to the time when both nations were British colonies, and both played key roles in the other's quest for independence. It should be pointed out that a House member need not be of Irish Heritage to be a Friend of Ireland; some of Ireland and Irish America's best friends in Congress had no Irish lineage.

We ask every member to visit our advocacy page at <https://aoh.com/political-education-2/#/> and go to the "Ask your Congressional Representative to Join the Friends of Ireland Caucus." Enter your address, and the website will automatically identify your congressman. Enter your contact details (as required by the Congressional Contact form and will not be used by the AOH or anyone else), and click send. A preformatted message will be sent to your representative inviting them to join the caucus. If they should already be a caucus member, they will get a message from you thanking them for their



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

I join with all members of the Order in praying for and wishing all the best to our Worthy National Secretary, Brother Ed Halligan, in his on-going recovery and recuperation. Brother Ed has always been a strong supporter and advocate of the Degree works of the Order over the years. Ed was a constant fixture at almost all of the Major Degree exemplifications in the Delaware Valley as an Observer for as long as I can remember, and his support and interest was always greatly appreciated. In addition, he often added an air of dignity to our rituals serving many times in the role of President at our regional Shamrock Degree exemplifications.

My personal interaction with Ed within the Order dates back many years to the mid 2000s as it was he who got me involved as a County Officer when he asked me to succeed him as Montgomery County PA Treasurer at the time he was assuming the office of County President, a position I ultimately held for 14 years. It was with great satisfaction that we were witness to Ed's eventual ascent to Pennsylvania State President, National Director and now National Secretary. In addition to the work aspects, there were so many great times socially with Ed, particularly at our annual AOH camping outings for many years. All the best, Brother!

In terms of a final Major Degree Report for 2022, I am pleased to note that there were 16 Major Degrees of the Order exemplified throughout the land last year. Through the efforts of our nine active Major Degree teams in these ceremonies, a grand total of 266 Brothers received the Lessons of the Order and were welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernianism.

2023 promises to be another exciting year related to Rituals and Degrees. One of our more veteran Major Degree Teams, the Isle of Erin MDT of Montgomery County, PA, will celebrate their 100th Major Degree Exemplification on Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Bridgeport, PA. With it being an odd-numbered year, we look forward to our many State Conventions throughout the country. It is anticipated that Major Degree Exemplifications will take place at many of these state conventions, including those in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Montana and Florida and quite possibly more. Once details on these state convention exemplifications are forthcoming, they will be posted here in this column and on the National website on the Rituals and Degrees sub-page. Best of luck to all our Major Degree teams this year as they embark on their important work in bringing the Lessons of the Order to prospective candidates.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Saturday, April 15, 2023, time TBD – Upper Merion Vantage Academy School, 633 East 4th Street, Bridgeport, PA. Social afterwards at the Degree Host, Notre Dame Montgomery County Division 1 Clubhouse, 342 Jefferson, Street. Isle of Erin Major Degree Team PA exemplifying in their 100th Major Degree. Candidates and Observers are urged to pre-register at www.isleoferin.com.



participation.

Our second advocacy action will be to request every Senator and House member to send a personal message of support and acknowledgment for Irish American Heritage Month to their constituents.

These are our two current objectives, and as I write this, it is not the first week of January yet. We can anticipate that there will be more calls to action as Britain continues to try and evade their Good Friday Agreement responsibilities and renounce the Northern Ireland Protocol they signed. Your support and your Hibernian voice on these issues are needed more than ever. Don't depend on "the other guy" to speak for you, or worse, give into the fatalism of Eeyore, who says, "You'll never change anything"; the Hibernians have proven him wrong time and time again.

The At-Large Membership Update

By Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

Happy New Year, brother Hibernians! I hope this will be a great year for us all.

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

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

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



catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

It seems a safe bet to say that most Hibernians who have visited Ireland have climbed Croagh Patrick, or at least have stood at its base and looked up. St. Patrick is said to have spent the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter one year praying and fasting on the summit. We may not be called upon to do the like, but our patron saint's life certainly impresses upon us one of our duties as Catholics: we need to spend Lent preparing for Easter.

In the cycle of the liturgical year, Lent has since early times been a penitential season to prepare for the great feast of Easter. Going back to the age of the Church Fathers, spiritual writers have focused on fasting, prayer and almsgiving as ways to carry this out. On a more popular level, this sometimes translates into "giving something up."

We can approach this as individuals or in a group (such as our local AOH division). Many parishes and dioceses offer programs helping us to profit spiritually in Lent. But here are some suggestions gleaned from various sources.

Forego some legitimate pleasurable pursuit. Eat and drink less than we usually do, or eat out less, perhaps in this using the Church's guidelines on Lenten fast and abstinence as a platform to build on. If we give something up, we can perhaps give the money not spent to a local charity. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours, or at least as much of it as reasonably possible, or say the rosary. Try to get to Mass during the week as often as possible; if not Mass, then perhaps adoration or a simple visit before the tabernacle. We could get to Confession more often. The Church still commands us to confess at least once a year, and the Lenten and Easter seasons are traditionally the time in which to do that. More frequent confession will help us to root out things in our lives which ought not to be there. Of course, whether we use Lent to shed bad habits or to acquire good ones, the idea is to avoid falling back to where we were before Lent once Lent is over.

As always, I am interested to hear what you are doing. lally8404@hotmail.com



charities & missions

By patrick ryan, chairman



By now you should have received your charity appeal and as Catholics I would ask that you consider helping Hibernian Charity by picking up your cross and donating. Any amount of \$50 or more can be directed to a fund of your choosing. In case you cannot find your envelope you can donate online. We have a new online giving platform starting this year and it is easier than it has ever been. You can simply scan the QR code with your phone and it will take you directly to our giving platform or go to www.aoh.com and click the green button at the top –

Donate to the Hibernian Charity. This site is completely secure and goes straight to the Charity.

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

I am always here to help and I have a new email address dedicated solely for Hibernian use: aoh.patrick.ryan68@gmail.com. I look forward to answering your questions about the Charity Appeal or help with filling out the Annual Events Report. I trust that you all have an early spring and great weather for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities.



irish way to study abroad

By bill sullivan, chairman

Though the calendar may show it is still winter, if you are a college or high school student, parent or grandparent who has someone who would like to study in Ireland this upcoming summer or next fall or spring, it is now time to start planning and apply to the school or program that you are interested in.

For college students thinking of studying abroad in Ireland, we hope that you will pursue your academic adventure and take full advantage of the scholarship opportunities that the AOH National Board offers. Please check out the AOH National Board (aoh.com) website for our latest scholarship application and other pertinent information on studying in Ireland at the undergraduate and graduate level. These scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of AOH members, and for AOH members. As a sidenote, the AOH National Board offers a \$1,000 scholarship for one semester of study, and \$2,000 for a full year of study.

Irish Way

The Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) in partnership with the AOH National Board offers an opportunity for high school students to study in Ireland during the summer through the Irish Way Program. The Irish Way Program is a cultural and educational experience that takes place in Ireland under the guidance of the (IACI) Irish Way Coordinator, who will lead the trip. The dates for the 2023 Irish Way Program are June 29 – July 23. Information on the Irish Way Program, as well as a direct link to the IACI Irish Way Program's website and Irish Way application are also posted on the AOH National Board website under Scholarships. The National Board offers a \$1,000 scholarship for the Irish Way.

Still have questions about the Irish Way? Recently the Irish Way Coordinator shared some comments from several participants who participated in last summer's program: "This adventure was absolutely worth it. I had a great experience and I wish I could go back and do it all over again." Another participant writes: "Last summer was one of the best of my life. I still think about it every day. The program taught me so much about Ireland and myself." Another wrote: "Going on this program was the best decision I ever made. By far a summer I will never forget." And finally another participant wrote, "When I arrived in Ireland it felt like I was going home. It was as if everything is and always will be absolutely magically perfect." As they say, the most honest opinions came from the participants themselves!

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or questions. I look forward to hearing from you! My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net



anti-defamation

By neil cosgrove, chairman

As we look forward to the celebration of Irish American Heritage Month and the feast day of St. Patrick, it is also sadly the time when all the denigrating and defaming tropes about being Irish will once again be on full display. We don't (thankfully) see such activity around Cinco de Mayo or Juneteenth, and there is no doubt that it would be met with public outcry if it did. Why, then, is something that would be offensive and have politicians and news commentators tripping over each other to condemn it acceptable just because it comes with an Irish label?

My Irish grandmother, who came from very humble beginnings, often said you were only truly poor if you lost your pride. I think we as a community need to revisit that. There is a difference between having a laugh and being laughed at, as when it comes to our heritage, we Hibernians should particularly know better. We should pray for 'the forgiveness of sin and redemption of ignorance' of the "Honorary" and "once a year Irish," but as Hibernians, we should know better. We should not need to lecture as much as lead by example.

Let's stop by exorcising from our discussion, referring to the most significant day of the Irish American calendar as "St. Paddy's" (or worse, "St. Patty's) day. Certainly, our Patron Saint, and historically one of the first voices to speak out against slavery, deserves the respect of being referred to as "St. Patrick." Let's stop diminishing "Irish American Heritage Month" as "the Green Season" when we should focus on how many Irish American men and women wear the green on their graves every day for giving all to their adopted country.

When we march in our parades, let us try to look like proud Hibernians and Irish Americans. Let us leave the plastic Derbys and beads for the "once-a-year" Irish. As members of an organization, we should try and look like one, whether it be Irish sweaters and dark pants, Division shirts, or just a plain white dress shirt giving the impression of Unity that we should strive for. In contrast, too often, pictures from our parades look like participants came from working in their garden, a group of nomads behind a banner.

"To be Irish is a blessing; to be a Hibernian, an honor." For the sake of both, let us be proud and defend our heritage while setting a positive example. We need to end what one Irish Ambassador to the U.K. labeled the "Irish Anomaly," "Something that would be taken very seriously in another context can be disregarded if it comes with an Irish label." We ask not to be treated any better than anyone else, but we should never accept being treated worse.

**Make it your job to
grow the AOH!**



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

O'Connell and The Catholic Association

This year marks 200 years since the creation of one of the most successful grass roots campaigns in political history, Daniel O'Connell's Catholic Association. By 1823, the Penal Laws were petering out, but their effects on Catholic Ireland had been profound. The common people of town and countryside were poor, uneducated and focused on scraping out a mean existence. Fewer than a million Church of Ireland Protestants ruled over some eight million Irish Catholics, the latter being required to support by tithe the established church of their landlords. The Enlightenment thinkers whose notions of liberty had inspired our own Revolution had been elites, scarcely imagining their concepts of democracy extending to the masses. Earlier "Catholic Committees" had, not surprisingly, been largely comprised of Catholic gentry and the merchant class.

Daniel O'Connell changed all of that by insisting upon the then novel notion that the whole of a people, united in action, cannot be denied participation in the processes by which they are governed. Such a movement required inspired leadership, and O'Connell was almost uniquely the man for the job. Raised in a Catholic gentry family that had managed to remain landed in the remoteness of Kerry's Iveragh peninsula, O'Connell had the benefit of both being reared among the Irish-speaking people of west Kerry and an elite education in Catholic France. After studying law in London, O'Connell was called to the Irish Bar in 1798 and made a name for himself as a rare Catholic barrister in a legal system that was staffed by Protestants and stacked against Catholics. O'Connell took on cases of all sorts, including cases with political overtones and ordinary matters in which he exposed the anti-Catholic bias of the courts.

'In the eyes of a watching world'

Capitalizing upon his fame as an attorney, O'Connell organized the Catholic Association in 1823. The aim of the Association, which had half a million members in no time, was to obtain the right, theretofore denied, for Catholics to be elected to the British Parliament. Recognizing that a political movement needs money, the Association instituted a fund-raising program known as the "Catholic rent," in which subscribers paid a penny a month to fund the Association's activities. The Association, which had the support of the Catholic Clergy, was wildly successful, staging huge rallies with hundreds of thousands of participants. King George IV and his Government were aghast. Although O'Connell took pains to act within the law at all times, the organization was suppressed in 1825. O'Connell quickly and skillfully reconstituted the Association to avoid the act of suppression and continued the movement. Finally, O'Connell stood for election in 1828 and won a seat in Parliament – a seat he could not legally take as a Roman Catholic. Great Britain found its hallowed constitution revealed in the eyes of a watching world, in which O'Connell was widely celebrated, as an undemocratic farce. Parliament quickly passed the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, opening the door for O'Connell and other Catholic members. O'Connell would go on to unsuccessfully campaign for the repeal of the Act of Union, spending three months in prison for sedition in 1844.

O'Connell's insistence upon non-violent measures put him at odds with physical force Republicans and his reputation as an Irish Nationalist has suffered, owing to his non-support for the Rising of 1798, disputes with the Young Irelanders movement and other matters. Whatever his failings as a man and a leader, O'Connell will always be known as the man who achieved Catholic Emancipation and, in the words of the Protestant historian J.C. Beckett, "taught the Roman Catholic majority to regard itself as the Irish Nation."

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Card

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

Ron Hagan, Chairman of Project St Patrick
7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512
Mount Gilead, OH 43338-9336

OR

Email: rhagan@hagancpa.com

Missing your photo?

Some of the submitted photos could not be used. Blurry, pixelated photos and images only a hundred or so kilobytes in size reflect poorly on your article and the quality of the Digest, so won't be included. Try to have a member of your division use a camera (which has bigger sensors than a phone) to take photos at your events. Submit photos that are about 1 megabyte or larger. Make sure your email program does not automatically reduce a photo's size for faster uploading. — Editor



project st. patrick

By Ron Hagan, chairman

As we approach Ash Wednesday on February 22, we are asking the divisions, counties, state boards and individuals to consider a donation to our Easter Appeal for 2023. The Easter Appeal funds are for the benefit of Project St. Patrick for the funding of seminarians and religious. Please go to the aoh.com website and under the Project St. Patrick tab you will find the 2023 Project St. Patrick Donation Form. Please note that this form is a fillable form so that once the division, state or individual has confirmed the amount of their contribution, they can complete the form online, then print the completed form to send to the National Chairman of Project St. Patrick, along with their check. I would recommend that you print two sets, one to accompany the check and the second for your file. Please note that the check should be made payable to "Hibernian Charity."

In preparation for 2023 Project St Patrick processing and scheduling, the following is our tentative timeline for 2023.

- Between January and August, we encourage all Divisions, Counties, State Boards and individuals to make an Easter Appeal contribution using the "2023 Project St. Patrick Donation Form." The form is on our website (aoh.com) either on:

The Home page under Catholic, then scroll down to Project St. Patrick then scroll down again to 2023 Project St. Patrick Donation Form. Please note that the form can be filled in on the website then printed once complete.

OR

The Forms page under Official AOH Forms, then scroll down to Project St Patrick Forms and scroll down again to 2023 Project St. Patrick Donation Form. Please note that the form can be filled in on the website then printed once complete.

- Between June and August, we ask all Divisions to send us the 2023 Division Diocese Form for the Diocese within their Division area that has a Vocational Director. This form is our lead to send letters to the Vocational Director to notify students who are studying for religious life or a seminarian of the grant opportunity. The letter to the Vocational Directors will be sent around the 1st of September.
- Between September and October 31st, we receive the 2023 Vocational Grant Application Form along with the Vocational Director's recommendation letter. We place a cutoff date of October 15th on the 2023 Vocational Grant Application Form as the last day the grant application form should be accepted by the Vocational Director.
- Between November 1st and November 15th, the Chairpeople along with the National AOH and National LAOH Presidents finalize the approval of candidates who will receive the grants and hopefully by the 1st of December the checks are mailed.

Florida



From left, Jim Sullivan, Sarah Kavanagh, Louise Sullivan and Dara MacGabhann.

State Hibernian leaders meet with new Irish diplomats

Florida State LAOH President Louise Sullivan and Florida State FFAI Chairman Jim Sullivan met with Irish Consul General Sarah Kavanagh and Vice Consul Dara MacGabhann in Miami, Florida, on November 15.

"We had a great time meeting our new Consul General Sarah Kavanagh and Vice Consul Dara MacGabhann," said Jim Sullivan, Florida State FFAI Chairman. "It was an enjoyable luncheon with two very anxious go-getters itching to get into their jobs here in Florida now. They wanted to hear more about the Irish situation here in Florida and get out to the Irish communities throughout the State. Louise and I both offered to escort them throughout the area. We totally enjoyed getting to know Sarah and Dara over lunch, it was like getting together with old friends. There was plenty of laughter and conversation as we discovered many mutual friends and touched on Irish American affairs. Dara is a fanatic Irish Hurling player who has transformed into an avid ice hockey fan since being in the States."

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence

On October 23, at the State President's Dinner held at the home of Division 14 in Watertown, the Massachusetts AOH and LAOH State Boards honored AOH State President Jack Lahey, a member of Division 8, and Joyce Burgess, LAOH State President of Division 1 in Lowell. Ireland Vice Counsel General Shane Caffrey was the guest speaker.

Division 8 on November 27 held an Irish afternoon with the Jolly Tinkers at Division 8's home base, the Claddagh. A buffet was served to all during this festive event.

At Division 8's Annual Christmas Party, held at the Claddagh on December 14, Division 8 Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Bob Collins announced that Division 8 members had risen to the challenge and contributed \$1,000 for the National Board's Christmas Appeal for the 50th year in a row.

The Division held their Installation of Officers at Sacred Hearts Church in Bradford following the 11:30 a.m. Mass on January 29. The Mass was celebrated by Division 8 Chaplain, the Rev. John Delaney. A reception followed the Installation at the church.

Plans are in motion for the Division's 2023 Irish Heritage Month celebration, which will feature an Irish Flag raising, an author/lecture series, an exhibit, dinner dance, Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon, and concert. Charles Breen will serve as Dinner Dance Chairman and Mass AOH State President Jack Lahey will chair the Division's Annual luncheon. Mark Alaimo will chair the annual Saint Patrick's Dinner Dance Souvenir Journal.

Division 10 Lynn

On November 13, Division 10, in Lynn, honored some of our members that served in the military. We started at St. Mary's Church at the 10 a.m. mass. Then back to our Division home for some coffee, sandwiches and pastries followed by speeches from Division President Dick Wall and City of Lynn director of Veteran Services Mike Sweeney and then member and recipient former Sgt. Gerry Waldron. Receiving the AOH Veteran Pins were two women from Division 10 LAOH, President Ann McLaughlin, and 10 men from Division 10, President Dick Wall. It was a pleasant event and long overdue.

Division 14 Watertown

Division 14 held another successful Annual Scholarship Golf Outing raising monies for the Division's scholarship program. We wish to thank the scores of men and women Hibernians for always pitching in to pull off this event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members, in no particular order, for helping make our Scholarship Golf Outing a success: Mike Morash, Denise and Bobby McLaughlin, Noelle and Bob Daly, Dan and Jim Daly, Ellen McGean, Janice Connolly, Andy Horrigan and Marylin Devaney.

Division-14 was honored to host the State Memorial Mass and Presidents Dinner this past October 23. We had approximately 75 Hibernians from across the State in honor of our current AOH/LAOH Presidents: Jack Lahey and Joyce Burgess. Unfortunately, Joyce could not attend but she was there in spirit with family members attending in her stead. By all account everyone enjoyed the meal and had a good time. We trust that this Mass and dinner will springboard us into a successful convention next May.

Division 19 Lowell

Division 19 honored a tradition going back decades in the City of Lowell by sponsoring a Red Kettle for the Salvation Army. On December 17th several dedicated Hibernians took turns standing in front of the Market Basket Grocery Store on Pawtucket Boulevard in chilly December temperatures. We thank the management of Market Basket and the Salvation Army of Greater Lowell for their kind support. Special thanks to Brother John Reidy who always provides festive Christmas music.

As we welcome 2023 our Brothers will launch a "bakeless bakesale" to fund our first annual friendship dinner honoring all Priests in the City of Lowell and our local regional Bishop. Dinner is served at St. Joseph The Worker Shrine where Division 19 meets monthly guests of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate. Hibernians will be table captains.



A Dinner was held at the home of Division 14 in Watertown in late October honoring Mass AOH State President Jack Lahey and LAOH State President Joyce Burgess. From left, Dick Thompson, AOH National Director; Shane Caffrey, Irish Vice Counsel to Boston; Barbara Twohig, LAOH State Vice President and Co-Chair of this dinner; Mary Whidden, Mass LAOH Past State President; Jack Lahey, Mass State Board AOH President; Joe McCusker, AOH State Vice President and CoChair of this dinner; and Bill Sullivan, AOH National Board and Toastmaster. LAOH State President Joyce Burgess acknowledged but not in this photo.

Our President and officers are planning to attend the Massachusetts State Board Meeting in Peabody on January 14. Our Division offered Prayers of Repose to long time member Michael J. Netishen who went to the Lord on November 27 at age 83. And all members were welcomed to a Yuletide Pot Luck Supper at St. Joseph's Shrine to celebrate Advent and the spirit of Christmas past. A special gift of gratitude was presented to our Division Chaplain Fr. Michael Amesse, Oblate Director at the Shrine. And plans are underway for the annual St. Patrick's celebrations all across the City of Lowell in March earmarked by Masses, Communion Breakfasts, parades and gatherings honoring the Irish Culture in Lowell back to the mid 1800s.



Lowell's James C. Campbell Division 19 very recently participated with the Salvation Army Red Kettle at Market Basket on Pawtucket Boulevard. This is the 42nd year the Hibernians have covered a Red Kettle in Lowell. The AOH was first established in Lowell in 1858. The Division is currently sponsored by the Oblate Fathers at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine. From left, veteran Hibernians Tom Casey, John Reidy, Ken Ashley and Bill Masterson.

Virginia



Taking the FFAI challenge

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division President Jay McCarthy (PSP) presented a \$2,500 FFAI donation check to Brother Jim McLaughlin, VA FFAI Chairman, for delivery to National as part of their November gathering in Albany. The Cunningham Division has once again put out a challenge to the other Virginia Divisions to step up and donate to FFAI in accordance with their means.



Charity work exceeds expectations

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division wrapped up a very successful "1/2 Way to St. Patrick" ticket drive in late October with a large gathering at the Bungalow Lakehouse. Ticket sale results greatly exceeded this year's earlier expectations resulting in an increase in overall charity activities for 2022.

Tennessee



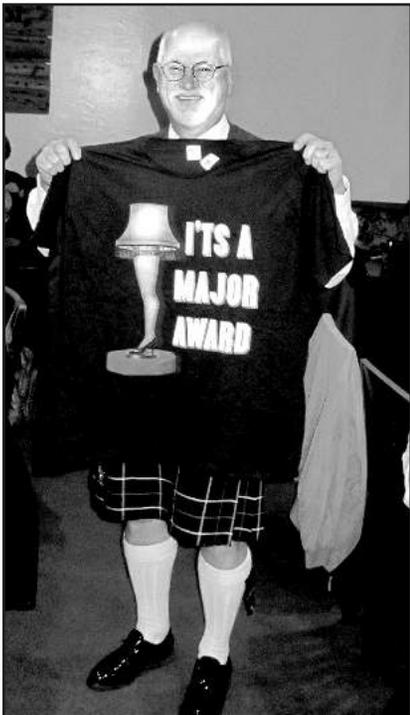
Hibernian outreach in the parish
Nashville's Sons of Erin, Division 1, made its parish outreach at St. Patrick Parish's Christmas Craft Fair. St. Patrick was founded in 1890 by Nashville's growing Irish immigrant population. Interestingly, Irish Travelers still return for weddings and funerals. We had a good turnout and a lot of interest in the AOH. One member, Terrance Heeney, made his great, great grandmother's soda bread recipe. It was very good.

North Carolina

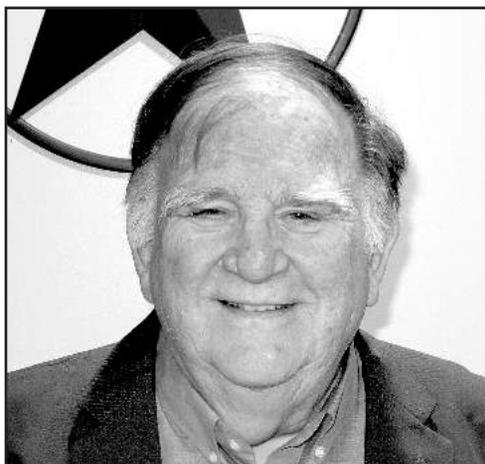
The NaCara Division 1 of Guilford County has been very busy over the past months. They attended their annual night at the Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game. One of these years maybe we will see a victory.



The division held their annual halfway to St. Patrick's Day dinner and raised \$300 to help defray the costs of their hosting the State Convention this year. Brother Al Guercia suggested that at our annual Christmas event we have a contest. The feature of the event will be to choose which member has the best legs when they wear their kilts. The only rule is that there will no shillelagh rules at this event. The judges decided that in order to be fair the contestants had to face the wall showing their best side.



The winner of the Best Legs contest was John McKinney.



Our esteemed brother Jim Furman was honored by the Greensboro News and Record as one of the Seven over Seventy residents of Guilford County. Nominations are sent into the newspaper and a committee decides who will be honored. Jim has given his time to the Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, the Right to Life committee and his Parish church. The Pick-Up-And-Drop program was implemented under Jim's direction. The food vendors in Greensboro donate food to this program. Jim and his fellow brothers bring food to Sanctuary House and to the Room at the Inn (a house that takes in unwed pregnant mothers and allows them to stay for up to two years). This award was well deserved by Jim Furman.

Missouri

'All Things New' By John Wilson

In 1820, one in seven St. Louisans were native-born Irish and more than half the population was Catholic. The Irish liked St. Louis because it was mostly French and the French didn't like the English. For a while, St. Louis was good to the Irish. The Great Potato Famine brought a much bigger, much more destitute wave of newcomers. Unlike the first wave, these were almost entirely Catholic. St. Louis had just never seen poverty on the scale of the starving people who were coming by the thousands. We romanticize about our Irish ancestors, but I think if we were to see them back then, we would be shocked to see the condition of the Irish and to witness how they lived.

A decade before the Civil War, the Know-Nothing Party stirred up anti-immigrant hatred, with particular animosity toward Catholics. In St. Louis, the Irish suffered the brunt of Nativists anger. The Irish were blamed for everything from the 1849 fire to the cholera epidemic. In 1854, a Nativists mob of 5,000 people (including local police officers) attacked Irish residents in the neighborhood that is now Laclede's Landing on the Riverfront. Ten people were killed, 30 were injured and close to 100 Irish homes and businesses were destroyed after three days of fighting. The Old Cathedral was spared only when the Irish mounted a canon at its front door.

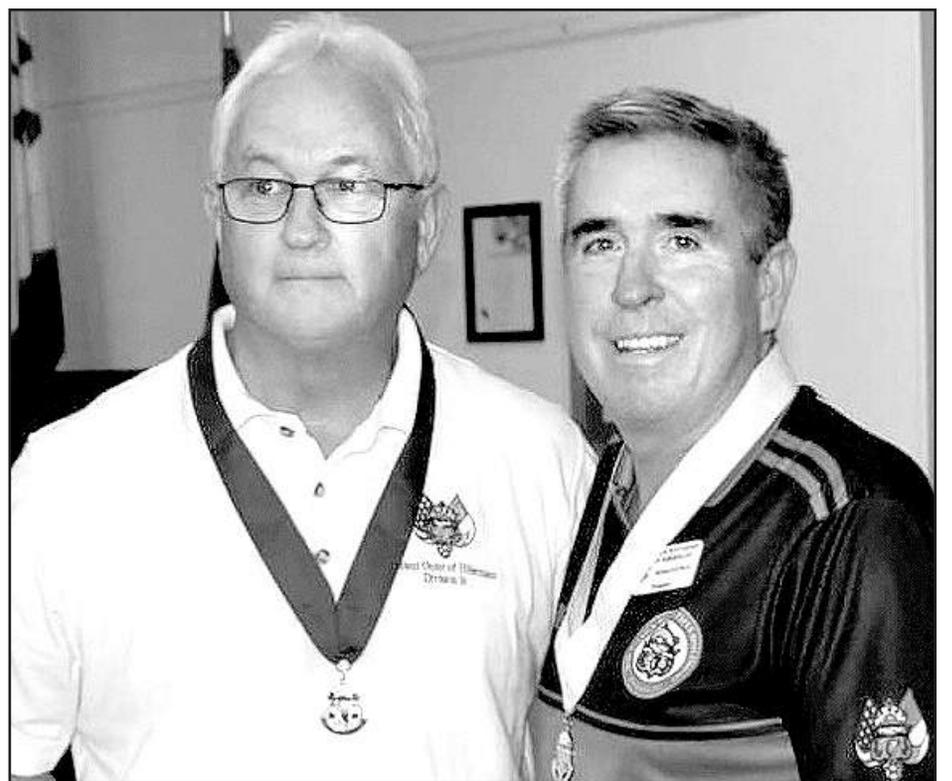
Despite the bloodshed, within a few generations the Irish had fully assimilated into St. Louis. The language gave them an advantage over other immigrant groups; they could easily blend with other Europeans.

Today the Hibernians from the St. Louis region are fighting a new fight, as the Archdiocese prepares for the closing of almost 100 of our 175 parishes and most of our schools, under the title "All things New" initiative. A path of costly buildings with fewer people in the pews has left behind many near-empty Catholic churches, some just blocks apart. The lack of new seminarians has put a strain on our aging clergy. The number of full-time Archdiocesan priests is expected to drop from 220 to 130 over the next 15 years, with an average of one priest left to serve 3,000 people. In St. Louis, 35 percent of the priests (or 74 priests total) in the Archdiocese are 65 years of age or older. These priests are expected to retire in the next 10 years. Over the past decade, Mass attendance has been on a steady decline. The long-term implications of covid are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance is 25 percent below pre-covid levels.

This year the Archdiocese of St. Louis has been gathering and analyzing data on the archdiocese, which claims 400,000 members spread across 10 Missouri counties. They say an historic adjustment to the network of churches, schools and ministries is coming. It is believed it will unite a smaller flock that for generations has been moving west from the city of St. Louis toward St. Charles County in Missouri. All during the "All Things New" planning process we have been encouraged to pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire, with wisdom, insight and right-judgment, all involved in this historic and consequential reconfiguration of the Church of St. Louis. Needless to say this initiative has brought about a lot of fear and animosity at the thought of losing our parishes and schools.

We ask you to pray for the Catholics of St. Louis and support the national AOH Project St. Patrick program. It is specifically directed at our diocesan seminarians and candidates in training for the permanent diaconate and other religious vocations throughout the United States with financial support. Our Catholic future lies in new men being ordained as Priests and Deacons. Our ancestors formed the AOH to protect our clergy; join us in keeping that tradition alive by supporting Project St. Patrick.

New Jersey



Barry Medal presented

At the October State Board meeting, State President Rich O'Brien presented Brother Kevin Weldon, left, of the Freehold Division, with the inaugural Commodore Barry Medal for his significant contributions in the NJ AOH for the past 25 years.

Connecticut

State President O'Neill reported that the Naugatuck Division has been singled out for special praise by the local American Legion Commander who wrote him a letter commending the Naugatuck Hibernians for their splendid civil and religious contributions.

President O'Neill reported that 55-year Hibernian stalwart Patrick McBrien of Stamford had been honored with life membership by the Philip Sheridan Division. This is an honor that is most truly deserved. Pat is a great worker for both the AOH and K of C.

The John P. Holland Division of New London announced nominations for charitable donations for the year which include: Fisher House Foundation, Alliance for Living, Safe Futures, Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Catholic Charities (Norwich), Emily's Entourage, Birthright, Rev. Joseph McCabe M.M., St. Joseph School, Conway Mill Trust, Camp Rising Sun, Missionary Society of St. Columban, and the Garde Arts Center! Wow!

On November 19, New London Hibernians gathered at the AOH Celtic Cross in St. Joseph Cemetery for their annual commemoration for deceased Brothers.

Hartford Division 2 held a successful Christmas Toy/Gift Card Drive on December 10. Four carloads of toys were collected in addition to over \$500 worth of gift cards. The collection took place at Christ the King Church in Wethersfield and benefitted The Helping Hands Project at Saint Augustine Parish. The drive marked the third consecutive holiday season that Hartford AOH worked with Saint Augustine to make Christmas brighter for many families in Connecticut's capital city.

Tom Keane reports that the JFK Division of Bridgeport met its goal of raising and donating \$10,000 to the Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield in memory of the late Ted Lovely.

In addition, the Hibernians of Bridgeport achieved a longtime goal by donating \$5,400 to Bridgeport's Malta House. Well done Bridgeport!

The revived Greater Danbury Irish Festival was held on the New Milford Green in September. The event was chaired by Steve Troiano who was aided by a host of volunteers from the AOH and the LAOH. The success of the event exceeded all expectations and much credit should be given to the town of New Milford for hosting the event and to the work of the new AOH members from New Milford who have given the Danbury Division such a much needed boost!

Waterbury Hibernians Shaun Regan and Arlene Hamel were honored as 2022 Hibernians of the Year at a dinner held at the Waterbury Club on November 26. Shaun is the son-in-law of former National Vice President, the late Connie Collins.

New Haven Hibernians were prominent at the annual wreath laying at the Monument to the Connecticut 9th Volunteer Regiment. This impressive annual event is chaired by Division member Jim Larkin who has done so much to preserve and promote the legacy of Connecticut's Irish Regt. — jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Waterbury Hibernian of the Year Shawn Regan and family outside the Waterbury AOH club.



New Haven Hibernians and State President gathered at the K of C Museum in New Haven after the Irish Regt. wreath ceremonies. From left, Kevin Gilbert, George Waldron, Bob Larkin, S. P. Brian O'Neill and John Sullivan.



AOH Hartford Brothers John Gallivan, Jim Mulcahy, Mike Enright, Tom Breen, Rick Doran and Kevin Morton join Millie Ramos of Saint Augustine Parish for their Christmas Toy Drive.

Nebraska

Christmas at the Madonna School

The Father Flanagan Division in Omaha, Nebraska, held their annual Christmas party on Dec. 9 at the Madonna School. The Hibernians and the Madonna School have a long tradition dating back to the 1960s.

As stated on its website, "Madonna is an education organization founded on the Christian principles of the value, worth and dignity of every individual as created by God. Our mission is to serve students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, so they may become as successful and independent as possible."

The Division supplied pizza, snacks and drinks for 120 students, staff and brothers plus a handsome donation of more than \$1,000 to the school. Brother Bob Race said, "this is the single best event we have every year. It always gets me in the Christmas spirit and I never miss a Madonna School Christmas Party." Each one of the students got to meet Santa and was gifted a coloring book and candy canes straight from the North Pole. Brother Brian Reilly said it was a "exactly why I joined. Proud day to be a Hibernian."

— Submitted by Nebraska State President Mike Addy.



AOH Omaha: Back row, from left, Tom Cody, Tom Simpson, Bob Race, Larry Bradley, Dion Nary, Brian Reilly, Jeff Johnson (Santa), Jeff Newguy, Dan Esch, James Buescher, Mike Blaylock, Tim Rooney, John Farnan, Hugh Spellman, Shane Bretey and Sean Murphy; middle row, from left, Mike Addy, Dave McCandless, Pat Ivers, Michael McMorrow, Terry Devlin, Donny McGuigan, Tim Lonergan; front row, from left, Grant Hrobovsky, Chris Blalock and Bob Sullivan.



Chaplain Monsignor James Gilg, Madonna School President Jon Burt, John Farnan, Tim Lonergan and Madonna student Cory.

Pennsylvania



Hibernian conducts at DeSales University

Dr. Ryan Mullaney, who is Division 1, Lehigh, Pa., Freedom For All Ireland chairman, and an Assistant Professor of Music, conducted Gabriel Faure's Requiem by DeSales University Choral Society on Nov. 2. The presentation took place in Connelly Chapel of the Sacred Heart at DeSales in commemoration of All Souls Day.



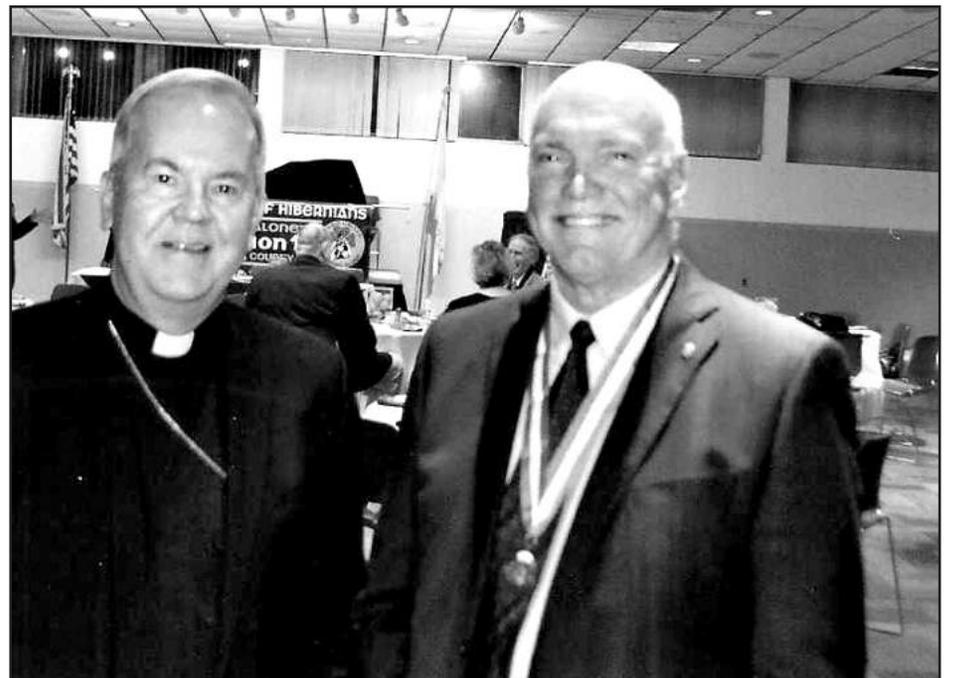
Helping a seminarian

Montgomery County's Saint Charles Seminarian Max Gallagher received scholarship assistance from the AOH Notre Dame Division 1 President Eddie Mongan and Charities Chairman Glenn McNulty at the division's November monthly meeting. Max has completed his college degree at Saint Charles and is now in his third year of theology studies. This award is given annually to a seminarian at Saint Charles for the Notre Dame Division.



Division earns FFAI award

Division 5, Bucks County, received a plaque at the Philadelphia FFAI fundraiser, for its FFAI donation of \$1,500. Pictured, from left, National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Division 5 President Ken Moran and National Vice President Sean Pender. — Submitted by Tony O'Malley, VP Division 5.



Bishop of Scranton Diocese Joseph Bambera, left, and Division President Christopher Norris.



O'Malley Hibernians help the needy

The Paul 'Hook' O'Malley Division 4, Scranton, PA, presented four checks to Saint Patrick's; one check for \$500 to the food pantry, and three \$100 checks to needy families in the parish. The O'Malley division has been doing this for many years, never forgetting those who are less fortunate. Front row, from left, Bob McAndrew, Rob Fletcher, Fr. Fox of St. Patrick's Parish receiving a check from Division President Patrick O'Malley, Kevin Donnavan. Second row, Joe Holland, Rob Sherry, and Man of the Year John Fletcher. Third row, from left, Michael Robinson, Attorney Sean Gallagher and Mark McDade.

Celebrating 25 years

Division 1, Lycoming County, in Williamsport, celebrated their 25th Anniversary on December 2 with a catered dinner. Guest speaker was The Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, Bishop of the Scranton Diocese.

In the Bishop's talk, he spoke highly of the AOH and all of the eight AOH Divisions that are located in his Diocese. He touched on our Irish Catholic ancestry and how our communities, Church and neighbors have been changed, due to our strong tradition of Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity.

Tom Gilbride, legal counsel for the AOH, read a congratulatory letter from the AOH State President Ed Dougherty on the 25-year accomplishment. Other speakers invited that night included Christopher Norris – Division President; Ned McGinley, – Past National President; Ed Halligan – National Secretary; Joe Walsh – District Director; and Father Bechtel – Division Chaplain.

That night, President Norris gave his salutations in the English and Irish languages to all present. The dinner was held in the St. Joseph the Worker Parish hall in Williamsport.

The National
hibernian
NOW ONLINE
Digest
www.AOH.com

New York

Oneida Hibernians hold annual commemorative mass

by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Members of the Oneida County Divisions of the AOH and LAOH honored their departed members and the victims of the Irish Great Hunger at their traditional memorial mass on November 13 at the Our Lady of Lourdes campus of the Mary, Mother of our Savior Parish.

The mass followed a gala celebration of the bicentennial of the establishment of Irish relief and cultural organizations in Oneida County held the prior weekend at the Irish Cultural Center in Utica. Father Joe Salerno welcomed the Hibernians and read this traditional blessing: "May joy lie before you and trouble behinds you. May good health go with you and good fortune find you. May foes make amends and your friendships continue. May love walk beside you, and peace live within you."

Deacon Stanley Olkowski began his homily by playing a cut from Brenda Lee's 1960 hit, "I'm Sorry," through the church sound system... setting some parishioners checking their cell phones to see if they were the source of the tune.

It didn't take Deacon Olkowski to weave the former Billboard Hot Singles #1 chart topper into his message, concluding by asking that all use the season to repair and renew their relationship with God.

The annual mass draws Irish to the site of the John C. Devereux Oneida County Division 1 AOH and Ladies of Knock An Gorta Mor Celtic Cross monument surrounded by memorial bricks, which Irish families have purchased to honor their ancestors.



The Hibernians of Oneida County, the John C Devereux Div. 1 and the Ladies of Knock Div. 17 together at Our Lady of Lourdes Church of Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish.



Division 3 Reverse Christmas Parade

On Saturday, December 17, members of AOH and LAOH Division 3 of Rockland County, in conjunction with OMM Soccer, the Lourdes kids of Rockland, Foriage, Orangetown Lacrosse and the Lions, and many volunteers from local clubs and schools, held their annual "Reverse Christmas Parade" for those with special needs and facing special challenges.

For many years it was a tradition to hold a Christmas party for those with special needs at Hibernian House, the Division 3 Hall. When COVID struck and mass indoor gatherings were prohibited, the Hibernians using Irish ingenuity, pivoted to a "reverse parade" where attendees could safely drive within their cars through various stations featuring music, dance and Christmas cheer. The concept has proven so popular that it has been maintained even after restrictions were lifted.

Over 90 cars and buses are estimated to have partaken in the event this year. In the true spirit of Christmas, it is hard to say who had the bigger smiles, the attendees or the volunteers.



Mathew Nugent, Nassau President Jack O'Brien and Padraic Nugent holding his plaque awarded for more than 50 years as a member of the AOH. Photo by John O'Brien

Coming back from Covid in Nassau County, NY

By County President Jack O'Brien

Congratulations to all the divisions that came through the past two years, just as our organization has done through hard years during the previous 185 years. All Nassau County Divisions have come back from the pandemic as strong as before, although some with fewer members. Divisions are returning to pre Covid-19 functions. Some even added new socials and fundraising events. Thanks to all the Nassau AOH and LAOH Divisions. Last year, 2022 saw fishing trips, food drives, golf outings, parades, feis, music festivals and more.

I also want to mention Division 15, AOH, LAOH and the Tara Pipe & Drum, for coming back from the pandemic so well. Nassau Division 15, along with the Ladies AOH Division 15, in Massapequa, held their annual Irish Night Out at Brady Park and welcomed the whole town. They had craft tables, vendors, Bar-B-Que and music by Harpers Ferry. It was great to have the Division providing not just the members and friends with a chance to get a night out, but the public as well. For many residents, this was a long awaited event due to the pandemic.

It was a more meaningful event for one of the members, Padraic Pearse Nugent. Padraic attended with his son, Matthew, and received a plaque and pin award for his more than 50 years as member in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I was present to give Padraic this award and feel blessed I have had the chance to work with him. The next day I was able to give Mike O'Rourke the 50-year member award on stage at the Nassau County Feis.

It is an honor having men like Padraic and Mike in the Order, to keep the faith, the history, and advise the new members young and old. Check your Division to see who may qualify. This truly helps advance the AOH.



JFK Division 1 Treasurer Patrick Cremmins, left, NDBGs Mickie Baldwin and Principal Kiante Jones, Division President Patrick Riley and NDBGs Pat Moran at the presentation of a check for \$12,000 for NDBG academic scholarship funds. The money was raised by the Schenectady AOH 2022 Golf Tournament.

Schenectady Division 1 donates to Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons Scholarship Fund

Pipes were playing and the golf carts were rolling as the John F. Kennedy Division 1 Annual Golf Tournament got underway at the Schenectady Municipal Golf Course. Sixty carts carried the 120 golfers to their designated tees on a bright sunny morning in June, with the goal of again helping to raise money for the Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons Scholarship Fund.

Through the hard work and generosity of the members of the AOH and LAOH divisions, ND-BG faculty and staff, and the alumni of the ND-BG school, Schenectady JFK Division 1 was able to donate \$12,000 to the school's scholarship fund.

This annual golf tournament has raised over \$20,000 in the past three years for the only Catholic school in the Schenectady area.

Golf Chair Mike McDermott said plans are already underway for next year's tournament, to be held on Friday, June 9, 2023, again at Schenectady Muni Golf Course.

— Submitted by Jim Shaughnessy



New York

Honoring a hero while supporting youth sports

On Nov. 6, Myles Scully, Div. 1, Yonkers, in partnership with the NY GAA Minor Board, held their 14th annual Firefighter Sean Tallon Memorial Gaelic Sports Tournament at Orangeburg, NY. Div. 1 has been the proud title event sponsor since the tournament started in 2008. The event is dedicated to the life and legacy of FDNY Firefighter Sean Patrick Tallon, Ladder 10, who was killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The free event features more than 30 GAA Minor Board under age 8 teams from the tri-state area competing for trophies and medals. Div. 1 President Andy Hayden summarized the event as “a special day we look forward to every year when honoring Sean and one filled with the joy of children playing the game they love.”



Division 1 members, from left, Bob Eggen, Bill Regan, Chad Ghastin, Mike Morley, Andy Hayden and Jim Walsh.

Bipartisan appeal highlights Bronx AOH awards

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told an overflow crowd at the Bronx County AOH dinner there could be no return to a hard border by undermining the Northern Irish Protocols, and he slammed the British amnesty bill. He was honored alongside ‘Spirit of 1916’ honorees, former Congressman Pete King, National AOH Vice President Sean Pender, AOH Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald, and Patricia Megahey, on November 20 at Rory Dolans. The event also marked the 25th anniversary of the historic 1997 Clinton administrative order halting the deportations of former Irish political prisoners settled in America, while noting hardships still confronting them and those that followed, like Malachy McAllister and Patsy Donnelly.



Martin Galvin, left, Senator Chuck Schumer, former Congressman Peter King, Patricia Megahey and AOH National Vice President Sean Pender. Photo credit: Nuala Purcell.



Syracuse Hibernians help Francis House

The brothers of Commodore John Barry Division 2, in Syracuse, helped Francis House prepare for Christmas and the long winter by moving patio furniture to inside storage and by setting up outdoor decorations and lights. Francis House was founded 31 years ago by Sister Kathleen Osbelt and the Sisters of St. Francis to “Provide a home and extended family to persons with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity surrounded by the unconditional love of God.” Over the past three decades Francis House has cared for more than 3,300 residents and supported more than 12,000 family members with unconditional love, a home-like atmosphere, respect and dignity.



Hibernians help Santa visit children in East Islip

Suffolk County’s Division 7 held its Community Children’s Christmas. Thank you, Santa and the Helpers of Division 7, East Islip, for bringing the spirit of Christmas to all children. From left, Tom O’Brien John Hanley, John Stiastry, Tom Murphy, Bill Connor, Jeanne Stiastry, Bob Knockenhauer, Santa, Tom McHugh, Div 7 President Shawn O’Neill, Alice Faughnan, LAOH Suffolk County President Sue O’Neill, Jason Holm, Mac McFadden, DJ Ron Novotny, Kathleen Ring and Vic Vogel.

Ohio

John Myers, Hibernian of the Year

The Boland Berry Division 2 in Cleveland, Ohio, had a successful 2022. The annual Steak Roast was held in June. The annual golf outing, held in August, was a great success. Proceeds benefited the Holy Family Cancer Home, the NICU at University Hospital, and the Jonathan Rodriguez Fund. Rodriguez is a Cleveland Police Swat Team officer who was severely injured while on duty.

Join us in congratulating John C. Myers, our Hibernian of the Year for the Boland Berry Division 2 of Cuyahoga County. A strong advocate for Irish American causes, John is the Freedom For All Ireland and the Immigration chairperson for the division. John is a Director on the Board of the Ohio AOH. John will be honored at the St. Brigid’s Day mass and dinner on February 4, and at the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Cleveland on March 17. He also writes a column called *Donnybrook for ilrish*, a regional Irish American publication based in Cleveland. John’s proud family includes wife, Eileen Kilbane, and their two daughters, Tess and Joanna. — Tom Ginley, Recording Secretary

The old made new again

Founded in 1878, JFK Div. 1 of Dayton, Ohio, is the oldest continuously active AOH division in Ohio. To mark the new year, we launched our new website, www.aohdayton.com, in addition to revamping our social media presence at facebook.com/aohdayton. In an era when some divisions — including ours — have sold halls and physical real estate, this new “digital real estate” is key to showcasing our vitality to our communities and to potential new members. We would very much appreciate your support in terms of “likes,” “follows,” “shares,” “comments,” and other engagement with our posts as we continue to grow our online presence. Your engagement with our content boosts our web profile, which in turn makes it easier for us to attract new members. Such support fulfills our obligation to unity and charity and helps us continue to serve our community as we approach 150 years as a division.



Heritage proclamation presented in Campbell

The City of Campbell, Ohio, presented an Irish American Heritage Month proclamation to National President Danny O’Connell. Presenting the proclamation was Hibernian and City Council member Tim O’Bryan. From left, council members Robert Stanko, Joey Mazzocca, Council President George Levendis, AOH National President Danny O’Connell, Campbell Mayor Brian Tedesco, and council members Tim O’Bryan and Steve Cappitte.

John Hagen, Fr. Duffy Division (NJ) founder

John Patrick "Paddy" Hagen passed away on August 31, 2022, in Ocala, FL. He began his career as an engineer and was responsible for the building and construction of many key infrastructure projects throughout the state of New Jersey. His loved organizing the members of his team and seeing those projects come to life. In 1965, Pat met and married the love of his life Ann Marie. Ann dreamed of building a family and a life with horses. In 1972, Hagen Farm was established – making her dream reality. Their daughter Carol started riding at a young age and invited her friends and schoolmates to the farm to come see and ride the horses. Many families got involved with horses because of a seed that was planted after visiting Hagen Farm.

Paddy loved helping the community in any way possible. He was particularly proud of his Irish heritage never missing the opportunity to share the luck and laughter of the Irish. Paddy organized several trips to Ireland for his local Ancient Order of Hibernians Division. The group of men experienced Irish Culture and even visited Hagen's Bar in County Tyrone. It was talked about for years and resulted in the founding of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Father Duffy Division 2 in Ocean County, NJ. Paddy was also the first President of the division.

As a member of Saint Mary's church in Manahawkin, NJ – Paddy asked parish Father Ken if it would be possible to hold an Irish American mass. With Father Ken's blessing, an Irish mass was organized with a missalette's written in English and Gaelic. The mass was followed by a Saint Patrick's Day dinner at the Parish Center with bagpipes and Irish dancers. The church family of Saint Mary's became a great source of joy for Paddy who was honored to become a eucharistic minister. Even after moving out of state, when Pat and Ann returned to Saint Mary's for a visit, Father Ken asked Pat to "Take your Position" in offering the eucharist during mass. During his final months, Paddy recounted how much he loved doing anything possible for Father Ken and his wonderful church.

For all his efforts, he was awarded "2007 Irishman of the Year" by the Officers & Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Ocean County. He also was one of the founding members of the Lacey Elks Club as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus of St Mary's church.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton

Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

In 1872, thosaigh Mícheál Ó Lócháin ag múineadh na Gaeilge i mBrooklyn, Nua-Eabhrac. *In...Michael Logan started teaching Irish in...in Brooklyn, NY. Ba é sin tús le Cumann Carad na Gaeilge. This was the start of the Philo-Celtic Society. Thar na blianta, scar na baill i gcathair Nua-Eabhrac ón dream i mBrooklyn, agus íslíodh ar an méad daoine a bhí páirteach ann sna cumainn agus go háirithe an bun-chumann i mBrooklyn. Over the years, members in NYC separated from those in Brooklyn, and the numbers participating dropped, especially in the original society. Ach mhair an cumann ar dhóigh éigin, le roinnt bearnaí nuair nach raibh siad an-ghníomhach, agus tharla athbheochaint mhór ar CCNaG i 2004 atá ag dul ó neart go neart ó shin. But the society survived somehow, with a few gaps when they weren't very active, and a big revival of it happened in...and we've been going from strength to strength ever since. Bhí ceiliúradh i mbliana ar chéad is caoga bliain mar chumann. This year we celebrated 150 years as a society.*

In 1881, thosaigh Ó Lócháin ag foilsiú *An Gaodhal*, freisin. *In...Logan started publishing An Gaodhal...too. Tar éis cúpla iarracht eile thar na blianta, d'aththosaigh mé féin ar an iris seo a fhoilsiú mar An Gael, Irisleabhar Idirnáisiúnta na Gaeilge, i 2009, agus tá 55 eagrán déanta againn go fóill. After a few other attempts over the years, I myself restarted publishing this periodical as An Gael, International Magazine of the Irish Language, in...and there have been 55 issues so far. Bíonn gach ceann acu ar fáil i gcónaí, saor in aisce mar pdf nó ar an scáileán, nó i gcló de réir a chostais. Every issue is still available, for free as a pdf or on screen, or in print according to its cost. Foilsítear é faoi scáth an chumainn. It is published under the auspices of the society.*

Bhí ceiliúradh deireadh seachtaine ar leith againn Mí na Samhna agus ranganna agus ceardlanna zoom againn. *We had a special celebration weekend in November with classes and workshops on zoom. D'fheastal daoine as gach cearn den domhan orthu, ar fud na Stáit agus in Éirinn go háirithe. People from all over the world attended them, especial from throughout the US and in Ireland. Bhain siad le litríocht na Gaeilge, litríocht in An Gael, an amhránaíocht, an ginealach, srl. They were on Irish literature, literature in An Gael, singing, genealogy, etc. Bhí an-spraoi againn, agus tá an cumann beo beathach ceart go leor. We had great fun, and the society surely is alive and well.*

Bíonn gach rud a dhéanaimid saor in aisce agus ar fáil do gach éinne. *Everything we do is free and available to everyone. Féach philo-celtic.com agus angaelmagazine.com, nó lorg ceachtar acu ar Facebook. See... or look for either one on FB. An t-aon saghas ruda nach bhfuil saor in aisce, sin an swag a rinneamar dár ceiliúradh... The only kind of thing not free is the swag we made for our celebration...*

Division 4 celebrates the Christmas season

Members of Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4 Ramsey County gathered together along with our spouses to celebrate the season at our annual Christmas Party. This year's event was held in the Rathskeller at the historic Schmidt's Brewery in Saint Paul. A great time was had by all during this festive season as we enjoyed a delicious buffet and kept the bartenders busy. As we move into winter, it's time to start thinking about Saint Patrick's Day and planning is already underway for our annual Saint Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.



Warming at the fireplace, from left, George Murphy, Charlie Callaghan, Mark Connor, Mike O'Donnell, Pat Donahue, and Tim Courtney.



From left, Don Flanigan, Jim Fallon, Dick Warren and Richard McCabe, with spouses.

Shamrock Division celebrates new officers and Christmas party

The Shamrock Division hosted its annual Christmas party in Le Center, Minnesota, on December 14. Forty-two members and spouses attended. After the initial gathering and social time, President Michael Collins welcomed new and current members to the event. He introduced our incoming President Patrick Mulroy and new incoming Vice President Michael Sullivan.

President Collins recapped some of the year's events and highlights. The Shamrock Hibernian Scholarship Fund gave out seven scholarships this year totaling \$3,500. The scholarships are awarded to local deserving young Irish scholars furthering their education after high school.

President Collins also discussed our annual Founders Day celebration last April. This event starts with celebration of Mass, followed by dinner and an evening of live Irish music. We are planning to repeat the event again this year. The rest of the evening included dinner and social time for members and spouses. — hibernianshamrock.com or on Facebook at [@hibernianshamrock](https://www.facebook.com/hibernianshamrock).



New Shamrock Division President Patrick Mulroy, left, new Vice-President Michael Sullivan and retiring President Michael Collins.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of. . .

the Ladies National President

Marilyn Madigan

Celebrating the Feasts of St. Brigid and St. Patrick

The LAOH celebrated our Patron's Feasts with two other important organizations: Herstory and Sober St. Patrick's Day.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians have been celebrating St. Brigid's Day for over 128 years. This year the LAOH was honored to partner with Herstory for a special event in honor of St. Brigid on Saturday 21st January. This event introduced the real Brigid and why she is a role model for modern women today. Herstory Poet in Residence Laura Murphy performed her poem *Is Mise Bríd*, Herstory board member Treacy O'Connor lead a beautiful mediation, and Herstory Founder & CEO Melanie Lynch shared a slideshow of the spectacular Herstory light shows. "Brigid is the bridge, crossing the threshold from Goddess to Saint, Celtic to Christian, North and South, winter and spring, water and fire, masculine and feminine, ancient and modern." -Treacy O'Connor

ABOUT HERSTORY www.herstory.ie

Founded in 2016, the *Herstory* movement tells the stories of modern, historic and mythic women. Our mission is to give the public authentic female role models and a game-changing education program, inspiring countries around the world to start their own Herstory movements. Since 2017 the annual *Herstory Light Show* lights up iconic landmarks and sacred sites in honor of women to mark Brigid's Day. In 2018, Herstory initiated and co-produced *Blazing a Trail for the Department of Foreign Affairs* - it is the first women's exhibition to tour the Irish Embassy network worldwide. In 2020, Herstory partnered with RTÉ, Underground Films, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum and the BAI for *Herstory on RTÉ* - the first comprehensive women's storytelling platform on RTÉ - featuring a major documentary TV series, animation series, podcasts, school workshops and microsite. In 2021 we successfully spearheaded the campaign to make Brigid's Day Ireland's new public holiday.

The LAOH joined with Sober St. Patrick's Day and the Saint Patrick Visitor Centre, Downpatrick in a Virtual Book Club. This Book Club helped us to celebrate our heritage and culture. Dr. Tim Campbell, Director of the Saint Patrick Centre recommended *The Letters of Saint Patrick* - a Historical New Translation by Marcus Losack. This is a great way of learning about St. Patrick and a way to honor our Irish Heritage.

The National Board hopes everyone had a great celebration of our Patron Saints and look forward to more partnerships in the future.

New York

New York State Veteran's and Military Affairs appointee, Jeannine Mannarino held her second in a series of Veteran's symposiums. Each of these symposiums is open to the public, veterans, and their families. They have speakers discussing a range of issues that are important, including homelessness, PTSD, and sexual trauma, as well as providing resources to veterans.



NYS Veteran's and military affairs appointee, Jeannine Mannarino (L) and veterans committee member Suzanne Messina, Broome County

Catholic Action

by Kathleen Diulus

After our Convention in July, President Madigan created a new way for the LAOH to put our motto into action with the formation of the Hibernian Humanitarian Fund. This Fund was created in response to the devastation created by Hurricane Ian in Florida. After outreach to our Florida LAOH Sisters, we were relieved to learn that our FL LAOH Sisters did not experience the devastating damage that destroyed Fort Meyers and surrounding communities. The funds collected through the generosity of our national network of LAOH members allowed us to send a donation in the amount of \$4,000 to the Catholic Charities of Venice, FL. As President Madigan mentioned in her letter announcing the formation of the Hibernian Humanitarian Fund, it is a way to put our Catholic Faith into Action.

The Fund will remain an active designation for Catholic Action donations so when the next crisis is upon us, the LAOH will be able to proactively provide assistance to those in need. Please send future donations to the Catholic Action officer and indemnify them as Hibernian Humanitarian Fund.

The generosity of our organization is outstanding. THANK YOU for your generosity! May God's blessings continue to be bestowed upon each and everyone of you and your families.

Virginia



Remembering 9/11

Members of the LAOH Daughters of Erin, Loudoun County, VA, delivered American flags to school children at Our Lady of Hope (Potomac Falls) as part of their 9/11 remembrance assembly. Pictured are Dotty Koyles, Susan Parker, Kathryn O'Meara and Carol Rowane.

Connecticut



LAOH Division 59 in Stamford, Connecticut celebrated their 100th anniversary with Mass and a luncheon on October 22, 2022. Mass was said by Fr Liam Quinlan. Music was presented by Margie Kelley and the St Thomas the Apostle Choir. National Treasurer, Cathy Turck, presented Marggie Laurie, Division President, with a proclamation from the National Board. The past presidents of Division 59 were recognized.

Kansas



Fr. Aaron and Ryan Harris in the center surrounded by new Hibernians. On the right is Kansas State President Andy Sprehe.

Welcome new Kansas Division

The prairies of south-central Kansas in 2022 welcomed the formation of the state's second AOH Division when 15 Hutchinson men were initiated into the brotherhood. The ceremony was the conclusion of a year of persistent and focused work from a group headed by Ryan Harris with the help and prayerful support of Fr. Aaron Spexarth.

In August 2022, Kansas State President Andy Sprehe and a delegation of full-kilted Hibernians from the Johnson County Fr. Donnelly Division conducted the formal reading of the oath and singing of O'Donnell Abo to establish the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division. In good Hibernian fashion, once formalities were completed the group adjourned to the Salt City Brewing Company to toast this important addition to the AOH.

Fr. Sean J. O'Shea was a native of County Cork who came to the United States in 1950 with young priests who were migrating in response to the call of U.S. Bishops to help overcome a severe shortage of priests. He arrived at the Holy Cross (the division's home parish) in 1973 and over 13 years built a church and established an incredible core of lay leaders and dedicated families that still thrive today. Fr. O'Shea served the diocese for 67 years leaving a legacy of passion for his Faith and the people of Hutchinson. Several members of the division grew up under Fr. O'Shea's guidance and share many memories of the priest's influence.

Even before completing the process of becoming a division the O'Shea men have impacted the community – raising funds and providing financial support to help families devastated by spring grass fires. During this past Lenten season, on a March Saturday they held a fundraising auction and prepared for the parish a Cajun Shrimp Boil which included Louisiana sausage as part of a full dinner offering.

Kansas State Board installed

The inaugural Kansas AOH State Board was installed on December 17th, 2022, at the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division's 20th Annual Christmas Party at the Johnson County Museum in Overland Park, Kansas. National Director Sean O'Dowd conducted the installation of Kansas State President Andy Sprehe, Vice President Denny Dennihan, Treasurer Gerard Walsh and Recording Secretary Tom Kane who will serve an interim one-year term until the first Kansas State Convention can be held in 2023 to elect new officers.

All four Kansas state officers are long-standing members and former officers of the Fr. Donnelly Division. President Sprehe and Vice President Dennihan have both served as Donnelly Division President, while Walsh and Kane have held Treasurer, Financial and Recording Secretary positions in the Donnelly Division.

The Kansas State Board has been instrumental in organizing two new divisions, the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division in Hutchinson, and the Fr. Thomas Butler Division in Leavenworth during the last six months of 2022. The Kansas State Board eagerly looks forward to establishing several more divisions throughout the Sunflower State in 2023 and 2024.

Kansas is only the 35th largest state in the United States but has the 18th highest percent share of its population of Irish descent. The Kansas AOH State Board sees great potential for an expansion across the state.



The new Kansas State Board with National Director Sean O'Dowd. L-R: Tom Kane, Gerard Walsh, Sean O'Dowd, Andy Sprehe, and Denny Dennihan. Photo credit: Pat O'Neal



The Donnelly Division's color guard marching down 4th Street in Leavenworth, KS. Carrying the Papal Flag is Denny Dennihan, the Kansas Flag is Liam Kittle, the Irish Flag is Dan Clancy, and the American Flag is Zach Kittle.

Fr. Donnelly Division marches in Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division, based in Johnson County, Kansas, marched for the first time in the annual Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth, Kansas, this November 2022. The Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade is the largest such parade west of the Mississippi and has proven to be popular with the Donnelly Division, whose membership includes a large number of veterans. Fourteen Donnelly brothers, many kilted, braved frigid temperatures to take off work on that Friday and march in honor of our veterans.

The Leavenworth parade also proved to be a key draw for the ongoing Kansas AOH efforts to establish a new division in Kansas's first incorporated city. This new division, is named for Leavenworth's pioneer priest, Fr. Thomas Butler (1837-1897), who immigrated to Leavenworth from Dublin just after the American Civil War in 1867. Former Donnelly Division President Zach Kittle said of the division's participation in the parade, "I'm elated that I was able to march with my Donnelly Division brothers in the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. Being a veteran myself, and growing up in Leavenworth, the parade has a special place in my heart."

Illinois

Chicago Hibernians help those in need

By John Moriarty, Division 32 Charity Committee

For the past 20+ years, Division 32 in Chicago has sponsored the Soup Kitchen at Our Lady of Lourdes in the Uptown area at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, providing cooked meals, as well as a summer BBQ. When the Archdiocese sold the school building where the meals were prepared and served, Division 32 was forced to look elsewhere to continue the tradition.

St. Mary of the Lake, also in Uptown, recently started a Soup Kitchen, serving prepared food and meal bags to go. The meals were prepared and served outdoors with the hope of expanding and remodeling the kitchen area to provide meals indoors in the future.

After providing burgers, hot dogs and buns for a Soup Kitchen in September, Division 32 worked with Joe Henry of St. Mary's Soup Kitchen to prepare meal bags at Thanksgiving and Christmas in lieu of the cooked meals we had traditionally served.

On November 23, Division 32 Brothers contributed more than 170 sandwiches, fruit, drinks, string cheese, chips, dessert and candy. Six Brothers gathered at St. Mary's to assemble 95 meal bags for distribution. Many of the attendees enjoyed a meal bag at St. Mary's and took another to go for Thanksgiving the next day.

Recognizing the need for financial aid for the kitchen renovations, Division 32 also presented two checks for \$1,200 to the Soup Kitchen, \$1,100 from Division 32 and \$100 from Pat and Mary Moriarty. Joe was very pleased with the donation.

Division 32 gathered for Mass with Chaplain Fr. Dan McCarthy at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity on December 10 followed by their Annual Pot Luck dinner at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago.

And on December 21, Division 32 again provided meal bags for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen. We provided over 200 sandwiches and Five Brothers assembled over 100 meal bags for distribution later that day. Our support was welcome and we were happy to be able to continue our tradition of helping feed the needy and hungry during the holidays following the closing of Our Lady of Lourdes' Soup Kitchen.



Brothers Mike O'Malley, Pat Flaherty, Mark Howe, Jack Morrissey and John Resch prepare the meal bags for the needy.

Virginia



Dr. Gil Irwin of Medical Missionaries received a donation from members of the Father Kelley Division of the AOH at his organization's 25th-anniversary fundraiser. From left, Eric Latcheran, Richard Ring, James P. McCusker and Division President Patrick Sullivan.

Kelley Division supports Medical Missionaries

Medical Missionaries recently received a \$500 donation check from the AOH to support their volunteer work to improve the health of the poor in the U.S. and around the world. The Father Kelley Division in Virginia presented the donation at the medical organization's 25th-anniversary fundraiser held at the Doukenie Winery in Purcellville, Va. Medical Missionaries started in the same Catholic parish – All Saints in Manassas, Va. – as the Father Kelley Division. Several division members also made individual donations of Medical Missionaries totaling more than \$500.

Dr. Gil Irwin started Medical Missionaries in 1997 by leading a medical team to the Dominican Republic to assess the healthcare needs of the people there. The initial focus was to send supplies and medicines to the remote mountainous villages of Banica, near the Haitian border, where the villagers had no access to medical care. Medical Missionaries has grown to more than 200 volunteer doctors, nurses and other health professionals who provide medical care, medical supplies, clothing and food.

The Father Kelley Division annually supports about a dozen charities that are voted on by the membership.



State President Brian Kiernan, left, Harry Flynn and Division President Tom Kelley at award presentation.

Flynn named Hibernian of the Year

Harry Flynn, of the Fr. Mychal Judge OFM Division, was the recipient of the Virginia Hibernian of the Year for 2021. Harry, a graduate of St. Ambrose University, initiated the St. Patrick's Day Coloring Contest for children enrolled in parochial schools and Religious Education programs in northern Virginia. This contest, which began four years ago, has grown from a small number of parishes and participants to an anticipated 12 parishes and 6,000 students in 2022.

Harry became enamored with the idea of a local Coloring Contest after the Fr. Abram J. Ryan Division (Louisville, Kentucky) talked about their effort during a National Convention. After a discussion with the Division regarding the Coloring Contest's process, Harry presented the proposal for a similar program to the Fr. Judge Division's members. After an affirmative vote, Harry got to work. Harry led efforts to produce or create educational materials; coordinate with other Divisions; contact school principals; create, deliver, collect, and grade entry forms; gain recognition within the Arlington Diocese through the Arlington Catholic Herald; and conduct a ceremony with the contest winners. Without Harry, the local Coloring Contest would not exist.



Helping the needy

At its annual memorial Mass for deceased Division members, Fr. Lynch Division in Roanoke presented Kroger gift cards to Chaplain Fr. Stephen McNally for distribution to the needy in his community. From left, President

Louisiana



Hibernians organize toy drive

St. Bernard Division, located in Saint Bernard Parish, LA, partnered with Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish Church (Chaplain Father Marlon) and 40 businesses throughout our area in our annual 2022 Toy Drive for Children. Brightly decorated display boxes were collection points in each business. Toys collected were provided to Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Family Violence Program of Saint Bernard for distribution. Included in Pics is the Thank You card sent from Father Marlon. Brothers in our division look forward to this annual event and the smiles received from the results of their efforts. True Brotherhood performed by good people for an excellent cause. — Ron Evans, St. Bernard Division President



Representing the Irish

Fr. Lynch Division took part in a Cultural Fair at Roanoke Catholic School. The student-initiated event featured 14 groups that presented to the student body. Representing Ireland were Brothers Pat Reidy, Bill Phoenix, Paul Yengst and Vice President Paul Miller.

New York



At the dance were, from left, Dan Dennehy, Joe Brady, State Senator Peter Harckham, Clive Cronin and John Joyce.

Peekskill Division holds Thanksgiving dance

Division 18 held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner Dance on November 19. It was the first event since 2019 when covid hit. The honorees this year were Clive Cronin and Joe Brady. Clive was Hibernian of the Year and Joe was honored with a Public Service Award. Clive is a past president of our division and currently is the Westchester County President. Joe was honored for his service for the Fighting '69th and his work with the Peekskill Parade committee. Also, at this event the division added a nickname to the "Fighting '69th Division." It is the only AOH division in the U.S. that is named after this famous Irish regiment. The dance was held at the Putnam County Golf Course and was well attended. All had a fabulous time.

Pennsylvania



From left, Joseph Matyevitch, James Connor, President Patrick O'Malley, Robert McAndrew, John Mitchell Man of the Year James F. Barrett, Michael Robinson, Joseph Holland, Jack Gilroy, Rob Fletcher, Mark McDade, Atty. John Holland, Joseph Hosie, Congressman Matt Cartwright, John Fletcher Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year, Kevin Donnavan, and great grandson of John Mitchell, Jim Mitchell.

John Mitchell Memorial Celebration

The John Mitchell Day Memorial Celebration was held on October 29. The service had numerous speakers and a presentation of this year's John Mitchell Man of the Year award to James Barrett for all of his charitable work in the community and his 37 years with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. All of the speakers talked about the great

John Mitchell and what he did in the strike of 1902. There was a flower presentation to John Mitchell's wife, Catherine O'Rourke Mitchell, and a wreath presentation to John Mitchell. It was a beautiful day for the memorial service. Jim Mitchell was in attendance for the memorial service. He is the great grandson of John Mitchell. It was an honor to have Mr. Mitchell at the memorial service.

Ohio



Veterans saluted

On the Sunday after Veterans Day, the Mark Heffernan Division held their Annual Veterans Day Dinner. More than 100 veterans were honored with a free dinner. The American Legion Honor Guard from Akron Post 449 performed a 21-gun salute and over 35 members of the University of Akron Marching Band performed patriotic songs for the veterans.