

# The National hibERNIAN DIGEST



"Ireland, One and Indivisible, Though the heavens Fall" —HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL of Ireland

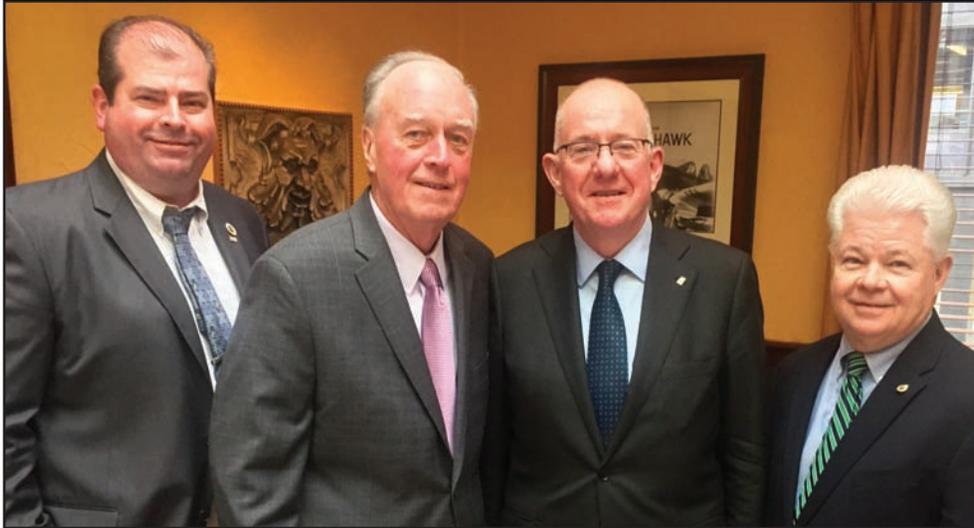
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## Ireland's Centenary Program launched



National Board President Brendan Moore, National Secretary Jere Cole and National Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy met recently with visiting Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan, Irish Ambassador Ann Anderson and Irish Consul General Barbara Jones. The Hibernian delegation, along with leaders of Irish America's business, culture and education communities, gathered to discuss a variety of issues, including the 2016 Centenary, immigration and Good Friday Agreement related matters. Pictured, from left, Chairman Dennehy, President Moore, Minister Flanagan and Secretary Cole.

Charles Flanagan T.D., Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, was in New York on Jan. 7 and 8 to officially launch the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme in the U.S. The launch started with a breakfast hosted by Ireland's Ambassador Anne Anderson in the Consulate General of Ireland in New York. Minister Flanagan, Ambassador Anderson and NY Consul General Barbara Jones addressed the gathering, followed by readings by prize-winning Irish author Colm McCann from his recent works, Irish tenor Anthony Kearns, a recitation of W.B. Yeats' Easter 1916, and young Irish singer Ailbhe Fitzpatrick performed a wonderful rendition of a song written in 1916 by Angela Ryan, Hoist the Flag.

In attendance were members of the New York Centenary Program Committee, which worked over the past year to produce a list of centenary commemorative events taking place in the New York region throughout 2016. The committee was headed by Dr. Maureen Murphy (Hofstra University) and comprised of leaders of New York's academic, fraternal, arts, historical, cultural, media and community based organizations and included AOH members Dan Dennehy, John Garvey and Robert Peterson and Irish Consular staff, including Irish Consul General Barbara Jones and Deputy Consul General Anna

McGillicuddy. The events scheduled for the 2016 Centenary Program in the U.S., including many AOH/LAOH efforts, can be read online at:

<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/newyork/our-role/commemorations-in-new-york/2016-commemoration-program/>

That evening, a gala event hosted by the N.Y. Irish Consulate for the Consular Region was held at the breathtaking restoration of the historic Pier A on N.Y. Harbor overlooking Ellis Island and Lady Liberty. National AOH President Brendan Moore, as well as Hibernians and other representatives of the Irish community from several states, attended. An original copy of the Proclamation was on display and excellent Irish traditional artists and singers entertained all.

Just before departing for Ireland, Minister Flanagan held a briefing, along with Ambassador Anderson and N.Y. Consul General Jones with National President Moore, National Secretary Jere Cole, National Immigration Chair Dennehy and several business and community leaders on matters concerning our mutual work on the centenary, immigration, the economy and the North.

## Come join in the historic commemoration of the 1916 Rising

On Saturday, April 23, the ladies and men of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will be commemorating the centenary anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. This will begin at 1 p.m. with a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue in New York City.

The Mass will be concelebrated by many of the Chaplains of the New York area Divisions. The New York Hibernian Choral will sing the liturgy that afternoon. Many Irish dignitaries along with New York's Consul General, Barbara Jones, will attend to commemorate this historic event.

Immediately following the Mass, all Hibernians and Mass attendees are invited to process down 51st Street to 345 Park Avenue where they will gather on the Plaza, which is directly in front of the office building of the Irish Consulate. All present will assemble on the Plaza for a reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Numerous pipe bands have already committed to join in the procession.

April 23, 2016, represents the eve of the anniversary date of the 1916 Rising in Dublin. All over the rest of the United States Division presidents have been asked to take some time out on that day for their own commemorations with some type of special event and for their own reading of the Proclamation.

Also to commemorate this very special year the National Boards of the ladies and men Hibernians have created a collectors album for this centenary year. The album will contain a history of the Road to Rebellion written by our own historian, Michael McCormack. It will also feature special messages from different Hibernian Divisions and members across America to help memorialize the event. The album can be purchased online at [Harrisconnect.com](http://Harrisconnect.com) or by calling 1-800-877-6554.

On Sunday, April 24, in Pearl River, New York, the Rockland County Hibernians will be sponsoring a commemoration of their own with a dedication of their new GAA field, with a parade and with their own reading of the Proclamation.

All are invited to attend these functions in NYC and Rockland County that weekend.



**The Ancient Order of Hibernians**

and

**The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians**

*Cordially invite you to a*

Mass of Thanksgiving

and

Commemoration

at

**St. Patrick's Cathedral**

Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

**Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 1:00p.m.**

To commemorate the Centenary Anniversary

of the

**1916 Rising**

*and immediately after*

In Procession, down 51<sup>st</sup> Street to the Plaza, 345 Park Avenue

at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York

*for a reading of*

**the Proclamation of**

the

**Irish Republic**



# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS® IN AMERICA

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## New California Division



Our California Hibernians had a nice turnout of Orange County and Long Beach brothers for their State Board meeting and Christmas party this year. State President Daniel McGowan held a productive meeting and afterwards the newest Division in California, the Ventura Division, was sworn in. Photo by Paul Montgomery Mundial.

## 2020 IS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER!

If your state or local area is actively considering hosting  
The 2020 AOH-LAOH National Convention

Then...

You must contact AOH National President Brendan Moore  
(brendanaoh@yahoo.com)

**NO LATER THAN MARCH 1st, 2016**

July 2016 AOH/LAOH National Convention

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For  
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**'FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER'**

## The National HIBERNIAN Digest



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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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## president's message

by Brendan Moore

### On Moving Forward

#### 2020 National Convention. (That's right! It's not a misprint!)

Please be aware that if your state or local area is actively considering hosting the 2020 AOH-LAOH National Convention I need to hear from you BY EMAIL (brendanaoh@yahoo.com) as soon as possible, but certainly no later than March 1st, 2016. Gone are the days when our convention delegates were expected to vote on competing future convention sites based on a five-minute presentation. We now look to secure a site four years in advance so as to lock in both favorable rates and acceptable dates. Therefore, we need to convey to interested local planning committees what our essential requirements are in terms of room pricing, number of rooms, meeting and function needs, etc. When such information is studied and deemed acceptable on our end, we do a preliminary inspection. To date, one state has already furnished its preliminary overview. If you plan to be in contention for 2020 let me know now. The 2016 delegates in Atlantic City will be voting on a 2020 site.

#### Centenary of the Easter Rising.

National Vice President Jim McKay is moving ahead with planning for this momentous occasion and has already provided the essentials in the previous issue of the Digest. What Jim and his 2016 Committee have created is a New York City event that is a joint AOH-LAOH project in partnership with the Irish Government's New York Consul General, Barbara Jones. Please plan to be in attendance at this once-in-a-lifetime event if at all possible.

#### 2016 National Convention.

Yes, as hard to believe as it is, Atlantic City is getting closer and closer. Essential information has already been provided and the New Jersey AOH-LAOH Committee is committed to providing a convention that is uniquely productive and enjoyable. Please realize that as we move along, much of our planning for space and catering starts to depend more and more on the numbers of room reservations and event packages that we are seeing. Please do yourself and us a favor: take care of room and package reservations immediately.

#### Email Addresses Needed.

In the November-December edition of the Digest I mentioned that there are times when we need to quickly be in direct touch with our Hibernian membership. Important issues may arise at any time demanding immediate action on the part of the AOH, or on occasion it might be beneficial that all our Brothers be made aware of some internal matter. I want to mention, again, that National Secretary Jere Cole and National Treasurer Danny O'Connell are working together to develop a complete list of AOH email addresses. Please assist by providing yours, and I simply ask that this request (1) be made known at your next division meeting and (2) be published in your division newsletters. Contact information can be forwarded to AOH.FORMS@AOH.COM. Please provide the following: (1) your full name; (2) your complete membership number as it appears on your Membership Card; and (3) your email address.

#### Northern Ireland's "Fresh Start."

That is the title attached to the latest agreement to avert a collapse of the power-sharing government in the Six Counties. There are many of us who definitely remain hopeful, without necessarily feeling convinced. The Stormont House Agreement clearly provides for a truth-recovery process to be enacted and, in fact, guarantees that such will occur.

Therefore, it remains both troubling and counterproductive that Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers, continues to act as though she has been granted a special veto power over this aspect of what has been agreed. Her continued reckless attempts to shroud the truth of her government's complicity in the murders of so many non-combatants can only frustrate efforts to establish a positive atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation.

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## vice president's report

by Jim McKay

Just when our Brothers in the Northeast thought that winter decided not to come this year, the big chill finally descended, reminding them that January means "January." I just hope spring doesn't forget when it's time to make its entrance.

By the time you read this article, the ballots for our John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal will have been disseminated to our Constitutional electors for their consideration and vote. The results will be published not in this issue but the following Hibernian Digest. As you know, this very prestigious award will be presented at our upcoming National Convention in Atlantic City on Thursday, July 14, 2016.

Our annual Label Program is in full swing and as usual, our members have been donating generously. The Label Program gives us an opportunity to raise funds for the many charity projects of our Order.

As 2016 begins, we also remember that this is the Centenary Anniversary of the Rising of 1916 in Ireland. Our State Presidents have received on a monthly basis a history of the Rebellion from 1914 to Easter week of 1916. A great deal of thanks must be given to our National Historian, Michael McCormack, whose excerpts from "Road to Rebellion" will appear in the Centenary Album that you all have been hearing so much about for these past six months. This album is still available and will be a collector's item that every Division and Order member will want to have to show their grandchildren in years to come.

All Divisions are reminded that Saturday, April 23, 2016, has been designated as our Centenary Commemoration Day. On that day, all Divisions are asked to conduct a special gathering with a meeting or Mass where the Proclamation of the Irish Republic can be read, so that all of our members will appreciate the significance of that day and year in Irish history.

Because St. Patrick's Cathedral is the epicenter of Irish Catholicism in the United States, a Mass of Thanksgiving and Commemoration has been planned there on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at 1 p.m. with a procession immediately following down 51st Street to the Plaza at 345 Park Avenue. All Mass attendees and Irish Pipe Bands are invited to join in the procession. All procession participants will gather on the Plaza in front of the building of the Consul General of Ireland's office for a reading of the Irish Proclamation. All members of our Order are invited to attend this function and be a part of history.

Our 98th Biennial Convention will take place in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from this July 11 thru the 14th, 2016. The National Convention Committee, headed up by National Director Sean Pender, has put together a spectacular program at the luxurious Harrah's Hotel and Casino in the heart of the city. All pertinent information for attending the convention can be found in this Hibernian Digest. I hope you will start making your reservations early as obviously this is going to be a very popular venue for our Order.

I hope that all my Brothers have a meaningful and holy St. Patrick's Day and never forget that we are Hibernians every day of the year.

God Bless.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### 2015 PER CAPITA

As all financial secretaries should know, per capita is due to the national office by February 15, 2016. Remember, you are paying per capita for 2015. We are always one year behind. Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2015. It is the dues that you collected during the 2015 calendar year. Divisions who do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in the National Convention this summer.

Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members.

Divisions that were established in 2015 also owe per capita. It is \$1.00 per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2015. Clergy, active military and national life members are exempt.

It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership numbers, especially Lines 11 and 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to clarify this.

On another note, the status counter on the cover sheet of the roster that were mailed in November should have said National Life Members, not Life Members. For National purposes, we are tracking the number of National Life Members in each Division. If you have Life members at the Division level that is not the same thing. Sorry for any confusion.

If you have received your 2016 cards and have not sent in additional changes, please be aware that we are processing the Form 40, but cards will not be issued until some time in February. We are receiving many rosters to update.



## treasurer's report

by Dan O'Connell

Brothers, with 2015 well underway every division should have paid the 2015 national and state per capita dues. If this is not paid, your division members are not in good standing and not eligible to participate in AOH functions, including the upcoming national convention. I recommend that each of you verify payment by asking during your next division meeting that your per capita dues have been paid. I also recommend that each Financial Secretary and Treasurer report to your membership when your per capita dues have been paid.

Your division collected 2015 dues throughout last year. The dues you are being assessed now are for 2016 and the national and state portion will be paid next year. It is critical that the per capita portion of your dues are restricted and only used to pay the per capita when due.

The 2015 per capita dues are based on your total division membership as of December 31, 2015, less your clergy, national life members and active duty military members. The Form 11 worksheets are available on the AOH webpage as fillable PDF. The preferred method is to fill out the form electronically, print, and send with your checks. You may print and fill out by hand, but you must print neatly.

EIN Numbers – AOH National Group Federal Tax Exemption: Please include your Division (county or state) EIN number on all Forms 11's and 12's. This is the only way to include your division (county or state) in the National Group Federal Tax exemption. State and County Boards should have submitted an updated Form 12. No money is due with the Form 12, however, this is the only way to include your State or County Board in the National Group Federal Tax exemption.

The AOH is a 501C8 organization, exempt from paying Federal Income Tax. Donations to the AOH are not tax deductible.

### RECRUIT AND RETAIN MEMBERS!

With the Green Season upon us and the Centenary Celebration well under way there is no better time for you to recruit a new member. I am asking each member to bring in one new member to your division now. Find a family member, find a friend, find someone from your parish, the important thing is for every member of the AOH to bring in one new member now.

Once you bring in a new member it is also important for you to get the member involved and retain his membership. The first step in recruiting is installation. The second step of recruiting is renewal. Your recruitment of a minimum of one new member a year will guarantee the success of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America for generations to come.

Recruitment must be discussed at every meeting and included in every newsletter and solicited at every public function.

I wish each and every member a Happy St. Patrick's Day and hope to see as many members as possible at the National Convention in Atlantic City, July 11-14, 2016. Register for the convention and book your room today! Convention links can be found on WWW.AOH.COM.

## Deadline for March-April issue

All articles and photos are due no later than  
**MARCH 1, 2016**



## Director's report

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Thank you to everyone who has responded and supported the Project St. Patrick Appeal, your response has been excellent. The primary business of PSP is to raise funds for scholarships awarded to seminarians and religious. We are currently in the process of reviewing and issuing this year's grants. We are asking every Division, County and State to continue with your participation. Your donations and use of the St. Patrick cards help to insure the success of PSP and demonstrate our commitment to our Church. Remember, Project St. Patrick is a year-round program.

Each donation of \$500 or more creates a name recognition scholarship in the name of your Division, Chaplain or anyone you believe is worthy of such recognition. The donating Division, County or State will receive a certificate recognizing this honor. Donations of \$500 or more in memory of a deceased individual will also come with a certificate in memory of the honoree. These certificates will serve as a reminder of the great works that our members have done during their lifetime of dedication.

Make Project St. Patrick a priority. Set a goal to support vocations.

Name recognition scholarships are available for donations of \$500 or more. These may be turned in as a PSP donation at any time.

Please continue to request and use the St. Patrick Prayer/Mass cards.

Please keep spreading the information to your membership at your meetings on all levels. Again, your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. If more St. Patrick Prayer/Mass cards are needed or if you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me. If by e-mail, simply type PSP into the subject line.



## chaplain's report

by Father Tom O'Donnell

### Easter 1916-2016

In 2016 we celebrate Easter Sunday, the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, on March 27. This date is one of the earliest times to celebrate Easter Sunday in our yearly calendar. This year Easter Sunday falls only 17 days after St. Patrick's Day.

When, as Irish Americans, we celebrate Easter Sunday in 2016, our thoughts may go back 100 years to the Easter Rising of 1916. On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, the Proclamation of Irish Independence was read by Padraig Pearse outside the General Post Office Building in Dublin. This rebellion can be judged as being a significant stepping-stone in the eventual creation of the Irish Republic. Although the Dublin rebellion was suppressed by reinforcements of British troops, a fire for independence was ignited that will never be extinguished until the whole country of Ireland is free and independent of British rule. These brave Irish men and women began the fight for political and religious freedom. Marked with the Sign of the Cross, they became Freedom Fighters and Defenders of the Faith. Sixteen of the brave Freedom Fighters became Irish martyrs as they were executed within two weeks of the Easter Rising.

The Easter Rebellion may have started in Dublin, but the fervor for freedom soon spread to all of the Emerald Isle. In the West, the Galway Volunteers began to carry on the fight for freedom. Among those volunteers was my father, young Bartley O'Donnell, who was a few months shy of 16-years-old when the rebellion began. Although too young to bear arms, Bartley became a runner and messenger, going behind the enemy lines and helping to keep the communication flowing between the Irish commanders and the troops. However, Bartley and his brother, Tom, were captured by the Black and Tans and thrown into prison in the Galway jail. Bartley, Tom and the other imprisoned Galway Volunteers dug a tunnel trying to escape. However, as they were crawling through the tunnel to freedom, the walls collapsed and they were recaptured. After being imprisoned for over six months, Bartley and Tom were released.

In 1964, I was privileged to take a trip back to Ireland with my Mom and Dad. This was Bartley and Nellie's first and only trip back to their homeland. We visited Galway and the beautiful St Nicholas Cathedral. As we prayed together in the Cathedral, Dad informed me that this beautiful Cathedral was built directly over the site of the Galway jail where he was a prisoner. The Galway Volunteers who were signed with the Cross fought to be free to practice their faith. "With this sign, thou shall conquer." The Cross in the Cathedral rose from the ashes of the Galway jail.

I am proud to be the son of a Prisoner of War, a Defender of Freedom and Defender of the Faith. Perhaps it was providential that the symbol on the O'Donnell family crest is the Cross with the motto "With this Sign, Thou Shall Conquer."

**Vote for Sean Pender for National Treasurer in Atlantic City 2016**

**National Freedom for All Ireland Chairman 2006-2014; NJ AOH President 2011 -2015  
National AOH Director 2014-2016; National Co-Organizer and 2016 National  
Convention Chair, and Candidate for National AOH Treasurer in Atlantic City 2016**



**Working hard so that those  
that we follow would be  
proud of what we do.....**

Eternal Rest Jim McLoughlin 1927 – 2013 and John Pender 1921 – 2006



**...and so that those that follow us  
will want to do the same**

**"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in." "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." — Martin Luther King, Jr**



## Director's Report

by Greg Sean Canning  
FFAI Co-Chairman

### The Forgotten Irish Slave Trade

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, I would like to focus this year on some historical events that took place in Ireland that involved atrocities that were enacted against the Irish people. One such atrocity is the often forgotten Irish Slave Trade that existed from the early 16th century to the 19th century.

At the beginning of the reign of James 1, the new British monarch encouraged the sale of Irish as slaves to the New World colonies in North America, South America and the Caribbean. This encouragement was an attempt to further reduce the native population of Ireland since the genocide and banishment policies of Elizabeth failed to significantly achieve that goal.

The first recorded sale of Irish slaves was to a settlement along the Amazon in South America in 1612. However, before that there were most probably a number of unofficial arrangements. Since the Irish were considered of no importance, details of how they were dealt with were not officially recorded.

The official beginning of the Irish Slave Trade began when James 1 issued the Proclamation of 1625, which required that Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. With this proclamation, King James sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. The official records of Irish slaves continued well into the 18th Century.

By the mid 1600s, the Irish became the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. In 1637, a census showed that 69 percent of the inhabitants of Montserrat in the West Indies were Irish slaves. Since the Irish were not well suited to working in the heat, many became victims of heat exhaustion and even death. To deal with this problem, African slaves had to be bought.

To reduce the population in Ireland and to meet the demand for more slaves in the New World, ordinary Irish men and women would either be kidnapped or accused of some petty crime if there weren't enough prisoners to be had. According to John Martin of the Montreal-based Center for Research and Globalization, this made the Irish the preferred "livestock" for English slave traders for 200 years. Because of this policy, the majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white.

Due to the failed rebellion of 1641, over 500,000 Irish were killed and another 300,000 were sold as slaves between 1641 and 1652. Because of this, Ireland's population fell from 1,500,000 to 600,000 in one decade. Since the British did not allow Irish men to take their wives and children with them across the Atlantic, many women and children became homeless. Britain's solution was to round them up and auction them off as well.

Unfortunately for the Irish, the policies of James 1 continued under Charles 1 and the dreaded Oliver Cromwell. In the 1650s, thousands more were killed and many more sold into slavery. This began when Cromwell instigated the ethnic cleansing of Ireland in 1652. He demanded that all Irish people were to resettle west of the Shannon, in arid, uninhabitable land, or be transported to the West Indies. The Irish refused to relocate peacefully, for the most part, since they couldn't survive if they did.

According to Martin's research, over 100,000 Irish Catholic children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England during the 1650s. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Cromwell ordered that 2,000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers. Unbelievably, but truly, from 1651 to 1660 there were more Irish slaves in America than the entire non-slave population of the colonies.

The following historical records speak for themselves:

A law, published in 1657, read:

"Those who fail to transplant themselves into Connaught (Ireland's Western Province) or (County) Clare within six months... Shall be attained of high treason... Are to be sent into America or some other parts beyond the seas..." (John P. Prendergast, *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*, Dublin, ?, 1865)

Any who attempted to return would "suffer the pains of death as felons by virtue of this act, without benefit of Clergy." (John P. Prendergast, *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*, Dublin, ?, 1865)

Soldiers were encouraged to kill any Irish who refused to move; such actions not considered a crime. However, since the slave trade was so profitable, it was far more lucrative to round them up and sell them as slaves. Gangs were organized to fill quotas by capturing whoever came across their path; they were so industrious that they accidentally captured a number of French and English and several thousand Scots in the process. While most were sold to the sugar planters in Barbados, Jamaica and throughout the West Indies, some writers assert that at least 20,000 were sold to the American colonies.

In 1742, a document entitled Thurlow's State Papers, published in London, opined that: "... It was a measure beneficial to Ireland, which was thus relieved of a population that might trouble the planters; it was a benefit to the people removed, which might thus be made English and Christians ... a great benefit to the West India sugar planters, who desired men and boys for their bondsmen, and the women and Irish girls... To solace them." (Prendergast, *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*.)

Not all slaves made it to the New World. According to written record, in at least one incident 132 slaves, men, women, and children, were dumped overboard to drown because ships' supplies were running low. They were drowned because the insurance would pay for an "accident," but not if the slaves were allowed to starve. Typical death rates on the ships were from 37 to 50 percent.

It should also be noted that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, March and Irish American Heritage Month will soon be upon us; are you and your division ready? Have you had Irish American Heritage Month proclaimed in your state, and have you made sure that it was covered in your local media? Is your Website and/or Facebook page up to date, and during the month of March will you have a banner prominently displayed that "March is Irish American Heritage Month"? Have you considered having your Division historian submit an article to your local newspaper detailing the important contributions Irish Americans have, and, more importantly, continue to make to our Nation and specifically your community? Such an article may be seen as a refreshing change to the usual St. Patrick's media coverage of people wearing face paint and green and white "cat in the hat" head ware. To steal the phrase, let's this March remind the broader community for "the reason for the [St. Patrick's Day] season." Let us also not forget that March is when many Irish Americans remember their Heritage and want to connect with it; what an opportunity to both celebrate our Heritage and to connect and inspire new members.

One seemingly pedantic, but important point: please make sure to refer to March as "Irish American Heritage Month," not "Irish American History Month." History is something that occurred in the past; Heritage is a legacy that still inspires, influences and impacts us today. In that spirit, let us make a special effort to pass on that Heritage to the young people in our lives. They are constantly seeing other heritages promoted while ours is demeaned or perhaps, worse, not even acknowledged. Our heritage has experienced many threats; but one wonders if Edmund Burke's observation on the penal laws that they were "a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance, as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment and degradation of a people ... as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man," would not equally apply to the selective interpretation of diversity that passes for political correctness in our society. Let's send a copy of the national and local Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation to every school in our community and ask them to accord the same respect and coverage to the contributions of Irish Americans that they accord other heritages. Let us embrace our role in the true Celtic tradition to pass on personally our great and historic and unique culture to the next generation through talking and engaging with them and sharing the wonderful gift that is our heritage.

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Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts. Irish slaves would endure such treatment as having hands and feet set on fire or strung up and beaten for small infractions.

Richard Ligon, who witnessed these things first-hand and recorded them in a history of Barbados he published in 1657, stated:

"Truly, I have seen cruelty there done to servants as I did not think one Christian could have done to another." (Richard Ligon, *A True and Exact History of Barbadoes*, London, Cass, 1657, reprinted 1976)

According to Sean O'Callahan, in "To Hell or Barbados," Irish men and women were inspected like cattle there, just as the Africans were. In addition, Irish slaves, who were harder to distinguish from their owners since they shared the same skin color, were branded with the owner's initials, the women on the forearm and the men on the buttocks. O'Callahan goes on to say that the women were not only sold to the planters as sexual slaves but were often sold to local brothels as well. He states that the black or mulatto overseers also often forced the women to strip while working in the fields and often used them sexually as well. (Sean O'Callaghan, *To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland*, (Dingle, Ireland: Brandon, 2001.)

In the 18th century, England continued to ship tens of thousands of Irish slaves for more than a century. Records state that after the 1798 Irish Rebellion, thousands of Irish slaves were sold to both American and Australian colonies. The transportation of Irish slaves did not officially end until 1839. when a new British law ended this policy of genocide.

If anyone, black or white, believes that slavery was only an African experience, then they've got it completely wrong.

Irish slavery is a subject worth remembering, not erased from our memories.

Why are our public and even private schools not teaching these facts? Why is this history not mentioned in the history books? Why is this topic so seldom if at all discussed?

We must not allow their story to be one that their English pirates intended: To (unlike the African book) have the Irish story utterly and completely disappear as if it never happened.

None of the Irish victims ever made it back to their homeland to describe their ordeal. These are the lost slaves; the ones that time and biased history books conveniently forgot.



## veterans affairs

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

The New Year is upon us. Things are changing all around us. But some things do not change, including the continuing criticism of the beleaguered Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA has earned its fair share of criticism of the past couple of years, so in a way it is kind of understandable that there are many calling for it to be shut down, and for all VA medical services to be privatized. In my opinion, that would be wrong. It is well documented that veterans suffer post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, Agent-Orange-related illnesses and other wounds of war in far greater percentages than the general population at large. The VA, despite its well-documented problems, still provides the best possible care for these unique health issues. It is also recognized that in some instances veterans should be able to seek treatment at government expense at a facility outside the VA. If, for example, the VA facility is back-logged, too distant, or unable to provide a particular treatment, the vet should be able to be treated at government expense. The problem here, though, is that the relatively new "Choice" program has already taken hits from Congress. Over \$3 billion has been cut from the Choice program to fund other VA needs. We need to continue to remind our elected representatives that our current military personnel and our veterans fought for, and continue to fight for our freedom, and deserve the very best health care possible.

I have commented in the past on the relationship between military service and vocations. Well, the good news continues. Father Aidan Logan, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), pointed out that at a time when less than one percent of the nation's population serves in the Armed Forces, in 2015, over 16 percent of those ordained came from military families, and 6 percent have served on active duty. Father Logan hopes that this information will motivate dioceses and religious orders to be more involved in the co-sponsored seminarian program and to release priests for service as military chaplains. We continue to have a drastic shortage of Catholic chaplains in all branches of the military.

Finally, please remember to thank a Veteran or an active duty Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman or Coast Guardsman. They are a constant reminder that our cherished freedom is not free.



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## political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, 2016 is an important year for us both as Americans citizens and individuals with a strong Irish Heritage. In addition to electing a new president, 2016 will also see a third of the United States Senate elected, as well as elections for all members of the House of Representatives and numerous Governorships. It is our duty as Citizens and Hibernians to educate ourselves on the positions of all candidates and to participate in our government; too many brave men and women wear the green on their graves in defense of that right that too many Americans take for granted and do not exercise.

It must be clearly stated that as a 501C3 organization we cannot engage in any activity that can be construed as advocacy for a particular candidate or party. We must be very aware of this fact and watch specifically what is posted on our AOH web and Facebook pages and traditional newsletters. That, however, does not mean that as citizens we cannot ask candidates seeking our vote what their position is on matters of concern. Where do they stand on a reunified Ireland? On Right to Life? The MacBride Principles? On the "Golden Door" so open to many other nationalities being unjustly shut to Irish Immigrants for 50 years? Let us be frank, the time when candidates are most attentive is when they need your vote; now is the time to get their attention. Let it not be said that they never took action on any of the above causes because "no one ever asked." Let us take this opportunity to remind the politicians that Irish America is still there and is still active; that we are as Irish on November 8th as we are on March 17th and they should be prepared to work as hard for this constituency as they do for others, who have sadly have been much more vocal recently than we have.

We must also, Brothers, continue to protect the MacBride Principles where adopted and promote them where they have yet to be enacted. If you reside in a state where the MacBride Principles have been adopted there is likely a provision that a yearly report is made on MacBride compliance. Request a copy of that report! Multiple requests for the compliance report is a very easy and effective way to show that people are still interested in the MacBride Principles and will hold their state officials accountable. Do not be put off by the absurd argument that MacBride is no longer needed because "things are quiet now"; do we want to wait until trouble breaks out again? There are many reasons to be concerned, a newly elect DUP first minister who has made comments more in keeping with the Northern Ireland of the 1970's than the 21st century, the recent "Fresh Start" political deal between Stormont, the UK and Irish governments contains another "Failed Start" to deal with the legacy issues of collusion and justice for victims of the troubles. A "Brexit," Britain's threat to leave the European Union, would have the effect of a re-imposition of a hard border between the Six Counties of the North and the 26 of the Republic and would mean that Britain would no longer be party to much of the EU human rights legislation that they now erroneously claim make MacBride redundant.

The basic principle of fairness encapsulated in MacBride have no "expiration date," justice never goes "out of style." MacBride has been a guardian of the peace; to say it is no longer needed because "things are quiet" is absurd as saying we no longer need policeman in a community because crime is down. Let us continue to push for MacBride and look long and hard at the motives of any politician who seek to do away with it.



## pro-life

by Edward J. Wallace  
Chairman

### National Right to Life: What is it? Who is it? Why is it?

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the nation's oldest & largest pro-life group, represents 50 state affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters.

"The NRLC unequivocally condemns unlawful activities and acts of violence regardless of motivation. The pro-life movement works to protect the right to life and increase respect for human life. The unlawful use of violence is directly contrary to that goal." (Carol Tobias, Pres.)

The National Right to Life Committee has always been involved in peaceful, legal activities to protect human lives threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. NRLC has and pledges to continue to oppose any form of violence to fight the violence of abortion. NRLC has had a policy of forbidding violence or illegal activity by its staff, directors, officers, affiliated state organizations and chapters. NRLC'S sole purpose is to protect innocent human life.

NRLC pledges to continue to work through educational and legislative activities to ensure the right to life for unborn children, people with disabilities and the elderly. NRLC will continue to work for peaceful solutions to aid mothers and their unborn children. These solutions involve helping women and their children and do not involve violence against anyone. The National Right to Life Committee supports any state and/or federal legislation that would help reach their goals.

How can Hibernians help? Go online to: [NRLC State Affiliates.com](http://NRLCStateAffiliates.com)  
Get involved in your state Right to Life Committee.

### Prayer For Life

*God our Creator, We give thanks to you, who alone has the power to impart the breath of life as you formed each of us in our mother's womb. Grant, we pray, that we whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Protect all life. Change the hearts and minds of those who would bring harm to the unborn. Give us strength to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.*



## freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Co-Chairman

Brothers, we all strive for a United Ireland. It is in our blood. Recently, a couple of AOH brothers reminded me of Article 3 of the National AOH Preamble, which states that we are, "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." They fear that as Hibernians we were losing our outlook in the struggle for a United Ireland.

I reminded them that we must always remember we can only do so much from this side of the pond by peaceful means. We are up against a British system that is determined to hold on to the six counties in the North of Ireland as long as the voters in that region want the link. Supporting the Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal with donations for the Irish organizations that apply annually to the AOH/LAOH for financial aid is our major project and proves that we care and appreciate their on-going struggles.

I was born and brought up on the Falls Road in West Belfast. I witnessed abuses by RUC and British soldiers. I witnessed Internment episodes, Diplock Court injustices, and visits to relatives and friends in Crumlin Road Prison and Long Kesh. I lost many close friends.

No one wants a United Ireland more than I do.

I visit Ireland, North and South, annually and I have seen many culture changes. The possibility of a United Ireland is not on the near horizon. Let me share with you some of the changes I have witnessed on those trips back to the Island of my birth, since the Good Friday Agreement was implemented in April 1998.

Catholic education is proving superior by the number of Catholic children's success rate with job applications and entrance to universities in the so-called British Isles.

In my day there were maybe 15 percent of Catholic students registered in Queens University, Belfast. In 2011 the attendance at N.I. Universities was approximately two-thirds Catholic. That figure is currently estimated to be even higher.

The majority of the teaching staff at Queens University is Catholic.

Belfast non-Catholic families are sending their children by train to Coleraine University, 65 miles away. (Remember Coleraine U. was originally earmarked for Derry but because of the Catholic majority in Derry, the Unionists at Stormont decided to move it to Coleraine, a huge Protestant area.)

Employment in the Protestant areas like the Shankill Road and Sandy Row is at an all-time low and the loyalist communities are not happy.

Due to the old adage from the Unionists, "Every Protestant will have a job," Protestants spurned a good education because they were guaranteed a job. Not anymore, not since the GFA.

Catholics worked their tails off because they knew that with a good education they could get jobs in and out of Ireland. That has come to be true.

Nationalist ex-prisoners have organizations like Green Cross, the Conway Mills Center, Relatives for Justice, all operating to help with job re-training programs and health assistance for those who were tortured and abused whilst guests of her majesty's loyalist citizens, i.e., RUC, BRITISH ARMY, MI5, MI6, UDA, UVF, Stormont Government (UUP). Not forgetting assistance from the Garda. With prison or internment on their resume it is still difficult for them to get work outside of nationalist areas.

BBC 5 or Radio Ulster has a large number of Gaelic speaking programs, which are aired daily. It is hilarious to hear the loyalist uproar to have the Irish language spoken and sung on their BBC station.

An armed rising against the British will not succeed.

Helping Sinn Fein in their political initiatives in the north and south of Ireland is currently the best strategy for the AOH/LAOH in America to help achieve our blessed United Ireland without a protestant backlash. Loyalists may not like it but if it is done at the ballot box, I think the majority will comply peacefully. Plus the Brits will have to show their support to the world.

Whilst I was visiting the Relatives For Justice offices to present the FFAI AOH/LAOH check donation, I was aware of an event that just blew my mind. A member of East Belfast UDA had visited their office. He came hat in hand to the RFJ seeking help. The UDA ex-prisoners support system was a shambles compared to that of nationalist assistance programs. The loyalists had no idea how to organize a system for their members to apply for financial aid, for government grants, how to implement job re-training programs, offering medical and psychiatric help for mentally sick members etc. As a result a couple of the RFJ management team visited UDA offices and lectured their managers on the RFJ experiences and rehab programs. Who would ever have thought that such a cross-community event of this caliber would ever have taken place? Loyalists are feeling the changes. They are no longer the privileged ones in the province. The wealthy loyalist ascendancy is still there but the working class that could count on jobs have lost their edge.

What I have itemized above is missing the mood of the people of Ireland about a United Ireland. Please read the report from the Irish Times newspaper published 5th November 2015 and share the contents with your AOH brothers. I think you will be surprised. It will make you stop and think as to how we achieve a United Ireland in our lifetime. Yes, 2016 will bring out the sentiment of a unified island. Achieving it by the ballot box will be tough. If there is a referendum it will not be by an all Ireland vote. The Brits will see to that. A link to the article:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/why-a-united-ireland-will-not-happen-anytime-soon-1.2420460>

A North of Ireland only vote will not be a success for us at this moment. As long as the Republic's economy is shaky and their unemployment does not pick up (there is a huge number of young Irish leaving Ireland for jobs in England, Europe, Canada and Australia), the people in the North will stick to the British financial support system. Many Catholics are content with their reversal of fortunes.



## Immigration

by Dan Dennehy  
Chairman

### 2016 is a great year to be a Hibernian!

One hundred years ago, Irish American members of the Hibernian Rifles, the most senior organization present, marched into the GPO and delivered a devastating and effective blow to centuries of oppression. Some of Hibernian Rifles were immigrants returning with a love and appreciation for the ideals of the United States, and others were 2nd and 3rd generation Americans. As citizens of the USA, they fought so that Ireland may have independence and liberty in similar fashion to what there were born to. This year, we, the successors of those Hibernians, will honor and commemorate their memory.

Nationally, we will gather to celebrate the 1916 Easter Rising Centenary in New York City at St. Patrick's Cathedral and at Ireland's Consulate. Each Division also has the unique and important opportunity to celebrate with their local legislators, church leaders, families and friends and read the Proclamation, in which only one other country, America, is named for its significant influence on Ireland, the seven signatories and its destiny.

It is time for the leaders of Ireland and the USA today to honor the Centenary and our two nations by ending the 50-year adverse effects of U.S. Immigration Law. I ask each one of you to consider that for half of the existence of an Irish Nation, it's development has been hindered by this law's removal of a tiny quota — 18,000 annually, a drop in the bucket! — of U.S. visas for Irish Citizens. We Hibernians will stand up once again to aid Ireland, working with the great national network of Irish immigration advocates like our good friend and recent U.S. citizen, Billy Lawless from Chicago via Galway. Across the country we seek a true recognition of Ireland's Special Relationship with the United States of America and end the 50 years of visa denial to Irish men and Irish women and remove Irish people from an undocumented limbo. Contact me to see how you can help!

You can help by supporting our Irish Immigration Centers. They serve as a life preserver for the neediest and a trusted advisor to all others. If you have any questions about immigration issues, please visit Emerald Isle Immigration Center at [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org) or to find a center close to home visit Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers at [www.ciic-us.org](http://www.ciic-us.org)

Once again, New York County Division 7 will host the fun, exciting, musical and scenic Celtic Cruise for the Emerald Isle Immigration Center around NY's skyline, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on June 8, 2016 Info at [www.celticcharity.com](http://www.celticcharity.com) or 212.717-9955.

To commemorate 1916 Centenary and benefit the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center in San Francisco, a concert will be held in San Francisco on April 22, 2016. IRELAND'S POET-PATRIOTS, traces Irish history from 1803 to 1916 through poems, speeches and writings by 10 Irish authors, from Robert Emmet and O'Donovan Rossa to Yeats and Connolly and Pearse and others, set to music in both Irish Trad and original "Hiberno-European" musical styles. The concert celebrates Irish culture with the goal of educating American audiences about Ireland's long struggle for freedom and independence. One of the highlights of the evening is the song "A Fenian Ballad," written by Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa about his family's personal tragedies during An Gorta Mór. This concert will also be performed in Washington, D.C., and Chicago later this year. Please visit website at [www.IrelandsPoetPatriots](http://www.IrelandsPoetPatriots) for more information.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the April 23rd National Hibernian 2016 Easter Rising Commemorations in NYC and in July at our National Convention in Atlantic City, where I will stand as a candidate for National Director and am hopeful for your support.



The AOH/LAOH in America is the biggest support organization for sending aid to Ireland and vocally supporting a UNITED IRELAND. Presently we are concentrating on reminding the world about the British government's sins during the recent 'troubles.' We are still fighting for an official inquiry into the Pat Finucane murder. I knew Pat Finucane back in Belfast; He was a prince of a guy, smart, dedicated with a great personality.

As for the McBride Principals, we realize that the Brits hated them when they had such a huge successful implementation in the USA. I was a member of the McBride Principals team in Michigan. When we visited the Republican Governor's office in Lansing, he had a huge picture of Margaret Thatcher on the wall behind his desk. We had a difficult time with him, but after a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit, my AOH division came up with a strategy that swayed the Governor to support the implementation. But that is another story.

The Brits are attempting to have that legislation revoked in America. The Florida repeal came as a huge surprise. We have already obtained a promise in Florida that it will be re-implemented. But we must be on our guard. Every state needs to be alerted to ensure that we have no more sneaky surprises. The AOH/LAOH does not have boards in every state. How do we wake up Irish folks in those states where there are no Hibernian or Noraid groups? Share your thoughts with me. The Annual Christmas Appeal checks are rolling in. Please keep the donations coming.

As new AOH officers are installed for 2016, I remind every State, County and Division board to appoint a FFAI chair. Send me the following contact information of your appointee — Name, Address, Phone and Email. My new email address is [gady9plow@aol.com](mailto:gady9plow@aol.com)



## anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, when you read this article we should be looking expectantly to the celebration of the feast of our Patron Saint on March 17th, the recognition of the innumerable contributions that Irish men and women have made to our great country during Irish American Heritage Month, and the upcoming centenary of the proclamation of the Irish Republic. This should be a special year of pride for all of us. Unfortunately, there are also signs that we can anticipate new insults to our heritage and culture born of ignorance and intolerance and driven by greed.

Two recent incidents should serve as a challenge to us as Irish Americans. Recently the national retailer Nordstroms released in the run up to Hanukkah a women's sweater with a menorah and the phrase "Chai Maintenance," a play on the phrase "High Maintenance" using the Hebrew letter Chai which is seen in Jewish culture as a symbol of luck and good fortune. There was an immediate outcry against this disrespectful pun and the sweater was pulled with a very public apology from the national retailer. Similarly, there was a backlash from artists nationwide when the firm Old Navy released a child's shirt with the phrase "Young Aspiring Artist President" and "Young Aspiring Artist Astronaut," which was seen as denigrating the aspiration of being an artist. Again, the shirt was pulled and Old Navy issued an apology.

With no disrespect (and actually I salute their dedication) to our Jewish brothers and sisters, nor to artists, this all appears rather tame to the items that we are asked to tolerate each March. Yet, they successfully spoke up and reaffirmed their beliefs and defended their honor. In all the news coverage I see no commentator telling these groups "It's just a joke" or that people should "lighten up." What does it say about our pride if we as Irish Americans let "Everyone loves a Drunk Irish Slut" slide while other groups successfully get "Young Aspiring Artist Astronaut" recalled and a public apology issued?

There will of course be those who will say, "You will never change anything." That is precisely what they told the men and women of 1916, yet they still went forward out of love for their history and their heritage. We should remember in this centennial year that before there was a political revolution, 1916 was born of a cultural revival; an awakening pride in who they were as Irish men and women and an appreciation of their history and heritage. Let us honor them by having a little of that revolutionary spirit this year in 2016 and rise up to take back our heritage from those who would defame and insult it. Please, when the call goes out this year to speak up against the defamation of our Heritage, remember your oath and take the 10 minutes to write an email or make a phone call to tell those that would stereotype and defame us that we are Irish, proud and will not tolerate those who defame our ancestors nor attempt to destroy the legacy for our children and grandchildren.

**Support Project St. Patrick**  
[aoh.com/project-st-patrick/](http://aoh.com/project-st-patrick/)

## It's McGinley No Holds Barred

On December 17, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma, announced that Ned McGinley, long-time head wrestling coach at King's College and past National President of the AOH, had been selected for induction into the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place April 24, 2016, in Hershey, Pa.

In 1968, McGinley started the wrestling program at King's College and is currently still at the helm where he has led the Monarchs wrestling team to 439 victories. The Monarchs began as a Division II team but joined the NCAA Division III ranks in 1980. Since then, McGinley has coached 45 College Division/Division III national tournament qualifiers; 18 NCAA Division III All-Americans; 20 Middle Atlantic Conference individual champions; five National Catholic Invitational Tournament winners; and 30 NCAA Division III Scholar All-Americans, while 13 of his wrestlers concluded undefeated dual-meet seasons. He also produced six wrestlers who reached the NCAA Division III national finals. McGinley has produced many top teams during his storied coaching career. His 1996-97 squad was 19-0-3 while the

2000-01 team finished with a 19-2-1 record. His best season came in 2001-02, when McGinley led the Monarchs to a school-record 24-2 mark and concluded the dual meet season ranked fourth nationally, King's highest national ranking ever.

The Monarchs also placed fourth in the first NWCA Division III National Duals. McGinley also spearheaded the effort which brought the 2002 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Tournament to Wachovia Arena (now Mohegan Sun Arena) in Wilkes-Barre where King's served as co-host of the NCAA tourney with the University of Scranton. In 2002-03, King's finished 11th in the Division III National Tournament and produced a pair of individual national runner-ups. A two-time Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) "Coach of the Year" and recipient of the NCAA "25-Year Coaching Award," Ned is a member of the Luzerne County sports Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association and NCAA Division III Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

As a wrestler himself, McGinley was a two-time district champion and regional runner-up at Kingston High School, where he graduated in 1961. He was the team captain his senior year and had a dual meet



## catholic action

by Edward J. Wallace  
Chairman

### 2016 - Year of Mercy

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has announced that beginning on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Church throughout the world will observe an Extraordinary Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy.

This year, which concludes on November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King, is only the third extraordinary jubilee in the Church's 100-year tradition of holding jubilees.

The Catholic Church's motto for the year is "Merciful like the Father," based on Luke 6:36: "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

In our observance of this Jubilee, Pope Francis has invited us to renew our outreach in service to those who are most in need of the mercy and healing of Our Lord. Specifically, this means an opportunity for living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

#### The fourteen Works of Mercy are:

##### Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Give food to the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Visit the sick
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

##### Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

#### Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Mercy

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.*

*Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.*

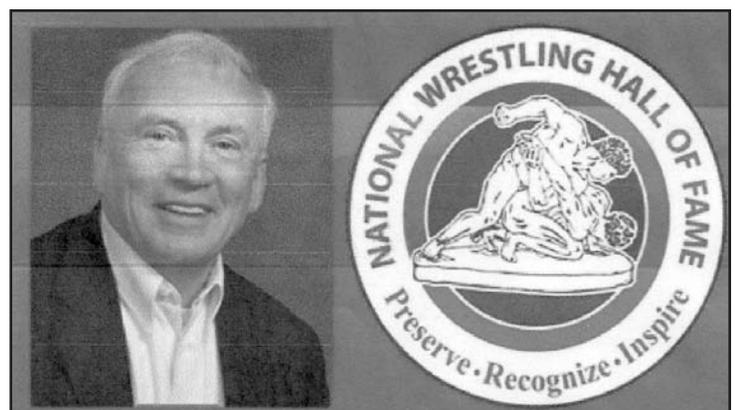
*Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"*

*You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.*

*You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

*Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.*



career record of 31-1-1. He graduated from Wilkes College in 1965 after earning 4 letters, posting a career record of 50-14. He was also a two-time medalist in the MAC and earned a Bronze medal in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (1963).

In addition to coaching wrestling at King's, McGinley serve as the college's Athletic Recruiting Coordinator since 1999-2000. "An honor like this towards the end of your career is one of those things that puts the icing on the cake," McGinley stated. "It is always good to be recognized by your peers in any way but especially within the wrestling community since it has been such a powerful and rewarding part of my life. I've had a lot of great moments and memories over the years but when you are in the national finals with an athlete you

recruited, coached, and built a relationship with, you certainly come to understand at that moment why it was all worthwhile. We had six national finalists here at King's so having had several national championship opportunities stands tall. When you really think about the fact we graduated over 90-percent of our wrestlers over the years, the most rewarding thing is to bring in young men and have them complete their academic career and graduate on time. And to see so many of them out there all over the country giving back in their own way is especially rewarding. An award like this makes you reflect back and think about all the positive things that have happened over the years. Its a very special feeling."

It is also a special feeling to have had Ned as a guiding officer over the many years of his service to the AOH.

# Massachusetts

By Bill Sullivan

**Division 14** in Watertown hosted the fall meeting of the Mass State Board on Nov. 14. At their November meeting, the State Board donated \$500 to the FFAI Christmas Appeal and unanimously endorsed AOH National Board Liaison to New England, Bill Sullivan's bid for National Director at the AOH National Convention in Atlantic City in July. The State Board is considering hosting the exemplification of the Major Degree in May 2016. Division 18 in Salem will host the mid -inter meeting of the State Board on January 30.

Many Divisions across Massachusetts have spent the last several months celebrating the Christmas holidays with a number of events and are now in the midst of planning many of their Saint Patrick's Day festivities, as well as a number of events to commemorate the Centennial of the Rising of 1916. Here is a sampling of activities from across the Bay State.

**Division 1, Holyoke:** In November, Paul Hogan was reelected to another two-year term as Division President. The Division's Christmas Party was held on December 7 and the Children's Christmas Party on December 13. Division members continue to volunteer monthly at Kate's Kitchen, a local food Pantry in Downtown Holyoke. A large committee is working on the Division's Centenary Celebration of the Easter Rising that will be held on Saturday, April 23.

**Division 8, Clinton:** President Barry Platt reports that Division 8 during December held an Ease the Freeze Fundraiser to help those in their community in need of help to pay their heating bills. A committee is busy at work planning the Division's annual Saint Patrick's Dinner, which will be held on March 12.

**Division 8, Lawrence:** Division 8 began 2016 with a \$1,000 donation to the AOH National Board's Annual Christmas Appeal. All monies donated were raised under the guidance of Division 8's Freedom for All Ireland Committee Chairman Bob Collins. The Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 9 was well attended and a huge success. The Division's 2016 Membership Drive will kick off at Sacred Hearts Parish in Bradford on the weekend of Jan. 23/24. A host of Saint Patrick's Day events are in the planning stages with special emphasis of the Rising of 1916.

**Division 18, Salem:** Division 18's installation of Officers was held on December 5 at the Division Home. Immediately following the installation the Division honored all Division Past Presidents and presented them with their Past President's Pin. A dinner and entertainment by Noel Henry's Irish Show Band followed.

And that is the way we see it in the Great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!



**WORCESTER HIBERNIANS CELEBRATE.** On Nov. 20, Division 36 in Worcester, Massachusetts, celebrated their 10th Anniversary at their Division Home, the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Centre. From left, AOH Massachusetts State President Paul Hogan, Paul Verdini, Division 36 President Stephen Belton, Worcester Hibernian Cultural Foundation President Kevin Carroll, and Worcester Hibernian Cultural Foundation Treasurer David Clark.



**Salem Division 18 Installation of Officers:** On Dec. 5, Division 18 in Salem, MA, held their Installation of Officers. From left: Bob Bash, Financial Secretary; Dan Dumond, Treasurer; Jerry Darcy, Recording Secretary; Tom Burke, Marshal; Gerry Martin, Sentinel; Kerry Griffin, Vice President; Charlie Sinclair, President and Peter Gifford - Standing Committee Chairman. State President Paul Hogan served as the installing officer.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Ní bhíonn gach duine folláin i gcónaí (slán mar a n-insítear é), lasmuigh de Neamh. *Everyone is not always healthy (knock wood), outside of Heaven.* Mar shampla, chuaigh mo chara Réamonn faoi scian cúpla mí ó shin. *For example, my friend R had an operation a couple of months ago.* Obráid na dtrí sheach-chonair a bhí air. *He had a triple bypass.* Ní raibh aon fhios aige go raibh fadhb aige lena chroí. *He didn't know he had a heart problem.* Ní bhíodh ach tuirse air ní ba mhó ná mar ba ionduíl, agus chuaigh sé chun scrúdú sláinte a fháil. *He had only been more tired than usual, and went for a check-up.* Nach méanar dó go ndearna sé amhlaidh! *Lucky for him he did!*

Bhí air fanacht san otharlann go ceann tamaill, agus ansin fanacht lena mhac le tamall eile chun a neart a fháil ar ais. *He had to stay in the hospital for a while, and then stay with his son a while until he got his strength back.* Ní fhaca mé é go ceann i bhfad mar gheall air a chuid trioblóidí seo. *I didn't see him for a long time because of this stuff.* Ach bhí sé ábalta teacht go dtí cóisir na Nollag a bhí againn ag Scoil Ghaeilge Ghearóid Tóibín, agus bhí sé ar a sheanléim arís, buíochas le Dia. *But he was able to come to the Christmas party we had at the Gerry Tobin Irish School, and he was back to normal, thank God.* Tá sé ina ochtóidí, ach tá sé fós óg ina chroí istigh. *He's in his eighties, but still young deep down inside.*

Tharla rud eile do chara mo mhná. *Something else happened to my wife's friend.* Is ar éigin a bhí sí ábalta anáil, mar bhí a lán sreabháin ina scamhóga. *She was barely able to breathe, because there was a lot of fluid in her lungs.* Tá ailse uirthi, faraor, agus níorbh é seo ach ceann dá cuid fadhbanna. *She has cancer, alas, and this was only one of her problems.* Ní cheaptar go bhfuil mórán ama fágtha aici, is oth liom a rá. *They don't think she has much time left, I'm sorry to say.* Ach ceapadh sin cúpla bliain ó shin, freisin. *But they thought that a couple of years ago, too.*

Bhí fadhb eile ag athair mo charad. *My friend's father had another problem.* Bíonn sé deacair dó anáil freisin, ach is fadhb a bhíonn ag dul in olcas lena scamhóga atá airsean. *It's always hard for him to breathe, but he has a degenerative lung problem.* Bíonn gá aige ocsaigin a úsáid, agus is deacair sin dó. *He has to use oxygen, and that's hard for him.* Tháinig otharcharr chun é a fháil agus chuaigh go dtí an t-ospidéal, agus coimeádadh ansin le tamall é. *An ambulance came and took him to the hospital, and they kept him there a while.* Ní bhíodh sé sásta éisteacht leis na dochtúirí i gcónaí, ach tá sé ag foghlaim go raibh an ceart acu. *He hadn't wanted to always listen to the doctors, but he's learning that they were right.* Is fuath leis an masc a úsáid, ach níl an dara rogha aige. *He hates to use the mask, but has no choice.*

Bráthair dár gcuid san AOH, Jimmy, atá san ospidéal freisin. *One of our AOH brothers, J, is also in the hospital.* Níl a áran na ag obair níos mó, agus tá gá aige le scagdhéalú. *His kidneys don't work any more, and he needs dialysis.* Beidh as seo amach, de réir dealraimh. *He will from now on, apparently.* Duine breá lán de spraoi is de bheocht is ea é, agus táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh sé slán as seo. *He's a great, fun, lively guy, and everyone hopes he'll come out of this OK.*

Ní mór dúinn bheith buíoch de Dhia as ár gcairde go léir, agus as ár sláinte féin, mar ní bhíonn a fhios againn riamh cad a tharlóidh. *We need to be grateful to God for all our friends, and our own health, because we never know what will happen.*

Tá dochtúirí is banaltraí is oibríthe leighis eile inár measc agus feiceann siad a leithéid seo gach lá. *There are doctors and nurses and other health workers amongst us who see this kind of stuff every day.* Ní bhíonn sé éasca daoine a chabhrú i gcónaí, agus uaireanta, ní bhíonn aon rud le déanamh a chabhróidh, ach amháin cairdeas agus compord a thabhairt don othar. *It's not always easy to help people, and sometimes there's nothing you can do to help, except to give the patient friendship and comfort.* Gach lá bíonn daoine san ospidéal. *Every day there are people in the hospital.* Gach lá, bíonn daoine tinn. *Every day, people are sick.* Guímíd ar roinnt díobh i gcónaí san Aifreann, ach is iomaí duine anaithnid a bhíonn i ngá lenár gcuid paidreacha. *We always pray for some of them at Mass, but there are lots of unknown people who need our prayers.* Ná déanaimis dearmad orthusan. *Let's not forget them.*

Le cúnaimh Dé, imeoidh na fadhbanna agus tiocfaidh leigheas ar gach duine atá tinn inár measc agus i measc ár gcairde gaol. *God willing, the problems will go away and healing will come for all of us and of our friends and family who are sick.* Bímis á gcabhrú pé dóigh is féidir linn, fiú mura mbímid ach ag guí orthu – mar ní rud beag sin in aon chor, pé rud a léitear sna nuachtáin... *Let's help them any way we can, even if we're just praying for them – because that's not a small thing at all, whatever the newspapers may say...*

Guímse sláinte agus folláine oraibh go léir sa bhliain úr seo, a chairde! *I wish all of you a health and wellness in this new year, friends!*



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**Thomas "Tom" Vincent Kelly Sr.**, 95, of Emerald Isle, NC, and Shinhopple, NY, passed away on Nov. 7, 2015, at Crystal Coast Hospice House, Newport, NC, while surrounded by family.



Tom was born in 1920 in Brooklyn and grew up there. He attended New York City public schools and graduated in 1938 from Samuel J. Tilden High School. Tom joined the U.S. Navy at the outbreak of World War II and spent the entirety of the war fighting in the Pacific. He served on the U.S.S. Bushnell (AS-15) and then the submarine, U.S.S. Billfish (SS-286). At the end of the war he was honorably discharged having obtained the rank of Fire Controlman 2d Class (SS).

Tom married Eleanor McBride and joined the NYPD in 1945. His career with the police ended when he retired as a Homicide Detective in 1974 and moved with his wife to Shinhopple. Tom did not stay retired for long and served as the area's Postmaster and General Store owner, a position that he would hold for 10 years before retiring again.

He and Eleanor moved to Hollywood, FL, in 1988 and remained there until her passing in 2004. The final chapter of Tom's life found him living in Emerald Isle, NC, where he could be closer to his children and their families.

Tom was known for committing fully to all endeavors that he undertook and this is reflected in all the organizations that he belonged to. He served as a member of Submarine Veterans of WWII, NYPD Honor Legion, NYPD Emerald Society, Holy Name Society, NYPD Detective's Endowment Association and the National Association of Postmasters. He was also an officer or member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 5 New York County, AOH Div. 1 Wake County NC, Irish American Society of Nassau Suffolk and Queens, County Longford Men's Association and The United Irish Counties Association.

Tom is survived by two daughters, Eleanor M. Simmons and husband Richard of Long Beach, NY, Moira L. Patterson and husband William of Syosset, NY; three sons, Dr. Thomas V. Kelly Jr. and wife Maryanne of Raleigh, NC, Owen M. Kelly of Emerald Isle, NC, and John M. Kelly and wife Connie of Franklin, NY and Emerald Isle, NC; grandchildren Alexandra Simmons, Heather Lu, Kathleen Kelly, Thomas V. Kelly III, Maureen Kelly, Liam Patterson, Niall Patterson, Samantha Coffin, Rachael Kelly, Sean Kelly, and Molly Kelly; Great Grandchildren, Sophia Rose Lu, William Alfred Lu, Ciara Rose Patterson, and Andrew Kelly; and one sister, Veronica Kelliher.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Eleanor Mary McBride Kelly; grandchild, Aileach Kelly; siblings, Helen Moore, Rita Corbett, Joseph Kelly, Aloysius Kelly, and James Kelly.

**John Michael "Mike" Tivnan**

AOH Life Member John Michael "Mike" Tivnan, Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, passed away at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia on October 31, 2015. Mike was the founding president of the Lieutenant Colonel John A. Dowd, USMC, AOH Division 1, Woodbridge, Virginia. Born on April 12, 1935, and raised in Salem, Massachusetts, Mike will be remembered as a genial, humble man who was justly proud of his Irish-Catholic heritage, the Boston Red Sox, and the United States Marine Corps.



A standout athlete in high school, Mike got his bachelor's degree from Columbia and then earned a commission in the Marines. He went on to earn the Gold Wings of a Naval Aviator and serve in combat in Southeast Asia. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for Valor, the Air Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mike's skill as a pilot was recognized by his assignment to Marine Helicopter Squadron One at Quantico, Virginia. During Mike's time with squadron he had the distinction of being assigned to fly President Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Marine One.

After retirement from the Marine Corps, Mike took up permanent residence in nearby Woodbridge, Virginia, and became a consultant to the Naval Air Systems Command. Many of his fellow parishioners at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Woodbridge were, like Mike, transplanted Irish-Americans from northeastern cities like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. A good number of them were also Marines, police officers, or federal law enforcement agents. Gathering them together, Mike organized the first Hibernian division in Prince William County and — fittingly given the composition of the membership — named it after an Irish-American posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic action in Vietnam. Thanks in no small part to the foothold established by Mike Tivnan, the Hibernian presence within Prince William County now includes three men's and two ladies' divisions.

One of Mike's many AOH-related initiatives was the establishment of the John F. Kane Scholarship Fund. Mike's vision — complemented by his wife Barbara's administrative talents — translated a bequest from the late Brother Jack Kane into an investment program that has endured for more than 15 years in providing scholarships to the children and grandchildren of AOH/LAOH members. Another of his favorite AOH activities was Irish road bowling. Despite the challenges imposed by father time, Mike enthusiastically embraced the sport and was instrumental in obtaining a large supply of "bowls" to equip the division to host tournaments.

He is survived by his wife Barbara and four children, Michael Edward (Diane), Kathleen Marie Brassell, Karen Jean Sweazea (Steve) and Brian Patrick Tivnan, as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mike's impact on the AOH in Virginia was recognized by the large delegation of state officers in attendance at his wake, and by the Hibernian sashes worn by all eight pallbearers during his Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Angels on November 6, 2015. In recognition of Mike's contributions to his Country, Corps and Order, among those AOH Brothers who had the honor of escorting his remains were a cross section of active and retired Marine officers, current division officers and past presidents. Following the Mass the AOH Pallbearers relinquished their duties to a Marine Corps Honor Guard for internment with full military honors at Quantico National Cemetery. Semper Fi and Godspeed, Brother Mike!

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**Maryland**

**By Tim Harvey**

November in Maryland brought about the Annual AOH-LAOH Memorial Mass as we came together to remember those members who have passed during the last year. The mass was celebrated by the LAOH State Chaplain, Rev. Joseph Simmons, and afterwards members gather for a meal at a local restaurant. Also during November, the AOH joined with all the other Irish organizations of Maryland to celebrate everything Irish at the Maryland Irish Festival with music, food, dance and exhibitions on Irish history and culture.

December 12th saw many members from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County traveling to Arlington National Cemetery to participate in Wreaths Across America placement of wreaths on each of the graves in Arlington. Many commented on what an honor it was to help remember those who have sacrificed so we can be free. Members were led by State President Jay Linahan, State Vice President Mike McConnell, and State Secretary Michael Willis, who was able to place a wreath on his father's grave. State Treasurer Dennis O'Keefe and Past State President George Hogan participated in the placement of wreaths at the local Annapolis veteran's cemetery.

State President Linahan has been honored with the election as the 2016 Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal. On March 13th, after a parade mass at the Baltimore Basilica, Jay will lead the Irish of Maryland. St. Elizabeth's School, a school for special needs students, has been selected to serve as Honorary Grand Marshal for this year's parade.

Plans are in full swing for the Maryland 2016 Centenary Commemoration of the 1916 Rising. A combined AOH-LAOH committee has been hard at work in arranging a night of historical displays along with re-enactors and song on April 16th at the Church of the Immaculate Conception auditorium. There will be a mass at historic St. Patrick's Church followed by a brunch and children's learning events in the parish hall. Hosting State events on this weekend frees up members to participate in division commemorations or traveling to New York for National events on April 23rd.



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

We have arrived at the year that means so much to the Irish! It is the centennial of the year that the liberty tree, planted by so many generations of patriots, began to bear fruit. The three major factors that combined to make 1916 the year to remember were Frustration, Inspiration and Motivation. Frustration at the many past attempts at independence – both peaceful and violent – that had failed; Inspiration provided by the Gaelic Revival, whose history lessons produced a sense of pride and determination to try again; and the Motivation provided by the exiled Irish and their sons and daughters in America who helped fund the attempt as well as its aftermath.

This year, Irish people the world over will pay tribute to the men and women who put their lives on the line for a free and independent Ireland 100 years ago. Since Easter is a moveable feast, the Republic of Ireland will commemorate the traditional Easter Week which begins on March 27, while AOH Divisions, County and State Boards will join the AOH National Board in coordinated efforts being planned across America for the historic date of the Rising which began on April 24.

There is also a major memorial being planned in Suffolk County, NY, not far from the home site of Thomas J. Clarke before he returned to Ireland. It will be unveiled at the Cohalan Court Complex in Islip on May 3 – the date that the executions of the patriots began with Tom Clarke.

As far as this writer is concerned we should remember the patriots all year long since their sacrifice really began with the planning which started much earlier. However, we must never let it obscure the greater sacrifice that Easter signifies and that is the sacrifice that Jesus made when He gave up his life for us all.

Further, we should also be mindful of the trying times that followed like the tremendous spirit displayed by the prisoners who suffered the brutalities of imprisonment after the Rising, especially those in Frongoch concentration camp; the heroic conflict during the War of Independence and the courage of ordinary citizens who supported the outlawed Dail Eireann to create a nation in the face of oppression; the tragic struggle endured when brother fought brother in Civil strife to define that nation; and the ultimate trials on the road from a Free State to a Republic. I don't think any nation suffered such a traumatic seven-year birth as did the Irish people from 1916 to 1923.

## Secret heroes

Among the unsung heroes were two who are rarely mentioned because the tasks they undertook were secretly performed. They were the courageous couriers, Tommy O'Connor and John Kenny. They carried funds and coded dispatches between the leaders of the movement in Ireland and the leaders in America. Tommy O'Connor, a transatlantic seaman based in Liverpool, was recruited by Tom Clarke. He memorized the code so that it couldn't be found on him and explained it to John Devoy. He also carried funds from America and on one occasion, smuggled a large sum of money over to Clarke hidden in a leg cast. He managed to get a doctor's note attesting to his bogus broken leg to get through customs. He also fought in the Rising under Ned Daly. In 1917 he again resumed his work as the main I.R.B. courier but, after America became involved in WWI he was arrested upon arrival in New York for violation of the 'Trading with the Enemy Act' and was sentenced to a year and a day in an Atlanta penitentiary. He served 10 months of his sentence before being released early for good behavior. He returned to his courier activities though now not as frequent.

County Kildare native John Kenny was also a courier, but he was based in New York. A member of Clan na Gael and business manager for Devoy's Gaelic American newspaper, in 1914, Devoy convinced him to also carry dispatches across the pond and to Germany as well for securing arms for the Irish. Like Tommy O'Connor, Kenny knew and served the many men whose names are well known in the lexicon of Ireland's struggles, but their names go mostly unnoticed because of the clandestine service they provided. Yet without them, it is doubtful that the story would be as we know it today.

## Write in support of Robert Emmet Park!

The AOH D.C. State Board, with Jack O'Brien at the helm, have managed to get the statue of Robert Emmet ready for the Centennial. It was erected in a small park at the corner of Massachusetts Ave and 24th Street, on the 50th anniversary of the Rising, and brother O'Brien (known for his work on the Antietam and Barry Memorials) has convinced the appropriate administrations to beautify the park and clean the statue for 2016.

However, the park in which it stands was never named. It is in the National Park Service Register as NPS Reservation 302. We are asking all Hibernians to write and ask their elected leaders to support a Bill to rename NPS 302 to Robert Emmet Park! Make it one more Irish site for visitors to our nation's capital to view.

## The Road to Rebellion

Thanks to all who commented on my recent book, The Road to Rebellion, however, it is not me who deserves praise but those who did the deed, I only tell their story (see [www.shamrockandclover.com](http://www.shamrockandclover.com)). I think I have a lot more to tell. Remember the heroes!

### New Mailing Address

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# Profiles in Patriotism

A Tree of Liberty was planted in Ireland in 1916. This series presents profiles of the 16 executed heroes of Easter Week as the roots of that Liberty Tree

## JOHN MacBRIDE (7/May/1865 — 5/May/1916)

John MacBride was born at The Quay, Westport, County Mayo. He was educated at the Christian Brothers' School, Westport and St. Malachy's College, Belfast. He had studied medicine, but gave it up and began working with a chemist firm in Dublin. He joined the IRB and was associated with Michael Cusack in the early days of the GAA, which Cusack had founded. He also joined the Celtic Literary Society in which he came to know Arthur Griffith who was to remain a friend and influence throughout his life. In 1893, MacBride was termed a dangerous nationalist by the British government and in 1896 went to the United States on a fund raising mission for the IRB.



On his return he emigrated to South Africa. He took part in the Second Boer War in which he raised the Transvaal Irish Brigade to fight the British. The Brigade was given official recognition by the Boer Government and MacBride was commissioned a Major in the Boer army and given Boer citizenship. Meanwhile, back in Ireland pro-Boer support, whipped up by Arthur Griffith and Maud Gonne, became the most popular and violent of the pro-Boer/anti-British movements; it proved to be a 'dry run' for 1916. After the Boer War, Britain accused him of aiding their enemy and MacBride traveled to Paris to avoid prosecution. There he met Maud Gonne and took her with him on a lecture tour of America in 1901. In 1903, he married her much to the distress of poet W.B. Yeats, who had courted her for years.

The following year their son Sean MacBride (future Nobel Peace Prize Winner) was born. In 1905, MacBride and Maud separated and MacBride returned to Dublin.

After returning from Paris, MacBride played an important part with other Irish nationalists in preparing for an Insurrection. Because he was well known to the British however, the IRB thought it wise to keep him out of the secret military council. As a result, he knew nothing of the planned rising, but found himself in the midst of it anyway. He was in Dublin on Easter Monday morning to meet his brother. Walking up Grafton St, he met Thomas MacDonagh in full uniform. Tom recognized him and told him what was happening; MacBride offered his services and because of his military service in the Boer War, he was appointed second-in-command at the Jacob's factory garrison. It was occupied by up to 150 Irish Volunteers, Fianna Eireann and Cumann na mBan, led by MacDonagh, Micheal O'Hanrahan, and now John McBride. The garrison also included Peadar Kearney, who wrote the lyrics to the national anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann.

MacDonagh posted men in buildings on several streets in the area making the factory more difficult as a target for the British. A company of military traveling from Portabello Barracks to strengthen Dublin Castle was put to flight by MacBride's men, otherwise they saw little action but sniper fire.

On the Sunday after the surrender, Father Aloysius, a Capuchin priest, came to the factory with the surrender order signed by Pearse. MacDonagh, refused to accept the order since Pearse was a prisoner. He went with the priest to confer with Pearse in person. Before he left, he told the men to get away if they could, as there was no use of lives being lost; many got away to fight another day. On his return, he confirmed the surrender order with the words "we must surrender, we must leave some to carry on the struggle." He called the men to the ground floor level and told them, We are about to surrender but we have established the Irish Republic according to international law by holding out for a week. Though I have assurance from his reverence here that nobody will be shot, I know I will be shot, but you men will be treated as prisoners. The men declared that they did not trust the word of the British, and some urged to continue the fight. Vincent Byrne, a 15-year-old Volunteer who would later become a member of Michael Collins "Squad," remembers being lifted out of a window to escape and was taken into a house by a local woman to brush the telltale flour off his clothing.

John McBride was court martialed and sentenced to death.

He was executed on 5 May 1916, two days before his forty-eighth birthday. Facing the British firing squad, he refused to be blindfolded, saying, *I have looked down the muzzles of too many of your guns in the South African war to fear death now, carry out your sentence.* He was buried in a quicklime grave with his comrades in the cemetery at Arbour Hill Prison in Dublin.

Yeats, who hated MacBride during his life for marrying Maud Gonne, gave him the following ambivalent eulogy in his poem "Easter 1916":

"This man had done most bitter wrong to some who are near my heart,  
Yet I number him in the song; he, too, has resigned his part  
in the casual comedy; He, too, has been changed in his turn,  
Transformed utterly: A terrible beauty is born.

## MICHAEL MALLIN (1/Dec/1874 – 8/May/1916)

Michael Mallin was born in a tenement in the Liberties area of Dublin in 1874. He grew up knowing the poverty of a time when whole families lived in a single room. To escape that poverty, at 14 he joined the British army as a drummer boy and served in a British Army Band in India. His experiences there radicalized him and his political beliefs developed dramatically. He began to sympathize with the Indian rebels for he saw parallels between their existence and the poverty of his own Dublin roots. He came to believe that British rule in Ireland could only be removed by physical force.



continued on page 12

# Illinois

## Chicago Hibernians add members

At the January 6th monthly meeting, Division 32 re-elected President Ray Prendegast, VP Kevin O'Malley, Recording Sec John Resch, Financial Sec Pat Flaherty and Treasurer Mike O'Malley. Re-elected Trustees were Tom Burke and Gerry Loughran (also our Historian) with four new Trustees being elected to two-year terms of Bernie Byrne, Jack Morrissey, John Moriarity and John O'Donnell.

At this same meeting three new members of Kyle Lytle, Gavin Zack and Garrett Diamond were sworn in via the time honored AOH pledge of membership ceremony.

And Past President Sean O'Dowd reported that Division 32's state raffle ticket allotment was sold out. A portion of every \$10. raffle ticket sold goes to the division, and this money will go toward the St. Patrick's parade and other expenses.

Events for Division 32 include a Texas Hold 'em Tourney Sunday, Jan 31, to benefit the Freedom For All Ireland Fund at Six Penney Bit Pub, and the annual parade march and St. Patrick's party scheduled for Saturday, March 12th. Details are available on the newly revised website of AOOH.ORG on the EVENTS tab for any AOH brothers or sisters who will be in the Chicagoland area these dates and would like to participate.

Also, in conjunction with other Chicagoland Divisions of #59, and LAOH #1 and #8, it was announced that a 1916 - 2016 Uprising commemoration ceremony, mass and reception will be held the late morning and afternoon of Saturday, April 23 at The Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago. AOH member Father Dan McCarthy is expected to be one of the celebrants of the mass this day.

— Submitted by Trustee and Publicity Director John O'Donnell



Chicagoland's Division 32 officers were elected in January. From left, President Ray Prendegast, VP Kevin O'Malley, Recording Sec John Resch, Financial Sec Pat Flaherty and Treasurer Mike O'Malley. Re-elected Trustees were Tom Burke and Gerry Loughran (also our Historian).

The Illinois State convention was held on September 18-19 at the Peoria Marriot Pere Marquette Hotel. Elected were President Bob Simpson, Vice President John Donovan, Treasurer Sean O'Dowd, Secretary Dann Haney.



## Illinois Hibernians in Derry

Mike Tiernan, right, President, St. Clair County IL Division 1, presented a framed division logo to Jimbo Crossan, President of the Irish National Board and President, Derry Division 1, during a recent visit to the AOH Hall in Derry, Ireland.

## Join the AOH E-Mail List Today

All members not currently receiving the e-mail blasts are invited to join our e-mail list. You can join today by sending your e-mail contact information to the National Board at AOH.FORMS@AOH.COM. You need to include your: (1) full name; (2) membership number from your membership card; and (3) your e-mail address.

This e-mail list will only be used for information directly related to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. — The National Board

# Minnesota

## Shamrock Division hosts Christmas Party

The Shamrock Division hosted its annual Christmas Party at the Lakeside Supper Club on Dec. 16. Forty-six members and spouses attended.

After an initial gathering and social time, President Tim Halloran welcomed new and current members to the event. A toast was offered in honor of our oldest member, Leo Patrick Lynch, who passed on this last year. President Halloran recapped some of last year's events and highlights. He announced the events for the upcoming year. The Hibernian Scholarship fund has given out 35 scholarships since 2008 totaling over \$16,000. The Scholarships are awarded to local deserving young Irish scholars going off to college. This last year the Shamrock Division once again expanded our Founders Day Celebration with a dinner and evening of Irish music. This event was well received and enjoyed by our division. We will be planning to repeat the event again this year. Halloran announced that five new members joined our division this last year, bringing our membership to 77 members.

The rest of the evening included dinner and social time. Information on the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our website at [www.hibernians-shamrock.com](http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com).



The Devins family at the AOH Minnesota Christmas Party. John Devins Sr and wife, Paddy, Tom Devins, Marie and John Devins Jr.

## Deadline for March-April issue

MARCH 1, 2016

## PROFILES IN PATRIOTISM continued on page 11

Back in Dublin at the turn of the century, Mallin was a music teacher, a devout Catholic and a teetotaler who spoke in a gentle voice. He loved reading history, but he was also frustrated by those whose discipline fell short of the high standards he set for himself. He had a strong sense of right and wrong, disliked swearing and his political and religious beliefs were easily offended. He worked in various jobs, but his work as a silk weaver proved most fruitful – a trade he had learned in India. He earned a living as silk weaver and shop owner and he helped the Silk Weaver's Trade Union strike for four months until their demands were met. In 1909, he became Secretary of the Silk Weavers Union. His shop went out of business in 1913 at the time of the Great Dublin Lockout, but he found a new job in the Irish Transport and General Workers Union as a band instructor. Mallin also accepted the post of second in command and chief training officer of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) formed after the 1913 Dublin Lockout in order to protect workers from the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP), Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and employer-funded strike-breaking gangs of thugs.

On the eve of the 1916 Rising, Mallin played the flute in the four-piece Workers' Orchestra during a recital for the Irish Citizen Army in Dublin's Liberty Hall. The next morning, Easter Monday, the planned rebellion began and Mallin was assigned to command a garrison in St Stephen's Green and, later, the College of Surgeons. Mallin's lack of military training made him the least effective of the Rising leaders. He commanded the garrison at St. Stephen's Green with Constance Markievicz as his second in command. Occupying St Stephen's Green, an open park with almost no shelter and surrounded by tall buildings, was militarily questionable, yet he ordered his men to dig trenches, which was pure folly. In no time at all, the serene city park was transformed in a wasteland with hastily raised barricades and criss-crossed with trenches. Remarkably, they did not attempt to seize the nearby Shelbourne Hotel. When the British occupied the Shelbourne, they poured rifle fire down on the rebels in the Green. It is not surprising that Saint Stephens Green was the first outpost to collapse on the third day of the Rising, forcing the Republicans to withdraw in the adjacent Royal College of Surgeons. Mallin held the College and it took a direct order from James Connolly to persuade him to surrender on Sunday 30 April. Countess Markievicz kissed her automatic pistol before handing it over.

At his court-martial, Mallin was convicted and remanded to Kilmainham Jail where he was executed by firing squad on 8 May. In his last letter to his wife, he wrote: I find no fault with the soldiers or the police and he requested that she pray for all the souls who fell in this fight, Irish and English. He commented, so must Irishmen pay for trying to make Ireland a free nation.

# Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Living up to the motto of Christian Charity was high on the minds of Connecticut Hibernians this past Christmas Season.

Led again by the energetic and always giving Joan Finn, the men and women of the Danbury AOH and LAOH packed 50 baskets full of turkeys and nourishing food for the needy on Dec. 21, at the Greater Danbury Irish Center. This is an annual activity that Danbury Hibernians and their friends have been doing for many years.

Financial Secretary Chris Boyle remarked that the generosity of the members Bridgeport's JFK Division never ceases to amaze he and his fellow officers because once again the annual Shamrock Drive for the benefit of Sister Theresa Tremblay's Rescue Mission in Bridgeport reached its goal of \$3,000.

Bridgeport Hibernians were saddened by the news that AOH brother and retired Bridgeport Fire Captain Ben Murphy died on November 20, 2015. Brother Murphy passed at the ripe old age of 104! He may have been the oldest Hibernian in America at the time of his death.

State President Tom McDonough reported that on Dec. 11, 2015, the State and New Haven County FFAI Committees held a joint fundraiser, at the Meriden AOH Hall, for the benefit of the annual FFAI Christmas Appeal. Admission to the event was free but attendees had to pay to sing or not to sing Christmas Carols! Based on those rules, the sponsoring Committees could not lose!! But that is ok. It was for a good cause.

We mentioned in the last Hibernian Digest that the Hartford AOH-sponsored the first ever Irish Road Bowling Tournament in Connecticut, What we didn't mention is that the money raised from this endeavor is to be given to the Wounded Warrior Project.

New London's John P. Holland Division President, Rick Connell will take to the Roads for another reason on April 18, 2016 when he runs in the 120th annual Boston Marathon. Brother Rick is running this race as a tribute to the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon attack and to raise money for cancer research, which as a former cancer researcher he feels very deeply about. If you want to help Rick you can donate at the following site: <http://www.runDFMC.org/2016/rickpage>.

## Kitty O'Mahoney Gallagher

One Sunday in mid-August of 1963 I journeyed from my home in Bethel down to Gaelic Park in the Bronx accompanied by a friend of mine who was not Irish. We watched the games and began watching the evening dancing when my friend who had imbibed a bit, thought he could imitate an Irish accent. I had just begun to cringe when from behind me I heard a female voice say to my friend "you better cut that out because you are not doing very well." I turned and saw a slim, pretty dark haired girl with fire in her eyes. My friend did not get the message, which made her all the madder. To diffuse the situation, I asked the girl, who was Kitty O'Mahoney from Glenville, County Cork to dance. That dance would last over 52 years.

Kitty, whom I married on July 25, 1964, passed to her eternal reward Dec. 8, 2015, after a courageous 7 1/4 year battle against stage 4 ovarian cancer. I would like to thank all my AOH and LAOH friends from around the country for their prayers and kind words. I would like to share with our readers the fine tribute my daughter Monica posted on Facebook the night of her mother's passing.

Seventy-eight years ago, on November 1, 1937, All Saints Day, Catherine Veronica O'Mahoney (Kitty) was born. She touched the lives of everyone she met by a kind word, funny quote or much needed wisdom. After her diagnosis of Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer 7 years and 3 months ago, she made a choice of whether to fight, or accept her fate. With her family always in the forefront of her mind and heart, she began a battle that she fought without complaint or anger in its entirety.

She defied odds, symptoms and side effects that left not only her family and friends, but caring medical professionals, in awe of her strength, positive attitude and determination. She was an inspiration to so many people along her journey. On Dec. 8, 2015, The Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Kitty peacefully took her last breath with her husband and five children around her. The world lost an amazing human being, but we also gained an angel unlike any other. She cared about, worried and prayed for everyone around her selflessly until the end. You are loved and adored by all of us, Mom, and we will never stop missing you everyday. You may rest well knowing we are okay. You showed us how to go on, and we'll make you proud.



John P. Holland President Rick Connell presented the 2015 New London Hibernian of the Year Award to Bill Lacy at the Division's annual Communion Breakfast held at the Coast Guard Academy this past November.

## Stamford 2016 St Patrick's Day Parade announced

### CT Supreme Court Associate Justice Andrew McDonald to be Grand Marshal

The Stamford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has announced plans for the 2016 Parade scheduled for Saturday, March 5, at noon. Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court Andrew McDonald will serve as the 21st Grand Marshal, leading the "green parade" through Atlantic and Bedford Streets. A native of Stamford, Andrew attended Stamford public schools, graduated from Cornell University and received his law degree from UConn. He was appointed Associate Justice in 2013 after having served as the chief legal advisor to Governor Dannel Malloy and his Cabinet.

Andrew McDonald began his legal career in the Stamford office of Pullman and Comley, LLC, and also began his years of public service to the city and the state at the same time. He served on the Stamford Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives before moving to Director of Legal Affairs and Corporation Counsel for then-Mayor Malloy. Following the example of his mother, the late CT Representative Ann McDonald, Andrew then set his sights on Hartford and was elected to the CT Senate, where he served for eight years and headed the Senate Judiciary Committee, before joining the Governor's Cabinet.

In addition to leading the parade, McDonald will be honored at the Grand Marshal's dinner on March 4, at the Stamford Sheraton Hotel.

For further information, please contact Michael Feighan at # 203-614-9448 or email: [info@stamfordstpatriksdayparade.com](mailto:info@stamfordstpatriksdayparade.com)

## Scholarships for Waterbury students

The AOH Monsignor Slocum Division 1, Waterbury, annual scholarship program was started in 2001 by Jack McCarthy. Jack was a staunch supporter of the AOH and held many local and state offices. He was a deacon and served as chief administrator in many local Catholic high schools and grammar schools.

The scholarships are open to children and grandchildren of the AOH and LAOH members in the division who are attending a Catholic high schools. During this 15-year period, more than 60 scholarships have been awarded. The funding for the scholarships is now supported by the annual Jack McCarthy classic golf tournament.

This year's recipients were awarded \$1,000 each. Colleen Pelletier is attending Holy Cross High School. John "Jack" Greene is attending Sacred Heart H.S.

The AOH also sponsors a scholarship through the Waterbury Sportsman's Club. This scholarship is also for \$1,000.

**Deadline for March-April issue**  
**All articles and photos are due no later than**  
**March 1, 2016**

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

Presents the Unveiling of the  
**1916 Easter Rising Monument**

**Sunday, APRIL 24, 2016**

Following the Memorial Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

**4 PM Unveiling of the Monument at the**  
**Gaelic American Club**  
**74 Beach Road in Fairfield, Connecticut**

**Reception Immediately Following**  
**with Guest Speaker Martin Galvin**

**2 PM Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church**  
**1719 Post Road in Fairfield, Connecticut**

**Mass to be Celebrated by**  
**The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport**

**Assisted by The Reverend Victor Martin,**  
**Pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church**

**For additional information, email [poc6575@optimum.net](mailto:poc6575@optimum.net)**  
**or call (203) 644-9073**

# Nebraska

## Omaha Hibernians celebrate 50 years of helping Madonna School

On Dec. 11, the AOH Father Flanagan Division of Omaha, Nebraska, celebrated the Golden Anniversary of putting on a Christmas party for the Madonna School for Exceptional Children. For 50 years the Omaha group has volunteered to ensure the students and staff at Madonna School are not forgotten during Christmas.

For decades, AOH Brothers Pete McGinn and Tom Ryan have been organizing the annual feast. Archbishop George Lucas presided over Mass for the students. As always, this year included a special visit from Santa Claus who enlightened the entire affair.

As the party came to a close, the Irish Charities of Nebraska, which is a charitable arm of the AOH-Father Flanagan Division, donated \$5,000 to the Madonna School. The Father Flanagan Division and the Madonna School hope to celebrate another 50 years of working together.



At the Madonna School were, from left, State President Bill Guagh of AOH Nebraska, Archbishop George Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha, President John Farnan of the Irish Charities of Nebraska, President Larry Bradley of the AOH-Father Flanagan Division, and President Jay Dunlap of the Madonna School for Exceptional Children.

# Michigan

## Michigan Hibernians help Sacred Heart School



Sacred Heart School of Hudson, MI, received a \$1,100 check from the St. Patrick Division of the Lenawee County AOH. Sacred Heart principal Beth Reamsnyder (far right) accepted the check along with kindergartners and first-graders during a Christmas break party at the school. AOH members, from left, are Bill Carey, Patrick Maguire (Division President) and Tom Brennan. Carey and Brennan are alumni members of Sacred Heart School. AOH and LAOH members made the contributions. Proceeds will be used for new textbooks, educational supplies and improvements. Sacred Heart School is the only Catholic elementary K-8 school in Lenawee County.

# Wisconsin

## AOH joins in the Highland Games

### Hosts another successful Taste of Ireland scholarship fundraiser

Several AOH brothers and their families joined other Celtic families from Scotland and Wales at several entertaining events held on September 4, 5 & 6 at Waukesha County Fair Grounds. The 2015 Wisconsin Highland Games events included pipe & drum, heavy athletics competition, Celtic canines, musical groups, dance competitions, children's activity area and the clan & cultural area.

At the event, three AOH brothers, Bob Botsford, Dean Hunter and Rick McMahon, also had the honor of singing with a nationally-known Irish group/dancers named PaddyGrass, with lead singer Irish-born Derek Byrne. The musicians perform traditional Irish tunes, Bluegrass and Gospel music, and their talented dancers also performing among the audience, making it a wonderful and unique event. The organizers of the Highland Games were most welcoming and invited continuing participation of AOH in future years.

The William J. Kelly, SJ Division also hosted our very successful 2nd Annual scholarship fund-raising event, Taste of Ireland, on Sept. 17. We remain committed to raising funds to support scholarships for needy students at three inner-city Catholic Schools in the Milwaukee area. This has been an ongoing effort by our Division over the past 20 years, raising more than \$300,000 to support this wonderful program.

At the event, eight Milwaukee-area Irish restaurants participated in a friendly food competition, along with live Irish music by Tallymore, U2ZOO and the Shamrock Club Pipes and Drums. An expanded silent auction area added to the fun, and offered an excellent variety of items to round out the event. A big 'thank-you' to all.



Guest/food judge Michele McCormack, local CBS 58 affiliate News Anchor, with AOH brothers Christopher Brust and Corey Webster at the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Taste of Ireland 2015.



AOH brothers Bob Botsford, Dean Hunter and Rick McMahon joined members of PaddyGrass on stage at the Wisconsin Highland Games 2015.

# Virginia

## Gen. Meagher and Fr. Corby at the Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, not unlike that day 153 years ago, the City of Fredericksburg commemorated Irish Brigade losses in the Battle of Fredericksburg. National Park Service historian Frank O'Reilly presented a stunning account of how General Thomas Francis Meagher inspired his Irish Brigade in the face of near certain death. How he adorned his soldiers with green sprigs of boxwood to remind them of their heritage and their future in America. Confederate forces, estimated to number 25,000, occupied the high ground south of the city. Nonetheless, the Irish marched through the city under artillery fire to the base of Marye's Heights. There they assaulted uphill and across open fields toward the dug-in Confederate positions hidden behind the stone wall at the Sunken Road. Father William Corby, Irish Brigade chaplain, later said it was "a body of about 4,000 Catholic men marching – most of them – to death."

Two Virginia AOH Divisions, General Thomas F. Meagher Division (Fredericksburg) and Father Corby Division (Fairfax), joined the National Park Service and the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment re-enactors in the annual ceremonies at the Fredericksburg city dock, where the brigade crossed the Rappahannock River, and at Mary's Heights, where the brigade assaulted the Confederate positions.

## Major James Dooley Division, Richmond

In 1980, members of the newly chartered AOH division in Richmond, VA, named their division after Major James H. Dooley. Major Dooley, a CSA ordnance officer at war's end, was a prominent Richmond philanthropist. The Dooley division returned his spirit of philanthropy by donating \$1,760 to help restore two paintings of Dooley's parents, John and Sarah Dooley, who emigrated from Limerick in 1832.

According to the Sisters of the Visitation in Richmond, the two portraits belonged to Major Dooley's sister, Mother Superior Mary Magdalen. They had been stored in Richmond's Monte Maria Convent's attic for many years and are in very poor condition. The Maymont Foundation, the prime caretaker for Major James Dooley's land and mansion, is raising funds to restore the portraits.

Prior to the Civil War, John Dooley, also a CSA Major, organized the Montgomery Guard, a primarily Irish militia unit. The Guard wore distinctive green coats at drills, parades and other official functions, including the reburial of President James Monroe. During the Civil War, the Montgomery Guard was renamed Company C, 1st Virginia Infantry. The principles of Hibernianism are reflected in a handwritten note found in a pocket of the senior Dooley's uniform. He wrote the Montgomery Guard is "a permanent and respectable Irish organization composed of men, who love the green Island which gave them to the world & of those, who with affectionate reverence & devotion, remember her as the home of their Ancestors." Interestingly, on a table in John's portrait, one can see a book entitled "History of Ireland."



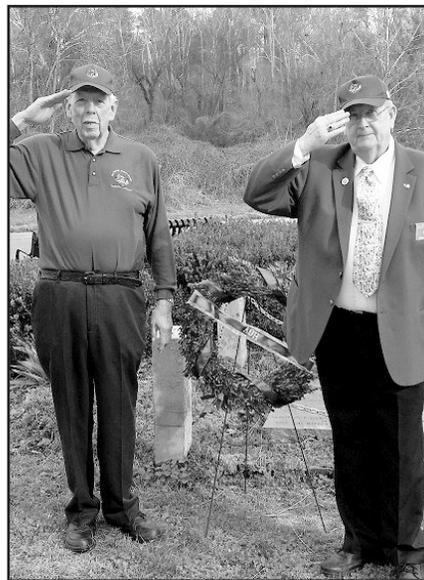
At the donation presentation were, from left, Art Conroy, PJ McQuade, Patrick Golden (division president), Monsignor Timothy Keeney (division chaplain) and Bill Krantz. Conroy, McQuade and Krantz are all past presidents of the division.

## AOH supports local parish outreach

Members of the John Cardinal O'Connor Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians present a check for \$800 to Monsignor Timothy Keeney, pastor of Saint Bede Catholic Church, in support of the parish's social ministry outreach. The donation will assist the Outreach Center in providing for the needs of the area poor and homeless as Social Ministry endeavors to end homelessness one relationship at a time. The donation was among the \$3,000 in gifts made this year by the division to 10 Williamsburg area organizations.



Gen. Meagher Division Brothers John Hogan and Virginia State Past President Hugh O'Brien presenting a boxwood wreath at Marye's Heights.



Gen. Meagher Division Brothers John Hogan and Bill Phillips presented a boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade Memorial.



Father Corby Division color guard at Marye's Heights.



NPS Historian Frank O'Reilly and the 28th Massachusetts.



Major Dooley Division brothers at the Dooley Mansion.

# Ohio



**NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR AKRON'S ST. BRENDAN DIVISION**  
Elected for 2016 in Akron's St. Brendan Division were, front row, seated from left, Mike Namsick, Vice President; Steve Schillinger, President; John Jewell, Recording Secretary; Mike Sutter, Marshal. Second row, standing, from left, Jim Kelly and Adam Beckwith, Standing Committee; John C. Conley, Financial Secretary and Doug Conrad, Treasurer.

### Raising funds for charity

On Sunday, Dec. 6, at their Brown St. Hall in Akron, Hibernians gathered to view the Browns-Bengals football game. The Summit County Board held their First Annual Christmas Charity Fundraiser during the game to help Sister of Charity Catherine Walsh and the Catholic worker organization of Akron in the work they do for the disadvantaged.

The \$10 entry fee covered pulled pork sliders, hot dogs, fresh cut fries and your first liquid refreshment. This was a true countywide project with both the Mark Heffernan and St Brendan Divisions working together on a common project. A thousand dollars was raised for the Catholic Worker Akron group and helped to demonstrate our living motto.



At the fundraiser, front row, from left, Summit County Bd. VP Mike Namsick; Denny Parks, President Mark Heffernan Division; Jacqueline King, Catholic Worker; Sister Catherine Walsh, CSC and Steve Schillinger, Summit County Bd Pres., second row, from left, Tom Fickes, Mike McKenzie, Chuck Allen, Mike Coyne, President, St. Brendan Div., and Dave Rarrick.

### New Akron mayor an AOH member

The Saint Brendan Division, Summit County 3 in Ohio is proud to announce that member Dan Horrigan was elected the Mayor of Akron, Ohio, and received his Oath of Office on Friday, January 1, 2016, at a public ceremony attended by family, politicians, city employees and friends — several of whom were AOH and LAOH members.

Mayor Horrigan is the 62nd mayor of Akron and the first new mayor in 28 years. He is a life-long resident of the North Hill area of Akron, where the Saint Brendan Division's hall, Irish Jack's Pub, and his family parish, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, are located.



Mayor Horrigan receives his Oath of Office from Judge Tom Teodosio as his wife, Deanna, and their daughters, Cassidy, Kennedy and Camille, look on. Photo provided by Bruce Ford.



Mayor Horrigan is congratulated by fellow Saint Brendan Division member/past president Tom Fickes. Photo provided by Marlene Long.

# Pennsylvania



### Irishman of the Year honored

The John F. Kennedy Div. 2 Pottsville (Schuylkill County) of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Communion Breakfast was held on November 15th where the Irishman of the Year, Joseph Lubinsky, was honored.

At the Communion Breakfast from left, Dan Koury, AOH Division Financial Secretary; Leo Haley, AOH Division President/Past County President/Past National President/Past National Chairman of the Constitution, Ritual & Progress Committee/National Life Member; Joseph Lubinsky, AOH Division Secretary and Irishman of the Year; and Mary Ann Lubinsky, LAOH Division President/ PA Past State President/National Catholic Action Officer.

# Missouri

By Julius A. Karash

## Running from Kansas City to Dublin KC Hibernians Hit the Streets for Health, Camaraderie and Commemoration

On a beautiful autumn Sunday morning in Kansas City, John Maloney is pumped. In just a few minutes, he and several other members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Pádraig Pearse Division 1 will be off and running.

The Hibernians were racing in the third annual Regalia Run to benefit the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "We're excited to be here," Maloney said. "Each month we run a different 5k (3.1 miles) for a good cause."

Maloney and his fellow runners have been burning up their sneakers lately. And along with the health benefits and camaraderie, their running supports education and promotes a greater awareness of Irish history.

"The Ancient Order of Hibernians has always supported education," said Jerry Lonergan, another member of the Hibernian running group. "We have UMKC alums in this group, and this is the start of Founders Week, to celebrate the founding of UMKC. The proceeds go for scholarships for UMKC students."

Pádraig Pearse Division 1 also raises money for Catholic education and supports seminarians throughout the diocese, Lonergan noted.

The runners' determination to promote awareness of Irish history was demonstrated by their T-shirts, which depicted a battle scene from the Easter Rising (Éirí Amach na Cásca) of 1916. To commemorate the 2016 centennial of that event, the Kansas City Hibernians set a goal to collectively run 4,053 miles - the distance from Kansas City to Dublin, Ireland - in one year.

"Part of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' role is to educate people about Irish culture and Irish history," Lonergan said. "The centennial of the Irish Easter Rebellion is an important thing we want to make people aware of."

The Rebellion broke out on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916. Members of the Irish Volunteers, led by schoolmaster and Irish language activist Pádraig Pearse, seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed an Irish Republic. The British quickly put down the Rising and executed most of its leaders, including Pearse. But the Rebellion marked a turning point in Ireland's struggle for independence, which culminated in the establishment of the Republic of Ireland in 1949.

Over breakfast in a Kansas City café a few weeks later, Hibernian Kurt Killen said he and Lonergan hatched the Kansas City-to-Dublin idea after running in a 5k race on Thanksgiving Day 2014.

"We wanted to combine the camaraderie and health benefits of working out and running with the commemoration of the Easter Uprising," Killen said.

Killen also emphasized the Hibernians' mission to raise awareness of Irish history. He recalled that hundreds of years ago, priests in Ireland taught children at clandestine outdoor "hedge schools," because Ireland's British rulers had abolished Catholic education.

In addition to supporting the Catholic schools in the Kansas City urban core, the Pearse Division awards four scholarships every year to students attending Catholic high schools in (or should we say throughout?) the Kansas City area. Components of the merit-based scholarships include students' grades and their involvement in their schools and churches. But the biggest component is an essay they write on some aspect of Irish history.

Killen said that while most Americans treasure and value their independence, many take those things for granted. "I went to mass this morning. A lot of people at that time couldn't do that. It's important that we not only re-instill an appreciation of



Preparing for North Kansas City "Donut Dash," from left, Olivia and Brian Powell, Jerry Lonergan, Kurt Killen, John McEvoy, John Maloney and Bill O'Reilly. Missing from the picture are George Knipp and Brad Heydon. AOH runners would win four age group medals at this race.

what happened 100 years ago and why that happened, but that we re-instill an appreciation for what we have today. The Easter Rising stemmed from a desire for self-rule, a desire for independence, a desire for autonomy. These things are all part of who we are. That was true 100 years ago and it's true today."

As the UMKC race wound up, the Hibernians were drenched with sweat and glowing with a sense of accomplishment. The first Hibernian across the finish line was George Knipp, whose race time was clocked at 27:45.

"I feel great," Knipp said. "After these runs you're always a little more energized."

Knipp said the Kansas City-to-Dublin running project "has everything to do with the camaraderie of our group and wanting to set a goal for ourselves. We all run a little bit. This seemed like a good fit for our group. It's been a lot of fun."

As AOH runner Brad Heydon waited for his girlfriend Lindsey Buckles to finish he noted, "since she is not a member of AOH we don't count her miles, but on race days she is considered very much a part of the team."

Maloney, whose time was just under 29 minutes, said it had been the toughest race the Hibernian group had run to date, due to the hilly terrain. "But there's a lot of great scenery. We could see the highlights of Midtown Kansas City and the Country Club Plaza area. It's a beautiful morning, and it goes to a good cause."

As Lonergan collected his age group first place medal, the group's leading mile collector and resident walker John McEvoy mentioned the good turnout. McEvoy noted that only members Bill O'Reilly and Brian Powell could not participate in the UMKC race. For O'Reilly the group is determining an appropriate punishment, since a visit by a mother-in-law is not considered a good enough excuse. And while Powell apparently continues to run during the week, the group is contemplating wearing black bands at future races to mourn his recent lack of attendance.

Killen said he was confident that the Hibernian runners would meet their Kansas City-to-Dublin mileage goal by the end of 2015. And after that? "Maybe we should do a round trip," he said with a grin.

**Addendum:** The run to Dublin was completed in October and the group decided to run a circuit around the Republic of Ireland (580 miles) - by the end of 2015.

Julius A. Karash is a freelance writer and editor based in Kansas City, Mo. He can be reached at [julius.karash@gmail.com](mailto:julius.karash@gmail.com).

# New Jersey

## Celebrate Irish Arts

Brother Bob Goodwin of Fr. Duffy, Ocean County, NJ, Div. 2, a member of Amergael, informs us that Amergael's 7th Annual Celebrate Irish Arts (CIA) will take place on Saturday, April 23, at St. Mary's Parish Center, on McKinley Blvd. in Manahawkin, NJ. The event, usually held just before St. Patrick's Day, will move to April this year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916, an event that ultimately led to the formation of the Irish Republic.

"Two thousand and sixteen will be a special year for Amergael members as we remember the heroes who fought for Ireland a hundred years ago," said Amergael President Gerri Martin. "We invite the southern Ocean County community and others to join us for this free celebration."

Celebrate Irish Arts will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center. During this event, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., Amergael will present a program focusing on the writings, speeches and songs of the Easter Rising. This segment, sponsored jointly by the LBI and Stafford branches of the Ocean County Library, will feature Clan Suibhne (Sweeney), a Toms River based duo, who will sing Irish rebel songs popularized by groups such as the Clancy Brothers and the Dubliners. The day will also feature Celebrate Irish Arts' popular blend of dancers and musicians, as well as Irish inspired artwork. In addition, Colin Farrell, who initiated the [www.storiesfrom1916.com](http://www.storiesfrom1916.com) website, has provided us with educational exhibits on the Easter Rising.

Free refreshments will be served, and baked goods, including Irish soda bread, will be available for purchase. For more information, call Gerri Martin at (609) 207-6505.



FR. MYCHAL JUDGE DIVISION CELEBRATES AT CHRISTMAS DANCE  
Division members and guests had a great time at the Fr. Mychal Judge Division One Hudson County Christmas Dinner Dance on Dec. 12 in Jersey City. Brother James Donovan was the dinner chairman and this photo by taken Division Treasurer George Stampoulos.

# New York

## Yonkers Division 1 donates to Maria Regina High School

The member of The Myles Scully Division 1 visited Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale to present a \$1,000 donation in support of the school's recent fundraising effort.

Division Charities and Missions Chairman Jack McDonald, along with Treasurer Mike Morley and Past Division President Tom Allison were given a tour of the school by Principal Valerie Reidy and were shown where there are plans on making extensive upgrades to both the school infrastructure and its educational programs. These plans include a particular focus on making improvements to its computer and technology education programs to better prepare its students to compete in today's job environment.

"We are truly grateful for their generous donation. If it wasn't for supporters like the AOH, our efforts to remain affordable while providing a quality catholic secondary education that keeps pace with instructional technology would be even more challenging. We are extremely thankful for their willingness to make a difference in the lives of the students who are entrusted in our care," said Mrs. Reidy.

Funds for the donation that was presented were raised at the Hibernian's Annual Charity Golf Outing, which is held every spring.

Maria Regina High School is an independent Catholic All Girls High School that was founded by the Sisters of the Resurrection in 1957.



At the presentation were, standing, Jack McDonald, left, Principal Valerie Reidy, Tom Allison and Mike Morley, with students from Maria Regina High School.

## Project Children founder hosted by NY AOH



Denis Mulcahy, founder of Project Children, addressed attendees at Mohawk Valley Community College's "Diversity and Global View Series" event sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians John C Devereux Division of Oneida County, NY, (Utica). Fellow guest speakers were Geordy Austin and Eddie Gilmartin, both of Belfast, who listened attentively as they waited their turn at the lectern. On far right is moderator William Perrotti of the college. Starting in 1975 with three Catholic and three protestant children flown to his home in America to avoid the tensions and dangers of "The Troubles," Project Children has flown 22,000 Irish children of all religions to more than 1,500 American host families. Mulcahy has been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Denis is a retired member of the New York City Police Dept. bomb squad.

**Deadline March-April issue March 1**

**editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com**

## 'The Road to Rebellion'

Ten books entitled "The Road to Rebellion" by AOH Historian Mike McCormack were donated to New York State's Goshen Public Library and Historical Society by the Orange County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Road to Rebellion is an illustrated account of the causes leading to and the events during the Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland. The AOH will be celebrating the upcoming centennial of the Easter Rising, which led to Ireland's independence.

The library is part of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, serving public libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Southern Ulster Counties. The books will be available to 51 libraries within the system.

The gifts were made possible by a donation from NY State AOH Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Ciaran Geraghty.



Goshen Library Director Matthew Gomm, center, accepted the book donations from Thomas McDonald, left, president of the Orange County AOH and Patrick Lahiff, Orange County AOH Freedom for All Ireland chairman.

## Vic Sackett named Hibernian of the Year

The Nassau County Board held its well-attended annual Ball on Jan. 9, at which Vic Sackett was honored as the Hibernian of the Year. Vic is a past Division 8 president, a past Nassau County Board president, and a long-time FFAI chairman at various levels of the AOH. He was joined by his family for the wonderful occasion.



Vic Sackett, second from left, was named Hibernian of the Year at the Nassau County Ball on Jan. 9. From left, County AOH President Tim Myles, N.Y. State Assemblyman Brian Curran, who honored Vic with a state citation, and Sean Hood, who did a great job organizing the successful County Ball. Photos John O'Connell



Hibernian of the Year Vic Sackett was joined by his family at the Nassau County Ball.

# New York

## Good works by the AOH, LAOH of Mt. Kisco

The AOH Division 16 and LAOH Division 16 donated \$3,438.46 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam counties, New York, on Dec. 2. The presentation was made at the annual Tree of Life ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco. Hospice Care (Visiting Nurse Association), a non-profit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On Dec. 5, the AOH donated \$3,318.46 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center located in Hawthorne, NY. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992 the AOH has donated \$215,385.14 to Hospice Care of Westchester /Putnam and Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne, and other organizations. The fund-raising drive was administered by Chairman James McHugh and assisted by Grace Murphy, LAOH. The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary's-Katonah, St. Patrick's-Bedford, St. Francis of Assisi-Mount Kisco, St. Lawrence O'Toole-Brewster, St. Patrick's-Armonk, Holy Innocence-Pleasantville, and St. John's/St. Mary's-Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on Sept. 13, 1891, consisting of men of Irish descent and practicing Roman Catholics living in the northern Westchester County area. The Division has a long and distinguished history of supporting different community groups in the area as well as hosting northern Westchester's annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day parade since 1991. The Division is pleased to announce that our 26th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday March 12, 2016, in Mount Kisco and annual dinner on Saturday March 5. For further information or an application visit our website at [www.AOHDIV16.org](http://www.AOHDIV16.org).

## Honors in the Bronx

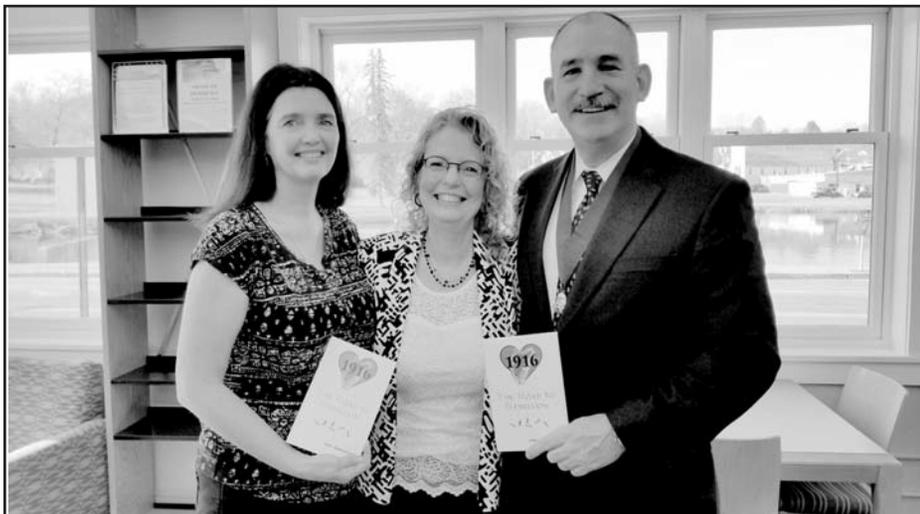


The Bronx County Board of the AOH enjoyed their annual dinner at a packed Rory Dolan's on McLean Avenue on Nov. 22 when they kicked off their remembrance of the freedom fighters in Ireland in 1916. County President Bob Nolan congratulated the honorees at the dinner, from left, NYS President Tim McSweeney; NYS Commander Catholic War Veterans Jim Mullarkey; Msgr. Edward Barry, Pastor, St. Barnabas Church and Chaplain, Woodlawn-Wakefield Division 5 AOH; Nolan; Richie Fitzsimmons, Business Manager, Local 147, LIUNA; and National President AOH Brendan Moore.

## Monroe Library receives AOH donation

The AOH Joseph Duell, Jr., Division 1 in Monroe, N.Y., recently partnered the Ladies AOH 5 Mary of the Gael Division to make a book donation to the Monroe Free Library: Two copies of the book "The Road to Rebellion" by Mike McCormack, which tells the story of the 1916 Easter Rising, a rebellion mounted by Irish republicans to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish Republic.

The Centenary of the Easter Rising will take place in 2016, and the AOH will be planning a number of events to commemorate this anniversary.



Pictured, from left, are Ann Marie Mulholland, Historian, LAOH Division 5; Marilyn J McIntosh, Director, Monroe Free Library; and George Anderson, outgoing president.

## Hibernians on the Hudson



The Hudson Valley Irish Fest, located on the Hudson River in Peekskill, is hosted by AOH/LAOH Westchester County Division 18 and is held in late September each year. At the festival were, from left, national officers Sean Pender and Dan Dennehy, New York State President Tim McSweeney, and state officers Fr. Henry Reid, Keith Reynolds and John Manning.

## A special Christmas in Pearl River



Division III in Pearl River, NY, once again hosted some of the community's special citizens for Christmas. Guest of honor were the Athletes of the "Buddy Ball" organization, a great community group that opens the world of sport to those with challenges. With such an embodiment of the true meaning of Christmas, no wonder the original "Big Fella" had to stop in. Photo by Bob Reers.



At the NY Orange County board meeting, national life membership was awarded to Jim Kelly. George Anderson, Div 1 president; State President Tim McSweeney; honoree Jim Kelly, Div 1 VP Tom Flynn, and Orange County President Tom McDonald.

**New Mailing Address**  
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# Ladies hibernian news

## News from the... Irish Historian

by Marilyn Madigan

The best part of being a National Officer is the opportunities that come your way and the many Hibernians you meet. In November, I was honored with three great opportunities. The first opportunity was visiting the Hibernian Records at the Archives of Catholic University.

The Archives have shared with the LAOH a PDF file of the National Hibernian from 1908-1914. This will help us as we plan for our 125th Anniversary. Thank you to Dr. Meagher and his staff for this important record. After visiting the Archives, I had the privilege of going to the National Battlefield. I would like to thank Gail Dapolito for arranging this special opportunity.

The third opportunity and the main reason for being in the Washington and Baltimore area was the invitation to speak at the Maryland Irish Festival about the Women of 1916. In addition to my talk, I was able to bring the Women of 1916 Posters as well as the Cumann na mBan Display to be used by the Maryland State Board. I was honored to meet many Maryland Hibernian Sisters who are committed to promoting our Order and Irish History.

We are at the judging stage of the Irish History Contest. I look forward to reading about the Remarkable Women of 1916. Our Order needs to make sure these Women take their place in Irish History. March 8 is International Women's Day. On or near this day, our Order should have events to Remember the Women of 1916.

The LAOH has a new presence on Facebook with the goal of sharing stories of the Women of 1916. Please like this page LAOH Honor the Women of 1916 and share your 1916 Events. On Saturday April 23, the AOH and LAOH will be commemorating the Easter Rising with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 1:00 pm. After the Mass, there will be procession to the Plaza at the Irish Consulate for the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Please plan on attending.



### Ladies AOH National Board

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Mary Hogan.....	President.....	MaryHogan@Ladiesaoh.com
Pat O'Connell.....	Vice President.....	PatriciaOConnell@Ladiesaoh.com
Carol Sheyer.....	Secretary.....	CarolSheyer@Ladiesaoh.com
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Marilyn Madigan.....	Irish Historian.....	MarilynMadigan@Ladiesaoh.com
Dee Ramp.....	Missions & Charity.....	DeeRamp@Ladiesaoh.com
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Maureen Shelton.....	Organizer.....	Organizer@Ladiesaoh.com
Kathleen Conway.....	Publicity.....	Publicity@Ladiesaoh.com
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Jennifer Goodman.....	Jewelry.....	Jewelry@Ladiesaoh.com
Ann-Marie Nyhan-Doherty.....	Immigration & Legislation.....	Immig&Leg@Ladiesaoh.com
Sandi Swift.....	Webmaster.....	Webmaster@Ladiesaoh.com
Elizabeth Kreasmer.....	Degree.....	DegreeTeam@Ladiesaoh.com
Kathryn Keane.....	Auditor.....	Kathryn@Ladiesaoh.com
Colleen Bowers.....	Fundraiser.....	Fundraiser@Ladiesaoh.com

#### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Maureen Shelton.....	Monroe, MI.....	MaureenShelton@Ladiesaoh.com
Margaret Hennessy.....	Deer Park, NY.....	
Mary Ryan.....	Marlboro, MA.....	
Dorothy Weldon.....	Monongahela, PA.....	
Mary T. Leatham.....	2016LAOHConventionChair@Ladiesaoh.com.....	
Eleonore Grimley.....	Alexandria, VA.....	
Mary B. Dolan.....	North Brookfield, MA.....	
Peggy Cooney.....	Pittsburgh, PA.....	
Mary Paglione.....	St. Lucie West, FL.....	
Kathie Linton.....	Uniontown, Ohio.....	
Shelia Clifford.....	Waterbury, CT.....	

## President's Greetings

by Mary Hogan



Hope everyone had a Blessed and joyous holiday. As we begin this historic year, 2016 "The Year of Centennials" there is much work to do. Both the LAOH and the AOH will be jointly working with the Irish government to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. This is a solemn occasion, a commemoration that belongs to all of us, both here and in Ireland. Many of us grew up hearing the stories and reading books about 1916 and the sacrifice the women and men of Ireland made for freedom. *Irish Men and Irish Women: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.*

I am calling on all our members and divisions across the USA to commemorate this solemn anniversary; remember all involved in your masses and prayers, have a public reading of the "Proclamation", tell our history and the struggle that the Irish have fought for generations for freedom. Please share your photos and events with of Webmaster and Publicity Chairs so we may have a history of what we the LAOH have done to Honor our History. Our Historian has many exhibits and information available; our Order also has commemorative pins and shirts available via our website LadiesAOH.com.

Pat O'Connell and I had the pleasure of attending the official 2016 kickoff in the USA with Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson & Consulate General Barbara Jones in NY. Our LAOH / AOH 2016 Commemoration will be in New York with mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and a public reading of the Proclamation on the Plaza in front of the Consulate General's Office on April 23, 2016.

Congratulations to our Missions & Charity Officer Dee Ramp upon her marriage to Harry Wallace on January 9, 2016. Much happiness to you both.

Plans for the 2016 National Convention in Atlantic City are proceeding; the Ladies in NJ are working very hard to see that we have an enjoyable and productive convention. Package info will be available via website as well as mailing to all our states.

I will be attending the March For Life in Washington, DC, many Parades and Masses, historical events. I look forward to seeing many of you. Thank you to everyone for all your gifts and kind wishes presented at my Presidents Dinner and to all those who attended the National Interim Board meeting.

My hometown Brooklyn St. Patrick's Parade has honored me by making me their 2016 Grand Marshal. When I march on Sunday, March 20, 2016 as Grand Marshal, I will do so proudly as the LAOH National President and for that, I thank my sister Hibernians.

As we approach February, the month of St. Brigid of Ireland, let us all celebrate the life of our Patron Saint by trying to emulate her kindness to others. May the joy and kindness that St. Brigid showed to others be in our hearts. Happy Saint Brigid's day to all.



LAOH National President Mary Hogan, Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson and LAOH National Vice President Patricia O'Connell January 9, 2016 at the NY consulate 2016 Easter Rising "Year of Centennial" kickoff in New York.

## Michigan

The Catherine McAuley Division in Oakland County, MI, adopted a previously homeless family who was preparing to move into a new home before Christmas. The members purchased gifts of dishes, silverware, coffee pots, toaster oven, towels, sheets, comforters, cleaning bucket and supplies, gift cards and lots more.

# Missions and Charities

by Dee Ramp

Who are the Columban Sisters you ask. They are the most wonderful, prayerful, committed group of missionary religious women and Sisters and the most God fearing group of Sisters that travel the continents in eight different countries and live in very dangerous situations to help those that are so deprived of everything. These Sisters are walking daily in the footsteps of our founding women, embracing the mission of Christ in our world with enthusiasm and hope.

They are inspired by St. Columba's prayer. "Lord, kindle our lamps that we may always shine in your presence and always receive light from you, the Light Perpetual, so that our own darkness may be overcome and the world's darkness driven from us."

"As missionary religious women, we commit ourselves to be witnesses of God's love at compassion at every stage of our lives wherever we are. We commit ourselves to be contemplative and prophetic in all we are and in all we do".

We accept that this will often entail a journey through the darkness of letting go and taking risks, so that we may promote life together work for the transformation of our world. Below is the most wonderful article by Sister Bernadette Lee.

An inspiring article by Sister Bernadette Lee, Missionary Sister in the Philippines. "It has been a year since I started my ministry with the children living in the cemetery. It has been a fruitful year for me in many ways even if I speak very little of their language, which is Tagalog and they speak almost nothing of English. Strange as it "sounds" we have become very good friends because I think we have let our hearts speak to one another. Whenever I teach them how to play the recorder I feel a connection with them that speaks of love and friendship.

An unforgettable experience I had with the children happened on all souls' day. In the Philippines people go to the cemetery to visit their dead. On November 1st and 2nd all roads lead to the cemetery. We have the same practice in Korea but in a very different way. That day I decided to go to the cemetery to meet the cemetery children since I couldn't visit my ancestor's cemetery which is in Korea. When I got near the place, I was shocked to see crowds and crowds of people inching their way to get inside the cemetery grounds. It was a shoulder to shoulder, elbow to elbow walk to get inside the gate of the cemetery. It took me hours to get in and once inside it took me a few more hours to look for my little friends who live there. All the time I was pushing my way around the cemetery grounds.

And then I saw the children and I couldn't believe what they were doing. They were at work! They were very busy going from tomb to tomb scraping the wax from the burned-out candles; they were picking empty bottles and cans here and there, they were furiously cleaning the tombs. I was wondering why they were doing all this hard work on All Souls' day only to learn later on that a kilo of wax drippings would sell for ten cents; the empty bottles and cans would sell for less but cleaning the tombs would pay them. As I watched them working I noticed that there was joy in what they were doing. The little friends dragging plastic bags which looked bigger than themselves had a lovely smile on their faces. They were chatting away while they were scraping, polishing, picking up the throw away of the crowd of people who came to visit their dead. Many thoughts were racing in my mind and many feelings were beating in my heart. Suddenly I just found myself joining the children in their work. We were scraping the wax, we were picking up empty bottles and cans and cleaning as many tombs as we could clean that day.

So engrossed in our work we did not notice that darkness had fallen. It was very dark in the cemetery. The only light came from the flickering candles. I had difficulty seeing in the dark; I couldn't see well even just a meter away but my little friends were jumping from tomb to tomb with no problem at all. They reminded me of bats who can clearly see in the dark".

"Sister, this is the time of the year that we do not sleep"

"Why? Is it because of so many people around?"

"No, Sister. Our houses are gone."

Weeks before All Saints/Souls Day, the cemetery people dismantle their own makeshift houses because the owners of the tombs where they live would come and visit their dead. The demolition is done by the cemetery people themselves. Once this November events ends, then the cemetery people can rebuild their makeshift houses again. In the meantime there is no regular place for them to sleep.

The makeshift houses are unbearable to look at. They are very, very small for families of seven or nine members. They don't have toilets, no water or electricity. There is no space for chairs or a table. The children with whom we share and live our faith as Columban Sisters live in makeshift houses located in the cemetery grounds on top of tombs or beside the tombs. They have no "house address", so to speak, no living-room, no dining-room, no kitchen, no bedroom. The floor is the ground which could be cemented or covered with hard cardboard.

Two of us have our ministry with the cemetery people. We take care of the children. Sister Julie and I are Columban Sisters and we are from Korea. We have seen the poverty suffered by our people who live in the cemetery. We have prayed for them and we believe that God knows their needs and God will provide what is necessary for them to survive. Last December our prayers were answered. Miraculously we found a house near the cemetery. It is now a learning center for the children and we have named it "Mosaic Center". Mosaic in art means putting small pieces together to create a masterpiece. Our hope is that each of our cemetery children can be a masterpiece of God.

We involved the help of their parents, especially their fathers, to make bookshelves for the children. Julie and I helped with painting and the other thousand little things to make the center a comfortable learning place for the children. The signboard "Mosaic Centre" was done by the children and we put it outside the house.

The children were extremely happy to know that they have a place which they

# In memoriam

Catherine (Kitty) Gallagher

After waging a long battle with cancer, Catherine Veronica Gallagher, fondly known as Kitty, passed away on December 8, 2015 on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Kitty, whose faith was simple but profound, was born on All Saints Day, November 1, 1937 in Glenville, County Cork, Ireland. She was educated in Ireland and immigrated to the United States at the age of 16 in 1954. Kitty then graduated from the Drake Business School in New York City and worked as a Supervisor for the American Foundation for the Blind. Kitty proudly became an American citizen in 1960.

She married J. Philip Gallagher in 1964 and moved with him to live in Bethel, Connecticut where they lived for the entirety of their 51 years of marriage. Longtime AOH member, Phil has served on the National and State AOH Board.

Kitty was a member of the Mary McWhorter Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in Danbury. She was a past Division President and served as a LAOH County and State Officer. A dedicated member, she was a part of the history of the Danbury Hibernians. She mentored many new LAOH members and always had a smile and wise words whenever she was sought for guidance. The LAOH Division 58 offered the ritual prayer service at the wake and conducted the Honor Guard at the Mass at St. Mary's Church in Bethel.

## Georgia endorses Dee Ramp

The Georgia State Board and the Augusta and Savannah Divisions of the Hibernian Sisters are honored to place into nomination Dee Ramp as a candidate for the Office of Irish Historian. Over the years, Dee has demonstrated her commitment to supporting the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc's motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity as well as the Order's missions and goals at the National, State and Division Levels. She is currently working with the AOH in the State to form a division in two different cities for the LAOH. (Atlanta, GA. and Dublin, Ga.).

Dee promotes the LAOH with her contributions to the Catholic Social Services, Right to Life and she promotes unity among our divisions in the State of Georgia. Dee was very instrumental in organizing the local Division for LAOH in the State of Georgia for Augusta, Richmond 1. Dee is very active in the local division and is so deserving of this consideration for National Office.

Dee has worked tirelessly in her national role of Missions and Charities Officer and has been instrumental in helping all of the States understand the three charities that her office is responsible for has made a tremendous difference in supporting our Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters, and Appeals for Aid. This is one of the rewarding offices for donations and contributions that we as a State and Division level have been so thankful to be a part of this. Without Dee's help and encouragement, and with the help of all States, Counties and Divisions, LAOH National has been very fortunate to recognize and give donations to each charity twice in a two year term and Dee has already distributed a large sum to these donations/contributions that have been received from our faithful order across this great nation of ours. The ministry that the Fathers and Sisters reach extends throughout eight countries.

She serves the local and State LAOH with her tireless energy and we feel certain that this energy will go right with her to the National level if elected.

Dee is a very active member of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church where she participates in the Consolation Ministry and she is a Eucharist Minister, and serves on the bereavement basket committee. She is always readily available to help anyone in need. Her charm, wit and personality are outstanding.

We trust National LAOH will approving our request for nomination of Dee Ramp for office of Irish Historian on the National Board.

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can call their own. A lot of "wow's, "fantastic" and other superlative in Tagalog were heard the day the Learning Center was opened. They couldn't believe that they have now a space for themselves.

"Sister, can I sleep here tonight?"

"Sister, can I take a shower here in the Center?"

"Sister, can I read a book?"

"Sister, can I study here instead of going to school?"

The Learning Center has been operating regularly since its opening day in December. It is open every day. There are two shifts; the morning shift and the afternoon shift. The activities we have lined up for them are the following; homework, research, book reading, eating a good meal before going to school, taking a shower and other little concerns of those who come to the Learning Center. Every Saturday we teach the children music and art. We hold catechism class for 70 children every Sunday after the children's mass in the Parish.

One might think we have a big Center for all these activities. The truth is we only have a small place but we are happy. We appreciate what God has given to us and we are thankful for all the blessings God has showered upon us. We have now a shelter from rain, flood and heat. Before our classroom was among the tombs in the cemetery and we were exposed to all natural elements. Now God's great love for us, especially for the children, has given a "Bethlehem stable" where little miracles happen each day".

# Endorsements

## **Illinois Endorses Patricia A. O'Connell for National President**

The Illinois State Board and Illinois Hibernian Sisters are honored to place into nomination Patricia A. O'Connell as a candidate for the Office of National President. As you are aware, Pat has worked to support and sustain the values, mission, and goals of the Ladies serving as a member of the National Board first as the Missions & Charities Officer, next as the Irish Historian, then as the Treasurer, and presently as the Vice President. Currently, Pat is serving as the Illinois State President and as the Treasurer and Financial Secretary in her local Peoria County Division 1.

In each of the LAOH offices in which Pat has served whether it has been at the National Level, State Level, or Division Level, she has demonstrated her ability to responsibly carry out her duties and to work as a team player. Pat has the knowledge and skill-set to serve, represent, and lead the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

Pat is active in her parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister. She has served on her Parish Council as President and Secretary. In the local Peoria community, she is active in two non-denominational Irish organizations. She is serving as Vice President in the Friends of Clonmel, a Sister-City organization with County Tipperary Ireland, and as Secretary of the St. Patrick Society of Peoria.

In her professional career prior to her retirement, Pat worked as an educator serving as a teacher, supervisor, and administrator in parochial, private, and public educational institutions spanning pre-school through graduate school. Pat earned her Doctorate in Educational Administration at Illinois State University, her Master's Degree in Special Education at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and her Bachelor's Degree from Fontbonne University.

Pat is the eldest daughter of Eileen D. O'Connell and the late George P. O'Connell. Her mother and youngest sister, Kelli, are active LAOH members. All of the O'Connell clan are active supporters in the Peoria Irish community.

In Illinois, Pat is recognized as a LAOH member who steps-up, works with others, and gets the job done. The Illinois State Board and our six (6) Illinois Divisions ask you to support our Illinois candidate Patricia A. O'Connell for the Office of National President at the July National Convention being held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

## **Ohio endorses Carol Sheyer**

The LAOH Ohio State Board and the Margaret Judge Division 1 Summit County are proud to endorse Carol Sheyer for the National Office of Vice-President. Our sister Carol Sheyer currently serves as the National Secretary. Carol in previous years has served as National Missions and Charities Officer 2012-2014, National Catholic Action Officer 2010-2012, and Co-Chair of the 2010 National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. She also served as

Assistant Secretary for the 2004 National Convention and Auditor at Conventions and Interim Board Meetings.

On the State Level, Carol served in most elected offices including Ohio State President from 2007-2009. Carol worked to organize a new Ohio Division and has assisted other divisions and officers throughout the State of Ohio. Carol also worked with the ladies in Louisville, Kentucky to organize their division in 2014 and helped to form the Kentucky State Board.

On a personal note, Carol and her husband Ron recently celebrated their 45th anniversary. Carol retired from the Cineregy Company after 27 years of service and currently works part time at a funeral home. She is an active member of St. Julie Billiard Parish, Treasurer of the Rossville Historic District, and President of the Am Vet Post #1983. Carol makes a great difference with her volunteerism. She is an asset to our National Board and is well-organized, a good communicator, and a dedicated hard worker.

## **New York Endorses Karen Keane for National Secretary**

At its Biennial State Convention in July of 2015, the New York State Delegation unanimously endorsed Karen Keane for the Office of National Secretary. Karen currently serves as National Treasurer and also as NY State President.

Karen has served Our Order in every chair on the New York State Board; has served on the Steering Committee for two National Constitution Conventions; and was the local chair of the National Convention in Turning Stone. She always answers the call to serve by both her State Board and the National Board.

Karen is known throughout New York as a hardworking and straight shooting leader, who has set the example for others to follow. She is on top of her responsibilities and works hard to present our Order as the leading organization of Irish American Catholic Women.

"I always reach out to Karen because I know she'll respond and help us out in a swift and professional manner." "When I can't get an answer, I turn to Karen because her experience and knowledge has helped us in many ways." "She gets our reports to us in a timely manner and responds right away if something needs correction." These are some of the remarks from Our Sisters across the country. All of these comments prove that Karen is the right choice to be the next National Secretary.

In a recent interview, Karen was quoted as saying, "[w]hen you run for National Treasurer, you have the responsibility to protect the funds of the National Board and are answerable to every Division in the Country, not just your State. You must be mindful of what is good for the Order as a whole, not your personal interest, but for the Order." Karen has stayed true to the promise.

The NY Ladies ask that the National Delegation at our Convention in Atlantic City support Karen Keane for

the Office of National Secretary, as she is the proven worker and leader. Dependable, reachable and responsible!

## **Marilyn Madigan endorsed by Ohio for National Treasurer**

The State of Ohio and the Our Lady of the Rosary, Cleveland are proud to endorse Marilyn Madigan for the Office of National Treasurer. Marilyn served as National Fundraiser 2012-2014. As we commemorate the centenary of the Rising, she is very proud and honored to be currently serving as National Irish Historian. Marilyn has been very diligent and enthusiastic in promoting the Women of 1916 in the cause of Irish Freedom.

Marilyn has been an active member for 38 years serving in many Offices including Division County and State President. She was a founding member of the Ohio State Degree Team, and has served as Treasurer and Guardian. In 1988 when Cleveland hosted the National Convention, Marilyn served on the local committee.

In addition to the LAOH Marilyn is an active member of Cleveland's Irish Community with memberships in Cleveland Comhaltas, Irish Northern Aid, United Irish Societies, East and West Side Irish American Clubs. Marilyn has served in many leadership positions: Registrar with the North American Camogie Board, Vice-President of the Irish Music Academy, and Board Trustee of the West Side Irish American Club. She is currently a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies and Treasurer of Cleveland Comhaltas.

Marilyn's most celebrated accomplishment has been the successful Hierarchical Recourse to the Congregation of the Clergy for the Parish of St Patrick-West Park. She continues to be a lifelong parishioner and serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Collection Counter, and Parish Council President.

In her professional career, Marilyn received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College and has been employed as a Registered Nurse at University Hospitals Case Medical Center since 1977. One of Marilyn's heroes is President John F. Kennedy, and to paraphrase, Marilyn might say, "Ask not what the Hibernians can do for you - Ask what Marilyn Madigan can do for the Hibernians". Marilyn has shown her dedication as a hard worker and fine communicator as Fundraiser and Irish Historian, and is a credit to the important work of our Order. Ohio is proud to support Marilyn Madigan on the National Board.

## **Pennsylvania endorses candidates for National Office**

The Pennsylvania LAOH State Board announces the endorsement of two candidates for National Office at the 2016 National LAOH Convention.

**Colleen Bowers** is placed in nomination for Catholic Action. Colleen mentors new officers within Allegheny County and Division 11 and also serves

as a guide for all the divisions, including the Junior Girls. Colleen strives to impart her wisdom regarding the LAOH's constitution and by-laws to all members.

In addition to her duties at the Junior, Division and County levels, Colleen has served on the PA State Board and held many offices including President from 2009-2011.

Also, the Pennsylvania State Board is pleased to nominate **Mary Ann Lubinsky** for National Office. Mary Ann's Schuylkill County and John F. Kennedy Division 2 endorse her for Missions and Charities.

Mary Ann has served and still serves on the Division, County, and State LAOH Boards, and is currently the National Catholic Action Officer. In addition to her numerous activities in her Division and County, she has been the State Webmaster for many years. Mary Ann also has taken on other appointed offices for the State Board. Mary Ann's expertise, positive attitude, dedication, love for the LAOH, leadership and capability to serve on any office of the LAOH National Board show her to be a fine candidate.

## **South Carolina endorses Mary F. Conlon for National Office**

The South Carolina State Board is honored to nominate Mary F. Conlon as a candidate for the Office of Catholic Action. Mary is the immediate past President of the SC State Board having served for four years in that capacity. She is currently serving as the State Treasurer. Mary's previous experience on the State Board was as Vice President and Secretary. She also served on the Constitutional Review Committee for our National Convention of 2014. Within her Myrtle Beach Division, she serves as the Recording Secretary and is a member of the Daughters of Erin Degree Team. Mary has been a strong, contributing member of our organization working toward friendship, unity and Christian charity among all our Sisters.

Mary is active in her parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister, committee of the Loaves and Fishes (food pantry), Bereavement and Sanctuary Enhancement. She has served on her Property Owners' Association Board, Parents' School Boards and various athletic organizations.

Mary attended Rider College and the Universidad de Javeriana. Prior to retirement, Mary worked for the U.S. Navy as an Employee Relations Specialist and then in private industry as a contractor for the U.S. Navy in a similar capacity.

Mary's father, Francis (Pat) Magee, husband and brother are also longtime members of the AOH. In the LAOH/AOH communities of South Carolina, Mary is known as a worker that promotes our motto. The SC State Board and our four SC Divisions take great pride and pleasure in nominating Mary F. Conlon for the office of National Catholic Action and ask for your support.

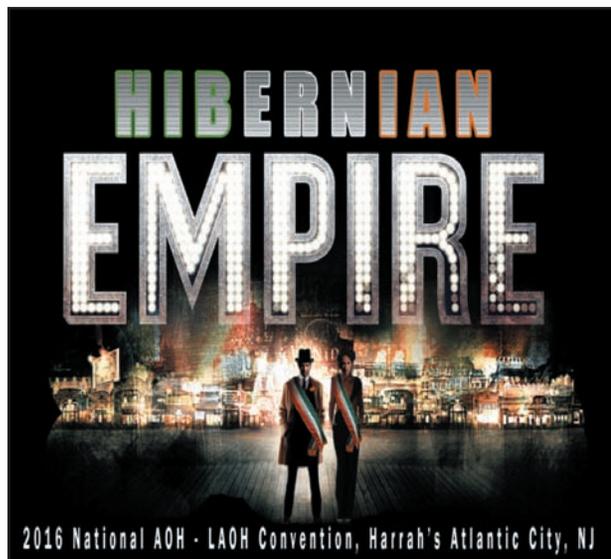
# Harrah's eager to welcome Hibernians

Caesars Entertainment and Harrah's Atlantic City cannot wait to host and welcome you, the delegates of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, to the Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center this coming July!

During your stay with us at Harrah's Atlantic City, we know that you will never run out of ways to enjoy your free time. With a limitless array of activities right here on property, there is always something to explore. Harrah's is home to the Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, which offers a variety of signature spa services from facials and massages to manicures. The Pool at Harrah's is open 365 days a year courtesy of a glass dome, creating your personal tropical oasis. Test your skills in the kitchen at The Viking Cooking School, which

combines a hands-on teaching experience and a gourmet toy store filled with the finest culinary tools available. Not to worry if you work up an appetite at the convention and exploring the property as Harrah's Atlantic City has a variety of exceptional restaurants. Some of the favorites include Martorano's, which brings bold flavor to the boardwalk with Italian American classics, Sammy D's, which takes East Coast favorites to the next level and The Steakhouse at Harrah's, offering premier fine dining all within walking distance of the conference space.

We couldn't be more thrilled to have you with us this July at Harrah's Atlantic City for your National Convention. We look forward to hosting you!



Hibernian Empire July 11-14 Atlantic City.



Harrah's Atlantic City at night



The new convention center banquet hall

## Hibernian Singers, a delight on the stages of the world

By Tom Jordan, choir member and Past AOH Suffolk County President

The Suffolk Hibernian Festival Singers, which recently celebrated its 35th year, was started by Brother Hibernian Ronnie Allen in 1980 with 12 members, all Hibernians. We did not make that a requirement, however. We are now 85 strong, about 60 percent of whom are members of the AOH. We do require that they have a good voice and love Irish music.

We started in nursing homes and at parish masses. Although that is still one of our goals, thanks to having acquired excellent, professional direction and training, as well as Ronnie's contacts with the Irish entertainment community, our horizons have expanded tremendously over the years.

It seemed no time before we were performing at Radio City Music Hall with Frank Patterson — four times — at Carnegie Hall with Frank and Phil Coulter, Ronan Tynan, and Andy Cooney — seven times — so far.

Jim & Angela Molloy, residents of Wicklow County, Ireland, are promoters of Irish entertainment in both countries. In 2002, they featured us in the Irish opera, "The Irish

Ring," with such stars as Anthony Kearns, and Kathryn Smyth in the Lyric Opera House, Baltimore; State Opera House, New Jersey; and Carnegie Hall.

They invited us to do the same in Ireland the next year in Slate Hill, Galway; in Kilkenny, Waterford, and the National Concert Hall, Dublin. We were invited to sing the High Mass in Latin in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome; in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh at a Mass celebrated by the then Primate of All Ireland, Tomas Cardinal O Fiaich.

While at a banquet in the Town Hall, Derry, we gave a "command performance" in the legislative chambers downstairs, "commanded" by the Lord Mayor and his wife, both of whom returned the complement by giving us a stunning performance. We've sung in various famous settings in France, Austria, San Diego and San Francisco.

As for St. Patrick's Church, Bay Shore, this was our 29th consecutive Christmas Show, each sellout weeks in advance. Ronnie tells me that this last one allowed us to present Msgr. Tom Coogan with \$10,100.



The Hibernian Festival Singers at their annual Christmas Concert benefiting St. Patrick's Church, Bay Shore, NY, on Dec. 18. Photo by Lenny Walker.

**Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians**



**2016 National Convention  
Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ  
Souvenir Journal**

To purchase an advertisement in the Souvenir Journal to be published in conjunction with the 2016 National AOH/LAOH Convention, taking place at Harrah's Casino & Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. July 11th through July 14th, I agree to pay the rate indicated below:

(Please check the appropriate box to indicate the size and price for your advertisement.)

Inside Front Cover	\$500 (sold)	Gold Framed Page	\$200
Inside Back Cover	\$350 (sold)	Full Page	\$150
Back Cover	(Please contact ad chair)	Half Page	\$85

Journal size: 5.5" X 8.5"  
(Attach ad or type ad message in box below)

Ad must be scannable or camera ready  
Electronic version encouraged with source file -NO FAXES  
Ads and payment must be received by June 11th, 2016

Journal Chairs

Jim Fallon: AOHDiv9@yahoo.com or 201-245-2267

Jacoba Kenna: jake2383@aol.com or 609-581-3741

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For convention events only; does not include hotel reservations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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I am a member of the AOH/LAOH (circle one) AOH Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Division # \_\_\_\_\_ County, State \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Package: \$200 if reserved by June 1, 2016. Reservations made after June 1, 2016: \$220.

Full Package includes:

- Icebreaker Reception "Sounds of the Jersey Shore" buffet & complimentary draft beer at Harrah's famous "Pool". *Casual Attire.*
- "Irish Night" includes a Duet of Chicken and Shrimp. Entertainment provided by the Willie Lynch Band. *Business Casual Attire.*
- Installation Banquet - Choice of (circle one): Chicken Beef Salmon.
- Entertainment provided by the Eamon Ryan Band. *Black Tie Optional.*

Ala Carte Options:

- Icebreaker (Monday): \$65
- Irish Night (Wednesday): \$90
- Installation Banquet (Thursday): \$95

Registration with secure on line credit card payment available at [www.aoh.com/ac2016](http://www.aoh.com/ac2016) or send completed registration form with check made payable to: AOH/LAOH National Convention.

AOH/LAOH National Convention  
c/o Denise McInerney  
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Manahawkin, NJ 08050

