

# The National HIBERNIAN Digest



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

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March-April 2016

1.50

## Honoring St. Patrick



Masses, parades and dinner-dances and celebrations of all kinds filled the days of March for AOH and LAOH members throughout the country. Here is just a small sampling of the Hibernians on parade. AOH Father Mychal Judge Hudson County, NJ Division 1, from left, Ron Cassidy, Jim Miller, Laurie Lukaszzyk, Ray Tierney, Michael Sweeney, Mike Collum, and Jim O'Donnell. Photo George Stampoulos: Treasurer-AOH Father Mychal Judge Hudson County, NJ Division 1. See page 12 for more St. Patrick's Parade photos.

## Convention News



by Sean Pender

As I write this article for the Digest at the beginning of March, over 50 percent of available rooms for the 2016 National Convention in Atlantic City have been booked. There is no doubt that it is possible that this could be the best attended National Hibernian convention ever. So don't be disappointed; book your room and package now.

Thanks to the talents of our National AOH web master Jeff Nisler all registration for the convention can be completed on line at [www.aoh.com/ac2016](http://www.aoh.com/ac2016).

Book your room by clicking on hotel registration, this will take you directly to Harrah's online registration. If you prefer to book your room, by phone you can call 1-866-503-3904 and give the reservation code SH07AH6.

Reserve your package by clicking on Package info. Make sure you book before June 1st and save. Full package costs \$200 per person and includes:

Ice Breaker Reception on Monday July 11th - "Sounds

of the Jersey Shore" Buffet and Complimentary Draft Beer at Harrah's famous "Pool." Casual Attire.

Irish Night Banquet on Wednesday July 13th - "Irish Night" includes a Duet of Chicken and Shrimp. Entertainment provided by the Willie Lynch Band. Business Casual Attire.

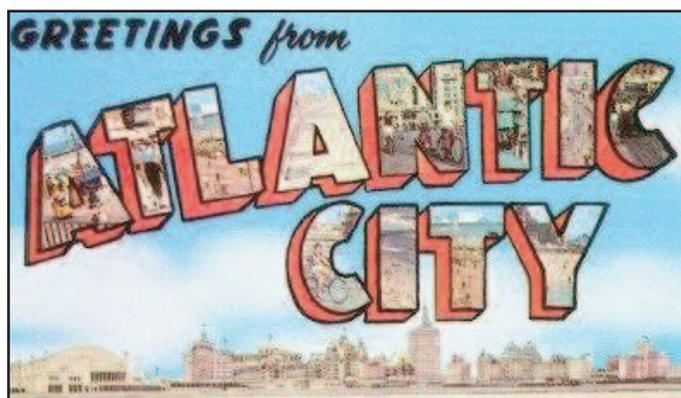
Installation Banquet on Thursday July 14th - Choice of Chicken, Beef or Salmon. Entertainment provided by the Eamon Ryan Band. Black Tie Optional.

A la carte options are also available on line.

If you prefer to reserve your package by mail use the application in the Digest.

You can even submit and pay for your journal ad on line by clicking on the Journal Ad Book tab. Prefer to submit ad by mail, see journal ad book form in the Digest. Official convention merchandise will also be available to order on line by clicking on merchandise.

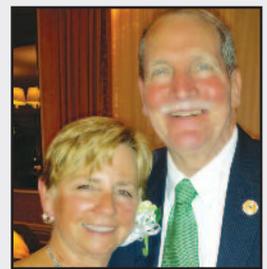
Don't be shut out, reserve your room, book your package, place your ad and order convention merchandise now, just visit [www.aoh.com/ac2016](http://www.aoh.com/ac2016) your one stop shop for the 2016 National AOH/LAOH convention.



DATED MATERIAL

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More news at [www.hiberniandigest.com](http://www.hiberniandigest.com)



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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**

July 2016 AOH/LAOH National Convention

**ELECT  
DAN DENNEHY  
For  
AOH National  
Director**

**Decades Of Dedication & Hard Work**

**National & NY State Board Immigration Chairman  
3rd Generation Member Since 1986  
Former NY State Director  
PEC & FFAI Chair  
1989-1991 Division President**

**'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

### 1916 — No Apology Required

Easter every year provides each of us with a unique opportunity to both meditate and celebrate. It reminds us that ultimately we are a Risen People.

In a wholly different context, Easter 2016 both commemorates and celebrates the 1916 Rising as a defining event for ALL Irish people, regardless of where they may now be scattered or when they or their ancestors left Ireland. Many of those wonderful folks were, in fact, driven from their homeland by oppression, and oppression clearly takes many forms. Lack of opportunity is a form of oppression. Lack of food and housing is a form of oppression. Denial of essential human rights is, indeed, oppression!

There are those here in America, in Ireland, and beyond who dismissively assert that there was never a need for an Easter Rising in 1916. They maintain that Home Rule had been guaranteed and that such an assurance would have ultimately translated into gradual independence for Ireland, despite the fact that Britain was openly arming and supporting those who would fight to the death to oppose that very pledge. These same pundits claim that resorting to violent rebellion was an unacceptably radical solution. Yet history is replete with examples of revolution providing the essential means for citizens to attain freedom, opportunity, and basic human dignity. Undeniably, our own American Revolution secured both freedom and nationhood, and it clearly took another armed struggle, the War of 1812, to re-affirm America's national sovereignty and independence from Britain.

And so it is tremendously frustrating to hear some academics undermine the legitimacy of the 1916 Easter Rising. But it is equally troubling to pick up vibes from various quarters that our world-wide commemoration should somehow be muted lest it offend anyone, especially those who explicitly or tacitly support British rule in the Six Counties. Let us be very clear as to our purpose. We seek to offend no one, and while we accept views in opposition to our own, we do see the 1916 Easter Rising as a major milestone on the road to our ultimate destination, which is a United Ireland where all of the nation's sons and daughters can live in respect, harmony and peace. Any attempt to de-emphasize, to water down, to neutralize or to neuter 1916 is essentially offensive to us.

As Hibernians in the United States, we look forward to all of the events planned to celebrate the brave women and men who in various ways sacrificed for Irish freedom in 1916 and beyond. I urge you to plan a suitable celebration locally. Be present, if possible, at the AOH-LAOH National Mass and Commemoration in New York City on Saturday, April 23, a project that has long been the effort of National Vice President Jim McKay and our 2016 Committee. Above all, let us all look upon this centennial as a serious opportunity for us as an organization and for us as individuals to both remember and re-commit.

## Convention-Related Deadlines

### MAY 1

AOH Deadline for submission of Constitutional Amendments to National Legal Counsel Patrick Sturd

### JUNE 1

Deadline for Convention Journal Ads (details in this edition and also on AOH-LAOH websites)

### JUNE 1

AOH Deadline for submission of Donation Requests to National Vice President Jim McKay

### JUNE 10

AOH Deadline for submission of National Life Membership Applications to National Secretary Jere Cole.  
(Review closely AOH Constitution Article IV, Section 6 prior to submitting.)



## vice president's report

by Jim McKay

Many of our members call this time of year the "green season." It is obviously called that because of the many things we are called to do in the month of March. We find ourselves not having enough time to complete our Hibernian tasks. With the 1916 Uprising activities coming right after St. Patrick's Day and almost the whole month of April, it has compounded the problem. However, I hope that you take the time necessary to insure that your St. Patrick's Day traditions don't suffer because of what is to come the week after.

I would like to remind all our Brothers that 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 Festival Singers 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. For those who wish to attend, Brother Jim Russell, County President, and Jim McDonnell, 1916 chairman in Rockland County, invite you all to Pearl River for the Rockland Commemoration. We have booked a block of rooms at the Pearl River Hilton at \$145 per night. The Pearl River Hilton can be reached at 845-735-9000; when booking your rooms, please mention the booking code: AOH 2. We will also be providing bus transportation into New York City for the 1 p.m. Mass Saturday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. There will be a \$20 round trip charge per person. There will be a function on Friday night (April 22, 2016) before at the John Cardinal D'Alton AOH Division 3 Hall in Pearl River; all are invited! Saturday will be spent in NYC and Sunday morning there will be a Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by a parade at noon to the GAA Fields. Immediately following the ceremonies at the GAA Fields, The Rockland County AOH will be hosting a luncheon for all guests at the Pearl River Hilton. The cost of the luncheon will be \$40 per person. All checks should be made payable to the Rockland County AOH. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis, so all are urged to contact Jim Russell by e-mail if you plan to attend. Jim's email address is: [russe340@aol.com](mailto:russe340@aol.com). For additional information, you can visit the web site at [www.rocklandcountyaoh.com](http://www.rocklandcountyaoh.com).



## chaplain's report

by Father Tom O'Donnell

### Memories of Atlantic City 60 Years Ago

The Biennial National Convention of the AOH/LAOH will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from July 11 to July 14, 2016. The Brothers and Sisters from all over the United States are looking forward to four days of Masses, meetings, music and merriment.

Going to Atlantic City this year for me, a priest ordained 56 years, will bring back memories of the yearly late summer excursions of the "Four Amigos" between 1956 and 1959. That is the name I have given to myself and my three seminarian classmates who made the trip to Atlantic City every year at the conclusion of our summer assignments in our dioceses and before we returned to our theological studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. The "Four Amigos" were made up of Bob from Port Clinton, Ohio, John from Philadelphia and Norb and myself, Tom, from Pittsburgh.

Bob would drive his mother's 1950 Buick from Ohio and pick up Norb and myself in Pittsburgh and drive down the Pennsylvania Turnpike to John's home in Philadelphia. We always stayed at John's home for a few days. John lived with his mother, Catherine, his aunt, Marie, and his siblings, Bill, Frank and Joan. John's father passed away at a young age leaving Catherine as a single mother to raise the four children with the help of her sister, Marie. John's family was so welcoming that the other three of us were treated like members of their family. When you attend a seminary for 12 years, your classmates become your brothers.

continued on page 4



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

Financial secretaries, have you paid your 2015 national per capita? It was due to the national office by February 15th. Divisions who have not paid will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in the national convention in Atlantic City in July.

Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2015. It is the dues that you collected during the 2015 calendar year. Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military, and national life members. It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership total numbers, especially Lines 11 & 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to take a closer look why that's the case.

When sending your per capita payment, please remember to include your completed Form 11 so that we can credit your account properly. We have payment from some divisions that were mailed without a Form 11. These have been set aside until we receive the Form 11. Also, we need your EIN number to file with the IRS.

County and state per capita checks are handled separately and should not be mailed to the national office.

Form 9s (certificate of election) are due to the national office as well. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses need to be included on the Form 9 for each officer.

A few reminders:

1. The financial secretary assigns ID numbers, not the national office. For new members, always go to the bottom of your membership list and use the next open ID number.
2. Do not reuse past ID numbers for new members.
3. For reinstatements, if you have the member's old ID number, we want to use it, unless it's unavailable, then you'd assign a new number by going to the bottom of your list.
4. Send in Form 40s throughout the year with changes/additions. It will be less work for you and for us at the end of the year.



## Director's Report

by Mike Delaney  
Co-Organizer

### Monument to Irish influence on abolitionist

"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave" was published in America in May 1845. The book of Douglass' life experience as an escaped and learned slave lent him credibility among the Northern abolitionist elite. It also drew the attention of his Maryland slaveholder who issued a bounty for Douglass' return. When this news traveled north Douglass knew he would need to flee America to maintain his independence. In August 1845 as An Gorta Mor took hold and hundreds of thousands were fleeing our ancestral homeland, Frederick Douglass set off for Ireland from Boston Harbor.

The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project was born some years ago when co-founders Kristin M. Leary in Washington, D.C., and Don Mullan, in Dublin, set out to promote the oft overlooked but integral connection Frederick Douglass had to Ireland. On his 1845 voyage to Ireland, Douglass saw first-hand the depth of despair wreaked on the island nation by British oppression. He had the opportunity to engage with allied progressives dedicated to ending slave labor. Most importantly, he met The Emancipator, Daniel O'Connell, and would forever be transformed by the experience.

O'Leary and Mullen worked with allied Irish-American organizations, the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and Civil Rights activists to memorialize Douglass' contributions to humanity and the Irish influence on his work. In November 2015 the memorial depicted here was formally dedicated on the grounds of the University of Maryland. The cape he wears is modeled on O'Connell's and his outstretched hand fashioned from a study of President Obama's as Douglass makes an impassioned speech in Ireland.

Though they had but a short time together, Douglass recognized his moral alignment with the Irish. He remarked later in life on the effect O'Connell had on him and his future works. The Frederick Douglass Ireland Project will continue to host public events to promote civil and human rights. The Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives is run by Douglass' descendants and seeks to eliminate human trafficking around the globe.



Photo: Lee Bodzioch/Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.



## treasurer's report

by Dan O'Connell

The 2016 convention is upon us and thoughts are turning to State Delegates. The secretary's office is working hard to verify those divisions who are paid and unpaid. Remember, if your division per capita are not paid to the national your state will not receive the delegates for your division.

2015 dues collection is on a good track as we continue to improve our electronic communication and continued education of the procedures. As you have heard me say several times in the past, the per capita paid in 2016 is from the dues the division collected in 2015. Realistically there should be no delay in dues payment because each division should be restricting the National and State Per Capita from you dues until the payment is processed.

Dues and delegate counts are based on your division membership as of December 31, 2015. If your national list is not correct it will affect your dues owed. We have been working diligently for the last several years to get the local membership lists to match the National Board list. Division secretaries and presidents are the only people who can make the corrections. This year every division received a list that included a summary of your membership in order to make it even easier to update. Most divisions have done so but there are still a few who are behind the times.

It is the Division Secretary and President's responsibility to correct all spelling, address problems for any membership card by the end of the previous year. This allows you to receive the correct information on your current card.

**Convention.** Now is the time to reserve your room and register for the events at the convention. The rates for Atlantic City in July are incredible. Your room will only be \$126 and change, (including tax) which is very good. Some hospitality products will be provided to each hospitality room. The available product will be divided up between the rooms based on the size of the states involved and based on the number of convention registrants from each participating state on June 1. This makes early registration now critical for your state.

**Taxes.** On April 15, we will be filing a 1024 from with the IRS. This will list all boards included in our 501C8 Tax Exempt status. What we need to include your division, county and state boards is your form 11's (and 12's for county and state) including your EIN numbers. These are sent in with your 2015 national per capita. We are not permitted to include unpaid divisions on the list because they are not in good standing. All divisions who paid on time and included their EIN number will be part of our filing.

I have had the privilege to work with so many incredible Hibernians over the past several years. At the top of my list is AOH Brother Denny Donnelly. I had the honor recently of presenting Denny with his National Life Membership Award. I want to take time now to thank Denny for all the great work over the years at every level of our Order. I know his efforts will continue for years to come.

The last four years serving as your treasurer have been challenging, to say the least. I am looking forward to the convention and reporting on the challenges and how we addressed each. Although we have accomplished much in the last four years the challenges of taxes, dues collection and form updates will continue for years to come. It has been exciting to work on the transition of our national office. Jere Cole is doing a great job and I hope my efforts have assisted him. As I look back at the success of our National Office I know we would not be where we are today had it not been for the efforts of my Brother, my Friend, and my Mentor, Past National President, Past National Secretary, Tom McNabb.

**Deadline for May-June issue**  
All articles and photos are due no later than  
**MAY 1, 2016**

### CHAPLAIN continued from page 3

While at John's house, the four of us stayed up late into the morning playing cards and catching up on all the seminary gossip. We always would go to Mass every morning and did so after being up until the wee hours of the morning. John's mother told us to say in bed that morning but we went to Mass anyway. On the way back home from church we were in a small car accident. John's mother scolded us and told us that a mother always knows best.

After several days with John's family we headed down to Atlantic City for three says of surf and sun. John's sister, Joan, always went with us. She knew all the good places to go and eat in Atlantic City as well as the closest church where we could attend Mass every morning. The casinos did not appear until 1978 so we spent a lot of time on the beach and enjoying the fun on the boardwalk, especially the Steel Peer. Hopefully, all of the boardwalk attractions will be back in operation after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Once again I am looking forward to James' Salt Water Taffy and maybe a little of Taylor's Pork Roll Sandwiches. But most of all I am looking forward to spending some quality time with my AOH and LAOH Brothers and Sisters just as I did with my three seminarian brothers 60 years ago. Let us play together and pray together as we continue to practice our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. And speaking of charity, perhaps the slots will give us a little return on our investment.

Father Tom O'Donnell, AOH National Chaplain



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Greg Sean Canning  
FFAI Co-Chairman

### Drogheda's Destruction by Oliver Cromwell

For this Digest edition's focus on atrocities enacted against the Irish People, I would like to concentrate on the tragedy of Drogheda inflicted by Oliver Cromwell and his Parliamentarians.

On October 23, 1641, (40 years after the great rebellion of Hugh O'Neill) the Irish in Ulster had once again risen in revolt against the English occupation of Ireland. From Ulster, that rebellion spread throughout the remaining provinces. Unfortunately for Ireland, the land remained bitterly divided among the various factions that made up the population at that time in Irish history.

By 1647 through 1649, the rebellion had suffered serious setbacks. On August 13, 1649 Oliver Cromwell set sail for Ireland with the sole purpose of bringing a final end to that rebellion by capturing those strongholds still in Irish hands.

Cromwell arrived in Dublin on August 15, 1649, and was greeted with the roar of cannons from the walls of the city and by a great and enthusiastic crowd. Cromwell's favorable reception was due to the fact that Dublin had become for all purposes an English city. All Irish Catholics had been previously expelled from the city.

Following Cromwell's arrival, plans were set in motion for laying siege to the city of Drogheda, which was under the control of Sir Arthur Aston, an English Catholic. With an infantry of 2,200 men and 20 cavalry, Aston had been left in charge by the Duke of Ormonde to delay Cromwell from marauding farther north.

Despite Cromwell's superior numbers (8,000 infantry and 4,000 cavalry), Aston was convinced that Drogheda's geographical location would enable him to survive the Cromwellian onslaught. So convinced was Aston that he stated, "He who could take Drogheda could take Hell." This confidence was based on the fact that the town was totally contained within a formidable wall — 1 ½ miles long, 20 feet high, and 6 feet wide at the base, narrowing to 2 feet on top and situated near a steep ravine called the Dale.

On September 10, Cromwell demanded the surrender of Drogheda. With Aston's refusal, Cromwell's cannons opened fire. It did not take long before the city walls began to crumble. With the harbor blockaded by the Protestant Parliamentary fleet, the Duke of Ormonde was unable to send reinforcements. Knowing that Cromwell would show no mercy, Aston refused to surrender and continued to fight on.

The Catholic defenders fought bravely, at first turning back the attackers, but eventually the Parliamentarians crashed through the walls and seized St. Mary's Church. Aston and some defenders fled to Mill Mount. Possessed by bloodlust, the Parliamentarians rushed up the hill, and all defenders, including Aston, were killed by order of Cromwell. Cromwell's forces swept through the streets with orders to kill anyone in arms. Unfortunately, civilians also were killed in the onslaught. Priests and friars were treated as combatants by Cromwell's Puritans and executed. Even more horrible was the fate of the defenders of St. Peter's Church in the northern part of the town; the church was burned down around them.

By nightfall, only small pockets of resistance on the walls remained. When they managed to kill some Protestant Parliamentarians, Cromwell ordered the captured (Catholic) officers to be killed and every 10th Catholic soldier executed. Nearly 4,000 Catholics died at Drogheda.

When forces on one side of the river surrendered, Cromwell ordered the annihilation of that entire population. Cromwell later wrote, "I do not think that thirty of the whole number escaped with their lives." Irish survivors were sold as slaves to the sugar plantations at Barbados.

After the massacre at Drogheda, Cromwell sought to explain his actions in a letter to William Lenthall, speaker of the English Parliament. An excerpt from that letter follows:

"...I am persuaded that this is a righteous judgement of God upon these barbarous wretches, who have imbedded their hands in so much innocent blood, and it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future, which are satisfactory grounds to such actions, which otherwise cannot but work remorse and regret..."

Following the destruction of Drogheda, Cromwell turned his attention to the rest of Ireland and the subjugation and destruction of the "Papist" population.

Many today trace the current problems in Northern Ireland back to Cromwell. During the troubled years, British troops in Ulster were often referred to as "Cromwell's Boys." There is hardly a ruined building in Ireland whose destruction is not blamed on Cromwell and his forces.

For the Irish People, Oliver Cromwell is for all practical purposes "Ireland's Hitler."



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

### Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal

In the Penal Days, our ancestors stood guard to protect the Roman Catholic clergy as they celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the disenfranchised Irish. In the days of Nativist Bigotry, our immigrant forebears stood guard around Catholic churches to safeguard our clergy from the anti-Catholic Know Nothings. As they were needed then, we are needed now! The number of applicants to the religious life is decreasing each year due largely to the cost of educating and sustaining novitiates. We are being called again to the old tradition. It is our turn to emulate those courageous Irish men and women who kept the faith alive for us, and keep it alive for our children and grandchildren. You can prove that the ancient spirit is still alive in you by supporting Project St. Patrick.

The goal of Project St. Patrick is to fund grants in perpetuity and increase support for these men and women of God. Project St. Patrick is a joint Catholic Action program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians that was started in 1995.

Funding for Project St. Patrick comes from outright donations from AOH & LAOH State, County Boards and divisions as well as from individual Hibernians to the Annual PSP Easter Appeal or throughout the year. Every jurisdiction is urged to include Project St. Patrick in their annual charitable donations. For every \$500 or more donation the PSP committee will designate a Scholarship Grant in memory of, or In Honor of an individual's name submitted by donor. This could be a beloved chaplain, or a proud member of your State, County or Division. Last year was very successful, thank you to everyone who participated in this endeavor. We were able to grant 94 scholarships including 22 novices and 74 seminarians. Many seminarians came from those who were recommended through their respective Dioceses. Young men from Dioceses in the following States were included. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Louisiana, Florida, Virginia, Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., and Minnesota.

A mailing is scheduled to go out to all Presidents for this year's Appeal. We again encourage everyone to do what they can throughout the year. Your ongoing and continued support is greatly appreciated. You will be again asked to fill out a Diocese information form. I know that many of you did this last year but we are asking for it again. Sometimes contacts and information changes, and this way we will have access to the most current listing.

Project St. Patrick Memorial cards are also an additional source of funding for this program. When a member, family or friend passes away a PSP Memorial Card is presented to family and a donation sent into the Hibernian Charity with the enclosed donation form. Additional cards can be obtained by contacting Tom O'Donnell - email: NLNOD@comcast.net

Hibernians have remained steadfast in their mission to protect and support priests from the penal days in Ireland to the present. As an Irish-American Catholic organization, we must continue to foster and support vocations both spiritually and financially. Please support Project St. Patrick with a donation.



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## freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Co-Chairman

### FFAI Fund Raiser in Chicago

In December 2015, Division #32 Chicago, invited me to attend one of their many 2016 planned celebrations and charitable benefits. I held back making any commitments until after fulfilling some Christmas plans in Phoenix. In January, I was happy to accept their invitation to attend their first benefit of the new year, a Texas Hold'em tournament. The proceeds to be their donation to the 2015/2016 Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal. So, after the drive to Chicago my wife and I and were hosted at a fine hotel. The next morning, we were greeted by Tom Rowan, president of Division #32 and chauffeured from our hotel to the fund raiser location. What followed was one of the most enjoyable and memorable days of my Hibernian life. My wife Agnes and I were swamped with greetings and thanks, for making the trip and participating in the fundraiser. Among the many new friends we met were Irish born AOH members. Needless to say there was much story-telling and Irish county boasting. Truly the 'craic was 90 in the north side of Chicago'. The event was well attended and the division was happy at the end of the afternoon, to meet their FFAI donation goal. My special thanks and congratulations to the Officers and members of Division #32, Chicago, for hosting a terrific successful FFAI fund raiser and treating Agnes and I with such a caring and warm welcome. I look forward to seeing some of you guys in Atlantic City this summer.

### The Republic of Ireland Elections

As we go to print there is still recounts taking place in 11 electoral districts in Ireland. Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny has admitted his coalition government has failed to secure a return to office as the country's election count continues. Results so far suggest Mr. Kenny's Fine Gael party will remain the largest in parliament, but will have only a narrow lead over its main rival, Fianna Fáil. The Labour Party, the junior coalition partner, looks to have suffered badly. Sinn Féin, smaller parties and independents all appear to have done well. Just a handful of seats have yet to be declared. Notable candidates elected include Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams and Agriculture Minister Simon Coveney, of Fine Gael. Alan Kelly, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, narrowly retained his seat. However, Fine Gael's deputy leader, and Children and Youth Affairs Minister, James Reilly has lost his seat in Dublin Fingal. Fine Gael's former justice minister Alan Shatter also lost his seat, as had Alex White, the Labour Party's communications minister. After being elected, Gerry Adams criticized both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. "Elections give voters the opportunity to choose who should run their country, but the results in the Republic of Ireland suggest the public cannot agree on who should take power. The next Irish parliament will be a divided one, with a definite split between left and right". Enda Kenny has gone on record stating that there will not be a ruling government in place in time for the upcoming 1916 anniversary celebrations in Dublin. We shall wait and see what develops.

### Remembering 1916 - 1966 Events

This year Irish men and women all over the world are preparing to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. As the April 24th date approaches, I remember back to that date in 1966 when the nationalists in Ireland were gearing up for the 50th year anniversary celebrations. I had a full time position in the Belfast City Hall. On

weekend nights I worked in a bar in The International Hotel, an establishment in the center of Belfast, Catholic owned and reputed to hire only Catholics.

The hotel's reputation as a nationalist business was further enhanced when it was reported in the Belfast newspapers that members of Sinn Fein planned to have a 50th Rising anniversary dinner celebration in the International. (No other Belfast hotel would entertain them.) Belfast was a nervous town back in those days. loyalists believed that every catholic slept with a gun under their pillow and were waiting for April 24, to have a second Easter Rising. Ian Paisley was pestering the then Prime Minister of N.I., Terence O'Neill to invoke special security measures. Paisley and Ned Carson (son of Lord Edward Carson) formed the Ulster Protestant Volunteers. Their aim was to interfere with planned republican marches and be ready to put down any attempts of a second rising. Terence O'Neill was forced to react and so he mobilized 10,500 B Specials, sent in army helicopters to the Irish border, stopped and searched trains from Dublin to Belfast, armed RUC police with machine guns mounted at road check points, all to be ready for a rising. Easter passed with some nationalist riots. June 1966 rolled in and the loyalists were all fired up celebrating the anniversary of the World War One Battle of the Somme. We had another loyalist group formed the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). Again an Ian Paisley invocation along with a new character, Gusty Spence. They set out to topple the Terence O'Neill government. The UVF began their reign of terror by murdering an innocent catholic, Patrick Scullion a friend of mine. A gentle giant who was walking home after a night of drinking with friends. They shot him from a car as they were slowly cruising around our Catholic neighborhood looking for a soft target. Their second murder was a mistake. They threw a petrol bomb through the window of a protestant widow's home, killing her. The real target was a Catholic owned bar next to the widow's home. Days later the UVF sent a message to all the Belfast newspapers stating they had declared war on the IRA and any of its splinter groups. This is where the International Hotel comes into the picture. The bar staff of the International Hotel frequented a private club for a few drinks after leaving the hotel. I often joined the guys there for a few beers, but on that night, I had another date and did not accompany them. For some reason that night four of the bar staff ended up in the Malvern Arms, on the loyalist Shankill Road district. The UVF gang under Gusty Spence's leadership were also in the Malvern Arms bar that night. Upon questioning the strangers at the bar, Gusty was told by one of them that they worked in the International Hotel. As I mentioned before everyone knew that the employees of that hotel, were Catholics. Gusty informed his UVF cohorts that there were 4 IRA members at the bar. His gang left early, obtained some weapons and ambushed the four lads when they left the bar. The result was 1 dead, my friend Peter Ward, 2 wounded and 1 who was lucky to escape injury. There were a few RUC policemen in the bar that night. It did not take long before Gusty and his gang were arrested. During the trial one of the gang said to the police, "I am sorry I ever heard of that man Paisley and decided to follow him". They got heavy jail sentences. But that was not the end of their story. 1966 was the year that started the 'TROUBLES' as history now refers to that terrible period that ended with the Good Friday Agreement.

Let us hope that the 1916 Rising celebrations this year, north and south of Ireland, are incident free.

### 2015- 2016 FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal

Donations are still rolling in. If your division has not made a donation, bring the subject up at your next meeting. Use the \$10 + sheet and circulate it around your fellow members asking for individual minimum 10 dollar donations. Every donation goes to needy Irish Groups. God Bless and thank you to all those divisions and members who have already sent in their contributions.



## catholic action

by Edward J. Wallace  
Chairman

### Christianity 'running on fumes'

Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron said popular culture's message of individuals being "infinitely right" is "repugnant to (Catholics') Eucharistic faith. But he also said Christianity is "running on fumes" as it tries to counter the trend of people leaving the church or staying away from the Eucharist.

"What's sad today is so many in the Catholic world have become blasé about the Eucharist." The bishop said only 30 percent of Catholics in the United States actually receive Communion, calling this a "disaster."

Bishop Barron - author of numerous books and a longtime faculty member, then president of Mundelein Seminary, major seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago - said the call of the church today is to retain Catholics and attract new ones.

"If the church can't find a way to tell that story (Catholic faithful "did not invent their own story, we belong to a story" and that is God's drama) in a theo-dramatic way, people will drift away to this easy self-invention philosophy," he said. "So it is a real challenge to the church. We've got to be bold. We've got to be confident. We've got to be smart."

People ignore Jesus' commands all the time, said Bishop Barron, but "over the centuries that one dominical command (Do this in memory of me) has been massively obeyed." That revelation of the pattern of Jesus' life in the breaking of the bread is the moment the faithful "get it" and are no longer walking the wrong way, he added.

"Wealth, pleasure, honor, power ... we sinners, we go lusting after them all the time, but they won't satisfy us. Look for eternal things, eternal bread. "

When Jesus says his body and blood are given up for everyone, the bishop said, "If he's the word of God, what he says reaches into the very roots of something and changes it. [He is] Really, truly and substantially present.

## New Jersey

### State Board meeting in Kearny

The New Jersey State Board held its meeting at the Irish American Association in Kearny, NJ, on Saturday, Jan. 30. Photo submitted by Brother George Stampoulos, Treasurer, Father Mychal Judge AOH Hudson County Division 1.



State Board officers and brothers.

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## anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

On the anti-defamation front we definitely have good news and bad news. The good news is thanks to your efforts, we are making progress on the anti-defamation front. As of this writing we are not seeing the defaming T-shirts at Walmart that we saw last year. As previously reported, the Order did have a conference call with the Walmart executive committee and the call concluded that they were now sensitive to our concern and would consider it in their buying decisions. Looks as if they were listening, as while some of current St. Patrick's Day merchandise may not be to everyone's taste at least we appear to have broken the Irish=Drunk message. We did on Walmart.com see one shirt being sold (by a third party vendor, not Walmart itself) with the phrase "I am so Irish my Liver Hurts," we raised an objection and they pulled it. Give credit where credit is due; they are listening. We have even seen progress from perpetual offender Spencer's, while they still have the reprehensible "Irish Drinking Team Shirt" that is about it, no "Everyone likes a Drunk Slut" or the "Drunk O'Meters" with a maximum rating of "Irish." Progress for sure, but more to do.

Things though sadly are not as happy on the media front. On March 2, i.e. two days into Irish American Heritage Month, ABC TV debuted the "Real O'Neals," a "comedy" about your "typical Irish Catholic family." To ABC TV your typical Irish Catholic family includes a domineering, sanctimonious mother who speaks in "Catholic Mom speak" and places statues of the Blessed Virgin on the toilet as a reminder to close the lid, a boorish father who is a cop named Pat, of course, a slacker son who is an anorexic jock, a daughter who is skimming from Catholic Charities where she uses 'Catholic Guilt' as a shakedown device and finally the hero of the piece who is a naive gay son who "comes out" at a bingo game. Making cameo appearances are a venal parish priest, angry nuns and Jesus, who acts like a character from "Wayne's World." In short, we have every defaming and denigrating Irish and Catholic Hollywood stereotype you can think of. We have issued a press release and called on your support brothers to protest "this performance that that may reasonably be interpreted / as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people" and that by the time you read this the "Real O'Neals" will be in the past with Thomas Nast where it belongs.

Brothers, this is one example that shows that anti-Irish Catholic bigotry is still all too acceptable in 21st century America. Exceptionalism is rarely a good thing, and it is certainly not a badge of honor to be the only ethnicity that can be safely defamed with impunity. I get the comments of some that "political correctness" often goes too far, but what does it say if we are silent when our heritage is denigrated while other are actively protecting theirs? That the denigration is true? That we don't care? We often here of "Irish Pride," let's make it more than lip service on St. Patrick's Day. Let's be Irish Proud every day and speak up when our heritage and ancestry is defamed.



## pro-life

by Edward J. Wallace  
Chairman

### Mass celebrated on altar made of snow

Father Patrick Behm's reference to himself as "a simple priest" went viral on social media for celebrating Mass January 23rd on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Father Behm, of LeMars, Iowa, was returning with others from the Diocese of Sioux City following the annual March For Life rally in Washington, when Winter Storm Jonas consumed the East Coast. The bus — and many other vehicles — had to stop on the turnpike because of an accident on the road.

A knock on the door of the bus changed it all for Father Behm and about 500 others. A man from Minnesota said that some people had constructed an altar out of the snow and would he (Fr. Behm) want to celebrate Mass. Fr. Behm, who had his travel Mass kit with him, was given the honor of being principal celebrant among the eight or so priests in the immediate vicinity of the bus. They also agreed that Father Behm should do the preaching. While not having read the day's Gospel from Matthew, Father Shaun Haggerty of the Diocese of Sioux Falls had, and said it would be easy to preach because the Gospel was about how everyone thought Jesus was crazy and they probably thought we were, too.

Distributing communion to several hundred individuals was next on the to-do list for Father Behm and reminiscent of another Gospel story. "I guess it was kind of like the loaves and fishes because we did have to break up the hosts into small pieces," he said. "I would guess about five pieces were not consumed. Father admitted that his hands were too numb from the cold to distribute Communion, and the other priests took on the task.

Father Behm recounted that the response to the 35-minute service, which started at noon, was gratifying. He also stressed the reason behind that Mass was initially the reason for the trip — the March for Life to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

"Make no mistake about it, the tide is changing and I believe this is the generation that will see Roe overturned," he said. "Every time I go to the March for Life, the crowd gets younger and younger. Christ was with us in this storm. He's with us in every storm, and it is He who will ultimately bring the victory."



## Irish way & study abroad

by Bill Sullivan  
Chairman

Last month Elizabethwin Broost, one of our recent Study Abroad Scholarship recipients sent us a thank you note. Elizabethwin studied for a semester in Dublin at the Institute for the International Education. In her note, Elizabethwin noted the positive experience that she had studying in Dublin and how studying in her families ancestral homeland made her truly appreciate her Irish Heritage. Elizabethwin's comments show the importance and value of an education in Ireland. With the historical significance of 2016 being the Centennial of the Easter Rising, it certainly would be a once in a lifetime year to study in Ireland.

Recently all State, County and Division Presidents were sent a letter with information regarding our 2016 Scholarship opportunities. We ask that you please share the letter with your membership. The following is a synopsis of the information contained in this letter.

The Irish Way High School Scholarship: The Irish Way Program is unique cultural experience for high school students, which has been a nationally recognized summer study abroad program for over 40 years. The 2016 Irish Way High School Program will take place in Ireland from June 30 to July 24, 2016 The Program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops, and tours. The goal of the Irish Way is to introduce American students to the essential characteristics and qualities of Irish life.

The National Boards offer two \$500 Scholarships for this program. One of these scholarships is for the children and grandchildren of an AOH member and one of these scholarships is available for the children and grandchildren of an LAOH member.

Anyone who would like an application or further information about the program should contact the Irish American Cultural Institute, PO Box 1716, Morristown, NJ 07962. The Irish Way telephone number is: 973 605 1991. An Application Request Form for the AOH & LAOH Irish Way Scholarship is also included in this issue of the Hibernian Digest. More information on this program is available by going to: [www.irishway.org](http://www.irishway.org).

The AOH Study Abroad Scholarship: The AOH National Board offers two (2) \$1000 Junior Year Abroad Scholarships for the son, daughter or grandchild of an AOH member who has been accepted at an accredited college in Ireland. Should not enough applications for the Junior Year Abroad Scholarship be realized, then \$500 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs or \$1000/500 Masters Degree will be considered. The deadline for the next round of applications for this scholarship is May 1, 2016. An Application Request Form for the Study Abroad Scholarship is included in this issue of the Hibernian Digest.

More information is available by e-mailing me at: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)



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## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

As I write this article on the 1st of March, Irish American Heritage Month is not yet an hour old; yet I know when you read this IAHM 2016 will be in the books. I have already received a few proclamations, well done Brothers, and I anticipate more to come. I realize and appreciate that IAHM 2016 has been hard this year with so many of you quite rightly planning to celebrate the Centenary of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and the Easter Rising which come only a month afterwards; this is only fitting and proper for this very special anniversary. However, let us commit ourselves now to seeing that IAHM 2017 is something truly special.

The truth is Brothers we as an Order and as Irish Americans need IAHM. We still see it all too acceptable to engage in debasing Irish stereotypes, our heritage trivialized or worse completely ignored. While the classroom door has swung wide open (quite rightly) to allow in so many diverse heritages and their accomplishments, Commodore Barry, the Irish Brigade, Nelly Bly, Mother Jones, John Phillip Holland, "Wild Bill" Donovan and countless other great Irish Men and Women are still kept in the hallway. We have to fight to see them achieve their just due in our public institutions, but we have a responsibility to invite them to our dinner tables when talking to the young people in our lives and to bring it to our Divisions. We talk about Irish pride; lets show the world, especially those who attempt to trivialize and defame us, why we are proud.

The great Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke noted that "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors". That is not only advice, but a warning to us as Hibernians. Our heritage and culture has survived against the odds, against repression and tyranny the like of which no other people have suffered, but it has always been fragile. Its greatest strength the, personnel passing on from one generation to another, is also its weakness, if we lose one generation it's gone. Don't let our heritage die on our watch! Commit yourself to making sure that March is a month of celebration and remembrance; that our Irish Heritage is something in our hearts not just on our T-Shirts.



### AOH & LAOH NATIONAL BOARDS ANNOUNCE 2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

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- \_\_\_\_\_ AOH IRISH STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP IN IRELAND (College)

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E-mail: [cbuck@iaci-usa.org](mailto:cbuck@iaci-usa.org) or write to:  
**Irish American Cultural Institute**  
PO Box 1716, Morristown, NJ 07962

For more information on the **Irish Studies Scholarship** contact:  
**William J. Sullivan, National Chairman**  
324 Winter Street, North Andover, MA 01845  
E-MAIL: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)

#### TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Present HS Grade \_\_\_\_\_ or College Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Grandparent is a Member of Division \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Grandparent Name \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2016  
PLEASE NOTE:

Parent/Grandparent must be a paid up member of a Division.  
Verification will be checked with National & Divisional Secretaries

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT  
**WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN, National Chairman**  
324 Winter Street - North Andover, MA 01845  
E-MAIL: [williamjsullivan@veerizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@veerizon.net)

## Sullivan announces for National Director

Bill Sullivan of Division 8 AOH in Lawrence Massachusetts has announced his attention to seek election for the office of National Director at the upcoming National Convention.

Brother Sullivan, who presently serves as National Board Liaison to New England and as National Chairman of the Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships, is a retired school administrator of the Lawrence Public Schools

Sullivan, who joined the AOH in 1973, has served in a variety of positions on the Division level: Chairman of the Standing Committee, Vice President and President. While Bill has served as Division President, Division 8's activities have greatly expanded on the cultural, social and community levels with the help of Division 8's hard working and dedicated officers and membership. A Division Scholarship Endowment Fund in excess of \$100,000 plus has been established, and this fund has given numerous scholarships to the children and grandchildren of members over the past 35 years. The Division as well, has been active in many charitable endeavors, contributing to the Greater Lawrence community and Merrimack Valley region well in excess of \$100,000, while keeping the Division's commitment to the National Board's yearly Christmas Appeal, Project Saint Patrick, the Hibernian Charity and other AOH projects. In 1982 he was selected as Division 8's Irishman of the Year.

Bill has served two terms on the Essex County Board as Recording Secretary, and also has served on the Massachusetts State Board as President, Vice President and Recording Secretary. During his term as State President, the AOH Mass State Board High Sweepstakes Drawing was initiated. This drawing has helped raise thousands of dollars for the Mass State Board Charitable endeavors.

Bill Sullivan was elected an AOH National Director at the National Convention in Virginia in 1990; he was reelected in 1992. In 1992 he was appointed by then AOH National President George Clough, to chair the AOH National Board Label Program, and reappointed to this position by Past National Presidents Ed Wallace and Tom Gilligan. During this eight year tenure, over \$220,000 was raised. He has also served as National Chairman of the Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarship Programs.

A graduate of Central Catholic High School, Salem State College and Cambridge College, he is involved with many other fraternal, educational and charitable organizations in the Greater Lawrence area. Currently he serves as a Director of the New England Irish Cultural Center based in Canton, MA and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and Mary Immaculate Guild. He also serves as Director and Curator of the Hibernian Irish Collection, one of the largest collections of Irish books and memorabilia on the East Coast, which is housed in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Brother Sullivan has been unanimously endorsed by the Massachusetts State Board, the Connecticut State Board, the Essex County Board and Division 8, Lawrence, MA.

**The Massachusetts State Board AOH**  
**The Connecticut State Board AOH**

**The Essex County Board AOH**  
and

**The Rev. James T. O'Reilly Division 8 AOH**

*Unanimously Endorse*

**William (Bill) Sullivan**

**For AOH National Director**



#### Hibernian Experience:

- Currently AOH National Liaison to New England
- Currently National Board Irish Way & Study Abroad Scholarships Chairman
- Currently Division President
- Past Massachusetts State Board President
- Past Massachusetts State Board Vice President
- Past Massachusetts State Board Secretary
- Past Essex County Board Recording Secretary

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*"I would be honored to have your support"*

Sponsored by the Committee to Elect Bill Sullivan, AOH National Director



# Immigration

by Dan Dennehy  
Chairman

I hope that everyone had a blessed Easter Week and enjoyed St. Patrick's Day and events surrounding the Feast of St Patrick. Before visiting Ireland to witness Ireland's Easter Centennial celebrations, and the annual St. Patrick's events in NYC, Siobhan and I were honored to attend the White House celebration of St Patrick. We witnessed the presentation of the Shamrock by the Taoiseach to the President that symbolizes the bond between Ireland and the USA. No other nation has such a day every year. This tradition began in 1953 with President Eisenhower being presented by Ambassador John Joseph Hearne. God loves a trier! Ambassador Hearne's first attempt was the year before in 1952, but President Truman wasn't home, so he left the bowl of shamrock at the door! How different the reception has become! In ensuing years, Taoiseach John Costello replaced the Ambassador as presenter and honored White House guest and that tradition has continued through the presidency of John F. Kennedy, AOH member, and to today. It was a great day in Washington, meeting so many legislators, leaders and many AOH members, including those like PA Congressman Boyle, proudly wearing AOH Division 1 Derry's tie. By talking immigration with all we met on this festive day, we renewed our conviction that one day soon we will get the front door back open and Irish immigrants will get the reception they have been denied for 50 years.

The excellent newsletter from the Irish Apostolate USA, which begins with a wonderful Feast of St Patrick Blessing: **"Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh!"** O God, we celebrate in Patrick your gifts of holiness, service and leadership. May he continue to call us to a deeper faith and to a renewed zeal for living and sharing the Gospel. Bless the country of Ireland and its people whom he loved with the mind and heart of Christ. Amen.

The Irish Apostolate will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in 2017. It was established by Irish and American Catholic Bishops to assist the needs of Irish immigrants in the United States and bring together the goodwill and talents of many lay and religious, some Irish, Irish Americans and Americans of varying ethnic backgrounds. I encourage all AOH Immigration Chairs, indeed all Hibernians, to please visit the Irish Apostolate USA website at <http://usairish.org> and sign yourself up for their informative newsletters.

It is important to know that we in the U.S. Irish community don't do Irish Immigration advocacy alone. The Irish Embassy and Ambassador Ann Anderson in D.C. join the AOH, ILIR, Irish Catholic Charities and Chicago Celts in our mutual efforts to lobby for reform. In the wake of the elections in Ireland it became clear that the first-ever Minister for the Diaspora had lost his seat and he thoughtfully sent a message of thanks to myself and fellow advocates. I would like to share a letter that I sent to Jimmy Deenihan, the First Ireland Minister to the Diaspora on his letter to me upon losing his seat in the recent Irish elections:

Minister Deenihan,

Your ceaseless commitment and understanding of the issues and the Irish abroad and Irish America were evident from the jump. As a proud son of a Corkman, my grudging admiration of your legendary Kerry GAA career was quickly replaced by our friendship as you worked for Irish immigrants, young and old. You have strengthened the bonds between Ireland, my fellow Hibernians and our Irish County Associations, GAA Clubs and so many more.

You know well our goal is complicated by the turmoil of the U.S. Congress. It was great to have you on the team as an advocate, not only for the Undocumented Irish and the important J1 visa programs, but for an end to a 50-year embargo on U.S. visas for the Irish, which will secure the future of Ireland and America cultural exchange.

I also appreciate your advocacy for my wife Siobhan during her Presidency of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers and her continued dynamic role as Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center on the frontline, aiding the countless Irish immigrants and all that benefit from the work of the centers. It has been an extreme honor to come to know and work with you these past few years.

Yours in Our Motto of Friendship Unity and Christian Charity, Dan Dennehy

## REMINDER

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.

**See you all at the April 23rd AOH 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.**



# political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Currently there is an effort underway spearheaded by AOH JFK Division 5 and the IAUC to officially rename the park bordering Massachusetts Ave and 24th Street NW in Washington, DC in honor of Irish Patriot Robert Emmet. The park's chief feature is in fact an impressive statue of Robert Emmet that was erected 50 years ago on April 22, 1966, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Rising, it is only fitting that we as Hibernians now finish the job for the 100th. The park is currently named "US Reservation number 302" by the U.S. National Park Service, a banal identifier no one will miss. Robert Emmet was the quintessential Irish patriot; he was the inspiration for Clarke, Pearse and Connolly. It is only fitting that he should be honored here in America given that the inspiration for he and the United Irishmen was our own American Revolution, and his brother, Thomas Addis, a founder of the United Irishmen, immigrated to this country and began a second life as a distinguished Irish American.

Renaming "Reservation number 302" to "Robert Emmet Park" should be a political "no brainer," but the Brothers need your help to get this on the floor and cut through the bureaucratic red tape that Washington is famous for. Representative Joe Crowley has introduced H.R. 4564 to re-designate the site as "Robert Emmet Park." Contact your Representative and ask him/her to contact Rep. Joe Crowley's office to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 4564 at (202) 225-3965 or email his Deputy Chief of Staff, Jeremy Woodrum, at [jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov)

We also draw your attention to the very worth efforts of the Brothers of Division 3, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, to properly honor Patrick Gallagher by having a U.S. Naval Guided Missile Destroyer named after him. Lance Corporal Gallagher was a recent immigrant from County Mayo when he was called up after being in this country only a few months, he could have very easily have returned to Ireland as his heartsick sister encouraged him to do. Instead, he answered his adopted country's call and served in Viet Nam. On July 18, 1966, while set in defensive positions near Cam Lo, Republic of Vietnam, the enemy attacked and threw a grenade into the position Gallagher and his fellow Marines were manning. Without hesitation, Patrick threw his body on the grenade in order to protect his comrades. The grenade failed to explode and Gallagher, despite being under fire, continued to lie on the grenade until his comrades were clear at which point he picked it up and threw it out of the position, upon which the grenade exploded. For his heroism, Lcpl Gallagher was awarded the Navy Cross (he was actually recommended for the Medal of Honor, but one of his commanders felt he did not qualify because he wasn't killed; an injustice that should be rectified). Lcpl Gallagher would later be killed while on patrol only days from returning home. Please help the Brothers of Division 3, Doylestown honor the memory of this brave young Irishman who gave all for America by signing their petition. Go to [Change.org](http://Change.org) and search for "Help Honor an Irish-American War Hero."

## New York

### North Rockland AOH honors Dermot Moore

Members of the Rockland County Division 1, North Rockland, New York, held their annual Communion Breakfast Sunday, Jan. 17. The day began with Mass at St Gregory Barbarigo in Garnerville, followed by breakfast at Lynch's restaurant.

The Guest of Honor was Dermot Moore. He is current President of AOH Division 3, Pearl River, NYS AOH District 8 Director, and will be the Grand Marshal in the Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade for 2016. He was 2010 Hibernian of the Year Rockland County, 2014 Irish Northern Aid Man of the year, and recognized for Community Service in 2015 by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.



Guest of Honor Dermot Moore, Joan Moore and Mary Holt Moore at the Communion Breakfast.

Dermot's mother, Mary Holt Moore, was also there. She is a Gaelic scholar, past Grand Marshal of the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, and a direct descendant of the leader of the Wicklow rebels in 1798, General Joseph Holt. She named Dermot in honor of 1916 leader Sean Mac Diarmada, and her Uncle Sam O'Reilly fought in the GPO. She shared the Gaelic language with us as well as some of her experiences.

It was a great way to start 2016!

# Right to Life

## Hibernianism at its best

I want to thank all of my fellow Brother and Sister Hibernians and especially members of the National Boards, New York State Board and other states boards who braved the stormy weather and travelled to Washington, D.C., for the Annual March For Life this past January.

Thanks to Father Henry Reid, NYS Chaplain, Father Martin Burnham, Deputy National Chaplain and D.C. Chaplain Father Hurley for concelebrating the well-attended AOH Pro-Life Mass held at St. Mary's Church on H Street. The AOH Pro-Life Breakfast at the Irish Channel was also well received and attended. Although numbers were down for the march with some buses cancelled (my flight as well) – it was still an awesome sight with thousands of enthusiastic pro-life marchers ahead of and behind the AOH National Board

and New York State Board banners.

It was Hibernianism at its best, and we were recognized and applauded by many along the route. It was heartening and encouraging to see so many young people — high school and college-age — in attendance for the March; they call themselves the Pro-Life Generation. This tells us the pro-life movement is catching on.

Many thanks to the D.C. Board members who helped in arrangements and for their hospitality.

Hopefully the weather will be more cooperative next year and our numbers increase. Start making your plans now for January 2017 for the March For Life.

*Ed Wallace, Past National President, National Pro-Life Chairman*



**Chaplains Reid and Burnham and D.C. Chaplain Hurley.**  
(Photo by Keith Carney)



**National Board officers attended the Right to Life Mass.**  
(Photo by Keith Carney)



**Past National President Ed Wallace.**  
(Photo by Keith Carney)



**Before the march, National Board officers gathered for breakfast, hosted by AOH D.C. President JP Walsh, far right. Clockwise from front left, National Director Sean Pender, National Vice President Jim McKay, New York State President Tim McSweeney, New York State Chaplain Henry Reid, NYS Treasurer John Manning, NYS Organizer Keith Reynolds, Pro-Life Chairman and Past National President Ed Wallace, National Treasurer Dan O'Connell and National Secretary Jere Cole.** (Photo Keith Carney)



**DC President John Patrick Walsh and NYS President Tim McSweeney.**



## Syracuse AOH marches for life Support shown for compassionate alternatives

On Saturday, January 16, the Syracuse, N.Y., Commodore John Barry Division 2 of the AOH participated in the Annual Right to Life March in downtown Syracuse. Well over 100 people took part in a 30-minute procession that began at noon and ended in Columbus Circle in downtown Syracuse. A short ceremony was then held that included speakers from several Pro-Life organizations.

After the march there was a presentation by representatives from Fertility Care Choices, a local grassroots nonprofit that is dedicated to promoting the dignity of women by offering compassionate alternatives to those who are in need of assistance with their pregnancies. The group announced a bold move to purchase a house next door to the local Planned Parenthood facility that will enable them to accomplish this literally life-saving mission. They are in the midst of raising funds for this project. Donations may be mailed to Fertility Care Choices - Project Dignity, P.O. Box 332, Marietta, NY 13310. On line donations can be made at [www.fertilitycarechoices.com](http://www.fertilitycarechoices.com).

This event was posted on the AOH New York State website. <http://www.nyaoh.com/2016/01/17/hibernians-march-for-life-in-syracuse/>

— Dick Lowery, Pro-Life Chairman of the Syracuse, N.Y., Commodore John Barry AOH Division 2.



**Hibernians from all over the country came out to join in the March for Life in Washington D.C. Standing proudly behind the New York state AOH banner at the march were, from left, JP Walsh (holding Hibernians Respect Life sign), NY County President Tom Byrne, NYS President Tim McSweeney, NYS Treasurer John Manning, NYS Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid, National Director Sean Pender, NYS Organizer Keith Reynolds and, far right, Past National President Ed Wallace.** (Photo Keith Carney).



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

This is it. This is the time we have been waiting for – the Centennial of the Easter Rising in which so many put their lives on the line for the freedom of their homeland. It was the Bunker Hill of Irish history in that it was the first battle in the War of Independence and it is right that we remember it. And, it is uniquely Irish to have three commemoration ceremonies for this milestone, since three has so great a meaning for the Irish from the shamrock to the Trinity. So great, in fact, that Saint Patrick never had to use the shamrock to explain the Trinity to the people – that is a later myth.

## Pipers' Parade

The first of the three commemorations will take place on the traditional Easter weekend (March 26, 27 and 28) when there will be great memorials in Ireland. One of which is scheduled to be a Pipers' Parade starting at Arbour Hill, the grave of 14 of the executed leaders, and concluding at the Four Courts. Congratulations to those Pipe Bands from America who have accepted the invitation to be a part of that historic event. I will be traveling with the Sioil na hEireann Pipe Band of AOH Div 8, Suffolk County, NY, and will be there to see and report on the activities; I have also been given the great honor of saying a few words at Arbour Hill at the start of the tribute. Of course, I will mention the support that came from Irish-America.

## Mass at St. Patrick's, Procession and Proclamation

The second commemoration will take place concurrently all over the United States as AOH men and LAOH women host Masses, parades, lectures and displays to remember that milestone in Irish history during the actual historic week of the Rising (April 23 to 29). The central commemoration that will initiate the nation-wide remembrance will take place in New York City on April 23 with a Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a procession to the New York office of the Consul General of Ireland, Barbara Jones, for a remembrance ceremony.

## Memorial unveiling

The third and final commemoration will take place on May 3, the day that the executions began. That event will be the unveiling of a huge, 12-foot-high memorial block of Wicklow granite, embossed with a carving of the GPO, the Proclamation and the names of the executed leaders with an Easter lily at the base. It will stand at the Cohalan Court Complex in Islip, Suffolk County, NY. Sponsored by the Suffolk AOH, the Brehon Society, the Police and Fire Emeralds and others under the guidance of AOH President Chris Thompson and his lovely wife, Melinda. Its significance is multiplied by the fact that the first day of the executions took the life of the impresario of independence, Thomas J. Clarke, who was a Suffolk County resident before returning to Ireland to organize the revolution. It is also significant since the Court Complex carries the Cohalan name – named for a family member of Judge Daniel Cohalan who was a leader of the Clan na Gael organization in America who helped to fund the Easter Rising.

## Commemorate the heroism

How will you remember the heroes of Easter Week? If nothing is planned in your area, why not at least have a Mass said for the memory of the patriots.

There are also many books, calendars and articles that have recently appeared on the Rising and I am grateful for all the favorable comments on my Road to Rebellion book. They have inspired me to continue and I am currently working on the sequel, which will be called The Road to a Republic. This will be a tribute to all who suffered through the turbulent times that followed the Rising in order to fulfill the dreams of the Rising leaders. And they were demanding times indeed. Until I started researching last year, I really didn't realize the full intensity of the turbulence that the people went through in pursuit of that dream. Following the Easter Executions, there were six months of Martial Law under vengeful troops, a general internment sweep that incarcerated thousands more than were ever involved, the brutality of prisons and the Frongoch internment camp which became a university of rebellion. Then came the War of Independence against the brutality of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, a terrible Civil War, the era of the fascist Blueshirts, the struggle to remain neutral in another world war and the ultimate

achievement of freedom for a major part of Ireland. In researching this entire time frame, I came to realize how much praise is due, not only to the belligerents who fought for their dream, but to the Irish people themselves, who supported the revolutionary Dail Eireann (Assembly of Ireland) in spite of British attempts to knuckle them under. Our forebears were a courageous lot, indeed and we, as their descendants, have much to be proud of.

For more Irish history, check out the AOH.COM and the NYAOH.COM websites for their monthly updates.

We offer a special welcome home to astronaut Scott Kelly who spent a few days short of a year in space with his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Kornienko. He actually passed over the Emerald Isle 5,440 times. His Irish humor didn't desert him either for he had a gorilla suit delivered up to him and returned a hilarious video of a gorilla chasing an astronaut around the space station.

Until next issue, keep well, keep the faith, and keep our traditions alive.

# Robert Emmet Park Needs You

The Washington, D.C., AOH are part of an effort to have the U.S. Congress officially name the small triangular shaped park bordering Massachusetts Ave and 24th Street NW as the Robert Emmet Park in honor of the heroic Irish Patriot whose statue stands there. Doing so would complete the process begun 50 years ago, April 22, 1966, to commemorate the Easter Rising in Dublin when the impressive statue of Robert Emmet (1778-1803) was installed on the prominent pedestal on this site. The Park is presently designated US reservation number 302 by the US National Park Service. Representative Joe Crowley will sponsor and introduce the necessary legislation.

You can make it happen: Contact your Congressman and ask him/her to contact Rep. Joe Crowley's office at (202) 225-3965 and sign on as a co-sponsor to the Bill or email his Deputy Chief of Staff, Jeremy Woodrum, at jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov

There will be a commemoration at this location on April 27, 2016, to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Easter Rising and its influence on the ideals of Irish freedom and independence.

# District of Columbia

## Honoring Robert Emmet

District of Columbia Brothers displayed the proof copy of the National Park Service Wayside marker honoring Robert Emmet. The wayside marker will be installed at the Robert Emmet Memorial at 24th St and Massachusetts Ave NW, on April 27, 2016. The Memorial is one block from the Embassy of Ireland. The memorial and its environs went into disrepair some years ago. The AOH, under the leadership of Brother Jack O'Brien, and with the support of President Brendan Moore, was instrumental in securing this historical marker to teach passers-by of this Irish Patriot's bravery.



With a proof copy of the Emmet Marker were, from left, Bob April, Stephen Sullivan, Jack O'Brien, Keith Carney, John Patrick Walsh, Mike Delaney and Jim April. Photo credit: William Pribyl, Baltimore City Division 5

# Kentucky



## New officers, ready for 2018!

The Abram J. Ryan Division is proud to announce their newly elected officers: President John O'Dwyer, Vice President Patrick Ryan, Membership Chairman Will Corrigan, Social Chairman Bradley Miller, Treasurer Tim Bourke, Recording Secretary Rob Fallahay, Marshal Paddy Walshe and Sentinel Brian Clarke. The Division is excited to be hosting the 2018 National Convention. So plan on visiting Louisville, KY, for some southern hospitality in 2018.



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# Hibernians honor St. Patrick

Masses, parades and dinner-dances and celebrations of all kinds filled the days of March for AOH and LAOH members throughout the country. Here is just a small sampling of the Hibernians on parade. More photos next issue.



Suffolk County, New York's Division 9 marched proudly in the Rocky Point parade on Long Island's North Shore.



Norwich, Connecticut, held its parade on March 6. Hibernians marched after hosting their second annual Green Mass at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich.



Past Sean MacBride winner Congressman Chris Smith, National Director Sean Pender and his son, Tadhg, enjoyed the parade in Hamilton, New Jersey.



Division 1 AOH Portland, Maine was in the St. Patrick's Parade sponsored by the Irish American Club of Portland on Sunday, March 13.



Colorado Hibernians celebrated St. Patrick with great joy.



The Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade was celebrated on Saturday, March 12.



N.J. St. Patrick's Parade on March 6: Torphy Pipes and Drums, from left, John Teevan, Jim Shaw, Pat Malloy, Rich O'Brien, Mike Burke, Joe Donohue, John Keat, Sean Corridon, Ron Stark and Joe Harrington. Rich O'Brien is the AOH N.J. State Board Treasurer.



## veterans affairs

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

Have you ever wondered where some of our old military related expressions originated? I'm not going to fall on my sword over these, but found them in a recent military source and found them interesting.

When it came to getting out of personal debt, there was an old saying in rural parts of America that if you could afford to hold on to your property, you would never starve – hence, "Don't sell the farm." Related to this, government subsidized life insurance for soldiers in 1917 was \$10,000 – about the same amount as the average farm mortgage. So, when a soldier was killed, the death benefit to his family literally "bought the farm." Again, I'm just reporting!

In the January-February The National Hibernian Digest, I commented on the new Veterans Choice Program. In summary, it is a new temporary benefit that allows eligible veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a distant VA facility. Since then I have heard from a couple of brothers who have pointed out that while there are some positive aspects of the program, there are still some bumps in the road. That may be expected when we have a couple of different agencies trying to learn a new program. The fact that Congress has cut some of the requested funding for the program has not helped. I have talked with some folks in the VA, related to them the issues reported to me by AOH brothers, and they have promised to look into these problems and try to make them better. If you have tried to use the Choice program, and have had problems or success, either way, please let me know so I can use this forum to pass along information to you, and to pass what gets reported to some senior folks in VA.

Just a couple of words on some recently passed legislation of interest to us as veterans. The 114th Congress has stated its intentions to make it a priority to help our nation's veterans.

### Recently passed legislation includes:

The Hire More Veterans Act helps both veterans and small businesses by exempting veterans from being counted as part of the Affordable Care Act "employment mandate" rule;

The Border Jobs for Veterans Act is also a jobs bill for veterans. It directs the Department of Homeland Security to consider expedited hiring of qualified candidates for positions in Customs and Border Protection;

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act is designed to improve and increase access to mental health care at VA. It has been reported that veterans are committing suicide at the rate of almost 22 per day. We have to do a lot better here to help stop this epidemic.

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.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
Le Séamas Ó Neachfáin

Bíonn an stair níos casta ná mar a cheaptar, agus is iomaí ábhar iontais atá le fáil má dhéantar taighde de do chuid féin ar chúrsaí. History is always more complicated than is thought, and there are lots of surprises to be found if you investigate things yourself. Ba mhaith linn go mbeadh ár sinsir ar thaobh ceart de gach ceist, go mbeadh dul chun cinn dearfach ann i gcónaí. We would like it if our ancestors were always on the right side of every question, and there were always positive progress. Tá daoine sa lá atá inniu ann ar mhaith leo ár stair a cheilt is a ghlánadh de gach rud nach maith leo. There are people today who want to cover up and clean up everything they don't like in history. Ar léigh tú an leabhar 1984 riamh? Have you ever read 1984? Ná glacfar le Poll na Cuimhne! Let's not accept the Memory Hole!

I nDeisceart na Stát Aontaithe, tá bród acu as a sinsir a sheas ar son na Cónaidhme. In the Southern US, they are proud of their ancestors who stood for the Confederacy. An Chúis Chaillte a cheiliúrtar, deirtear. They celebrate the Lost Cause, it's said. Bhí agus tá i bhfad níos mó i gceist ná an sclábhaíocht. A lot more was involved than slavery. Níor bhain an ciníochas leis an Deisceart amháin. Racism wasn't just a southern thing. Bhí mar a bhí. It was like it was. Ní bhíonn aon duine ná aon aois foirfe, agus tá sé glan mícheart ceartchreidmheachas polaitiúla a bhrú ar gach éinne, go háirithe ar an am a chuaigh thart, dar liom. Nobody and no age is perfect, and it's totally wrong to force political correctness on everyone, especially on the past, I believe.

Cheapfaí an Eaglais Chaitliceach a bheith ar son saoirse do na sclábhaithe, agus mar sin, an chuid is mó de shliocht na hÉireann. People would think the Catholic Church favored freedom for the slaves. Ach ní raibh sé chomh simplí sin! But it wasn't that simple! Mar a tharla, ba mhinic go raibh mórán na nDaonuasclóirí ina bhfrith-Chaitlicigh chomh maith. As it happened, often the majority of the abolitionists were also anti-Catholics. Is iomaí duine cáiliúil – laochra sa lá atá inniu ann – a bhíodh frith-Chaitliceach freisin – na Beechers agus Frederick Douglas ina measc! Lots of famous people – heroes today – were also anti-Catholic – including... Ní nach ionadh go mbíodh tuairimí éagsúla i measc Gael-Mheiriceánaigh na haoise sin. It's no wonder that there were various opinions amongst the Irish Americans of that age. Sa tuaisceart, ba maith leo bheith ina Meiriceánaigh agus gan trioblóid a tharraing orthu féin agus ar an tír – agus rinne siad mar a rinne an tír. In the North, they wanted to be Americans and not attract trouble for themselves or the country – and did as the country did. Ghlac siad leis an sclábhaíocht le ar son na tíre. They accepted slavery for the sake of the country.

Bhí file sa Deisceart darb ainm Abram Joseph Ryan - an tAthair Abram Joseph Ryan. There was a poet in the South named...Father... Ba as Chloichín an Mhargaid i gContae Thiobraid Árann a thuismitheoirí. His parents were from Clogheen in County Tipperary. Bhí a athair ina mhaor ar phlandáil i Maryland (agus sclábhaithe ann). His father was a plantation overseer (with slaves). Sheas an tAthair Ryan go dian leis an Deisceart. Fr. Ryan was strongly in favor of the South. Bhí sé ina shéipléach dá n-arm i rith an chogaidh. He was a chaplain to their army during the war. Agus ba Fhile na Cúise Caillte é. And he was the Poet of the Lost Cause. Bhí sé an-cháiliúil lena linn. He was very famous in his time. Mhol sé an Deisceart ina chuid dánta, agus a laochra. He praised the South in his poems, and their heroes. Agus ba chúis leis. With reason. Glacaim leis sin (mar a ghlactaí leis na cianta), cé gur throid mo shinsir féin ar son an Aontais. I accept that (as was done for ages), even though my ancestors fought for the Union. Bíodh dea-chuimhne acu ar a gcuid laochra. Let them have good memories of their heroes.

Ach mar scéal suimiúil eile faoi Chaitliceach Éireannach agus an sclábhaíocht, bhí baint nach beag ag Dónaill Ó Conaill le feachtas idirnáisiúnta na ndaonuasclóirí. But as another interesting story about an Irish Catholic and slavery, Daniel O'Connell had no small connection to the international abolitionist movement. Bhíodh cúrsaí an-chasta idir lucht tacaíochta Meiriceánacha Repéil in Éirinn, agus lucht frith-sclábhaíochta na hÉireann. Things used to be very complicated between American supporters of Repeal in Ireland, and the anti-slavery people of Ireland. Tá leabhar an-suimiúil ar an ábhar seo, American Slavery, Irish Freedom: Abolition, Immigrant Citizenship, and the Transatlantic Movement for Irish Repeal, le Angela F. Murphy (Léirmheas anseo <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=31925>). There's a very interesting book on this subject (link is a review)...

Bhí ról lárnach ag Ó Conaill sa Chomhdháil Dhomhanda FhrithSclábhaíochta i Londain in 1840. O'Connell had a central role in the International Anti-Slavery Conference in London... Bhí Hibernian Anti-Slavery Society in Éirinn, agus ghlac sé páirt leo ag iarraidh Gael-Mheiriceánaigh a spreagadh in aghaidh na sclábhaíochta. There was...in Ireland, and he took part with them trying to turn Irish Americans against slavery. Níor éirigh go maith leo, agus chuir sin isteach ar an tacaíocht a fuair siad ó Mheiriceá i bhfabhar Repéil in Éirinn. They didn't succeed very well, and that damaged the support they got from America for Repeal.

Nach suimiúil an stuif seo? Isn't this stuff interesting? Ba bhreá liom níos mó a fhoghlaim. I'd love to learn more. Táthar ag súil gur mhaith linn go léir níos mó a fhoghlaim i gcónaí, agus nár mhaith linn cosc a chur ar chuimhne na staire mar a bhí - casta. Hopefully we'd all always like to learn more, and would not like to prevent remembering history as it was – complicated.

## MHT'S 2016 ALL OF IRELAND

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Left: The fun group in Ireland  
Below: The Game of Throne Trees near Armoyn, NI



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**Deadline for May-June issue**  
**May 1, 2016**

# Massachusetts

By Bill Sullivan

On May 7, the State Board will sponsor the Major degree of the order at the home of Division 36 in Worcester. Brother Hibernians throughout New England have been invited to participate. The Massachusetts State Boards have announced that the Third Annual State Brunch will be held on November 6 at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown. Prior to the Brunch, AOH and LAOH State Board Chaplain, the Rev. Patrick Armano, will celebrate Mass.

Here is a sampling of events and activities that have been taking place across the Bay State:

**Division 1, Holyoke:** The Division's Irish Night was held on February 27 at the Warehouse., where a crowd of 400 plus feasted on a corned beef and cabbage dinner. The event honored the Hibernian of the Year, Ed Gallagher. At the Division's Communion Breakfast on March 13, the Rev. Mark Mengal received the Divisions 2016 AOH/LAOH Christian Charity Award. A Centenary Celebration of the Easter Rising will take place on Saturday, April 23 beginning with the raising of the Irish Flag at Holyoke City Hall, followed by Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel, and culminating with a dinner/dance featuring the Noel Henry Irish Dance Band at the Warehouse.

**Division 8, Lawrence:** Division 8 kicked off Irish Heritage Month on March 1 with the raising of the tricolor on the North Common. The tricolor will fly over the city until March 31. A Pictorial Exhibit of the 1916 Easter Rising was on display for the entire month of March at Lawrence's Heritage State Park. A lecture series and Irish Film Festival took place as well. Edward Curran was selected as Division 8's Irishman of the Year, Eric Alaimo received the Cardinal Cushing Award and Stephen Kelley was selected as the recipient of the Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship award. A large delegation of Division members marched in Lawrence's Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 19.

**Division 10, Lynn:** Division 10 kicked off Irish month on February 23 with a ceremony at Lynn City Hall. On March 17 the Divisions Annual Saint Patrick's Day Party took place. Long time member, Jerry Whalen, was named Catholic Irishman of the Year. The Division's annual Road Race took place on March 20.

Division 14, Watertown: Division 14 will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 18 with a corned beef dinner, followed by music featuring Paul Connolly. On April 30, the Division will hold an Easter Rising Centennial Commemoration at their Division home.

**Division 36 Worcester:** Division 36 held a number of events during Irish Heritage Month. On March 5th, the Annual Irish Festival was held. On March 13 the Division participated in Worcester's Saint Patrick's Day Parade. A host of Irish entertainment performed at their Division Home during Irish Heritage Month.

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

## Letters . . .

### Pennsylvania petition

To the Digest editor:

AOH Div 3, Doylestown, PA, is sponsoring an on-line petition addressed to Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, requesting the naming of a guided missile destroyer after a Mayo-born USMC Vietnam war hero, L. Cpl. Patrick Gallagher.

In the early morning of July 18, 1966, while set in defensive positions near Cam Lo, Republic of Vietnam, the enemy threw a grenade into the position, which Patrick and his fellow Marines were manning. Without hesitation, Patrick threw his body on the grenade in order to protect his comrades. The grenade failed to explode until he picked it up and threw it out of the position, after which the grenade exploded. For his heroism, Patrick was awarded the Navy Cross. But on March 30, 1967, just two weeks before he was due to complete his tours and return home, Patrick was killed in action when his unit was ambushed by Viet Cong guerillas while on patrol at Dai Lac, near the coastal city of Da Nang.

We are requesting as many Hibernian brothers as possible to bring this project to fruition. Our goal is to honor not only Patrick, but also the hundreds of thousands of Irish-born U.S. veterans who served their adopted country so valiantly in wars from the Revolution until the present. We encourage participation by AOH members, their families and friends, and promotion through social media. We launched the petition on March 1 and ask you to sign on to help AOH Div 3, Doylestown, PA properly honor Patrick Gallagher by having a U.S. Naval Guided Missile Destroyer named for him. We believe that Patrick's life and death is symbolic of the Irish immigrant and stands as a testament to the character of Irish-American immigrants who've served our country from Revolutionary War to the present.

The petition can be found at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/patrickgallagher/>  
Bill Bryson  
Pennsylvania AOH

## Correction

The photograph published on page 18 of the January-February issue of the Digest — of Denis Mulcahy, founder of Project Children, addressing attendees at an AOH-sponsored event in Utica, New York — should have had a photo credit. The image was taken by Hibernian Brother Tom Loughlin, Jr., who submitted the item to the Digest. We regret not acknowledging Tom as the photographer.

# Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Mother nature has been generally kind to the people of Connecticut this winter and most Hibernian activities have proceeded as scheduled. Connecticut Hibernians were also busy planning the various St. Patrick's Day activities that take place each March as well as the many events that will take place in April Commemorating the Centennial of the Easter Rising.

State president Tom McDonough presided over a productive State Board meeting in Waterbury on January 30. The AOH State Board joined with the LAOH State Board in making generous financial contributions to a number of Connecticut Divisions to help to underwrite various Hibernian St. Patrick's Day Parades, Journals and other activities.

Bill Sullivan, the National Board liaison from Lawrence, Massachusetts, was in attendance as usual and announced that he would be running for National Director at the National Convention in Atlantic City. Connecticut Hibernians have been very pleased with the help and attention that Brother Sullivan has given them and in gratitude and confidence in his ability, they unanimously endorsed his candidacy.

The Connecticut State Board also unanimously expressed their hope that National Historian and Archivist Mike McCormick would be named the recipient of the John F Kennedy medal. Many of the Brothers in attendance remembered the excellent address that Brother Mike had made to those assembled at the annual Bridgeport Communion Breakfast several years ago.

A highlight of the State Board meeting was the presentation of past officer medallions to the previous State Board Officers John Weihl, Tom Keane, Chris Boyle and Bill Scully.

Past State president and State Retreat Director Dave Howe reported on the annual State Board retreat to be held at the Holy Family Retreat House from February 19 -21. Dave reported that this is an event that began in 1990.

Speaking of annual events, by the time this column will be read, The 66th annual Communion Breakfast of the JFK Division of Bridgeport will have taken place at the Gaelic Club in Fairfield. Mass and Holy Communion at St. Stephen's Church in Trumbull preceded this breakfast. Each year the site of Mass is rotated to a church in the Bridgeport area and the Bridgeport Brothers always give the weekly collection of the selected parish a nice bump.

The Danbury AOH and LAOH held their 58th annual St. Patrick's Day Ball at the Amber Room where Paul Grasseler Sr. and Meghan O'Connor were honored as Hibernians of the year.

The Meriden AOH/LAOH in partnership with the City of Meriden held their 43rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 19th. This was the day before the annual Danbury AOH and LAOH Parade where the Man and Lady Hibernians of the Year always serve as Grand Marshals.

The New London John P. Holland Division sponsored a 2nd annual Green Mass at the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich on March 6th after which the New London Hibernians joined forces with the Hartford AOH to march in the 2nd annual Norwich St. Patrick's Day Parade.

There is much serious speculation that a Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will, in the not too distant future, be formed in the Norwich/New London area. This is great news because historically New London County was a great Hibernian stronghold.

New London AOH President Rick Connell took advantage of the milder winter weather to intensify his training for the Boston Marathon on the 18th of April. Rick dedicated his run to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing and for DF Cancer Research. Rick is a 5 Star representative of our historic Order, and exemplifies our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

One event that will not have been completed by the time this column is read is the 6th annual New Haven AOH Division 7 Boat Ride on July 17. This event is always a sellout so if you want to go sailing call Finbarr Moynihan at 203-272-0118 or Jason McWade at 860-839-4165!

Many Fairfield County Hibernians, who are members of 1916 Easter Rising 100th Anniversary Committee, and who have been working since 2011 raising funds to erect a permanent monument to the Heroes of 1916, will have seen their work thru to fruition on April 24, 2016, when the monument will be dedicated on the grounds of the Fairfield County Gaelic Club after an impressive Mass and proper ceremonies.

Any Connecticut News? Send to [jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net).



Connecticut State President Tom McDonough presents the Past Officer medallion to his predecessor, John Wiehn, while Past Officers Bill Scully, Tom Keane and Chris Boyle display their Past Officer medallions. Photo by Brenden Walsh.

# Illinois

By John O'Donnell, Division 32 Trustee and Publicity Chair

## Illinois raises funds for FFAI

Freedom For All Ireland National Co-Chair Paul Gowdy, left, who traveled from Warren, Michigan, to participate, and brother Tom Rowan pose during the Division 32s Texas Hold 'Em Tourney on Jan. 31, at which \$1,000 was raised to benefit the FFAI fund.

Katie Murphy, the daughter of Hibernian brother Jim Murphy, came in 2nd out of 31 players. Homemade chili made by the brothers was served at this annual event organized by AOH and blood brothers Kevin and Brendan O'Malley.

As of the Digest's deadline, other events planned for Division 32 include St. Pat's downtown Chicago parade marching and annual party March 12, an Easter Rising 100th year Commemoration on Saturday afternoon, April 23, and our annual golf outing Friday, May 20. For additional details please visit our newly redesigned website of AOOH.ORG.



In memory of 'Foz' Ryan: Mike Tiernan, left, president of the St. Clair County Division 1, presented a check for \$1,000 to Justin Dunning, director, Illinois Area 12 Special Olympics. The Division's annual donation is made in honor of past Illinois State President Richard "Foz" Ryan.

# Indiana



Hibernian of the Year: Members of the Kevin Barry Division 3, in Indianapolis, Indiana, named Matt Davis, at right, their Hibernian of the Year. The award was presented by 2015 Division President Jeremy Hambrick on Jan. 23 at Napoli Villa Restaurant in Beech Grove, IN.

# South Carolina

The Brian Boru, Berkeley County Division, and Maewyn Succat, Dorchester County Division, co-hosted the ninth Bi-Annual State Convention. The AOH convention had over 90 members in attendance. The LAOH had previously voted to hold separate conventions and only in towns in which they had a Division, but many of the LAOH also attended with their spouses.

National Vice President Judge James McKay and National Director Greg Sean Canning were our special guests. We were honored to again have Bishop Robert Guglielmo celebrate the Convention Mass and speak at the Banquet. Six other Priests, including State Chaplain Msgr. Ronald Cellini, took part in the Mass and banquet. The Bishop announced that he was very pleased with the work and donations that the South Carolina AOH had done for Project St Patrick. He stated that the South Carolina AOH would be again allowed to collect for Project St Patrick at all churches and named March "Project St Patrick" Month in South Carolina. South Carolina is a missionary state with less than half of the Priests belonging to the Diocese. Project St Patrick is designed to assist all religious individuals in South Carolina. In addition to providing checks to each Seminarian at least twice a year and on Ordination Day, it has been expanded to assist the men in the Deaconate program. With a large need for Deacons to assist the Priests in South Carolina, a new program to assist them has been started. Two scholarships a year and a program to purchase books each semester for men studying in the five-year Deaconate program was started. The South Carolina AOH is also hosting a breakfast for the first Deaconate class to graduate in seven years and its members and their spouses on Ordination day. Over \$25,000 was collected in 2015 to fund these programs, and other needs of seminarians and religious members.

This past year saw the first annual South Carolina Road Bowling Tournament, hosted by the Bishop Emmett Walsh Division in York County. It was followed by a Chili cook-off with free chili for all attending the tournament. Our annual "Trip to Ireland" raffle increased in size and provided \$9,000 back to the Divisions and a large amount to support the state and its operations and charities. All Divisions participated and had their \$5 dues waived. Special fund raising events were held by several Divisions: the Harp and Shamrock Division in Greenville raised over \$18,000 for a religious home, the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division in Bluffton raised \$8,000 for the churches and schools, and the Joseph McGarry Division in Myrtle Beach held a golf tournament that raised over \$12,000 for charity.

At the Convention Banquet, the outgoing officers were recognized for their contributions to the South Carolina AOH the past four years. They had done an outstanding job and outgoing State President James P Nettles Jr was inducted into the South Carolina "Order of the Shillelagh."

The Hibernian of the Year was awarded to Richard "Smitty" Smith for his work in the Bishop Patrick Lynch, Beaufort County Division and as SC Project St. Patrick chairman. Richard was recognized for his work in expanding the Project St Patrick program and working with Bishop Robert Guglielmo, outgoing Vocations Director Fr. Jeff Kirby, incoming Vocations Director Fr. Mark Good, Deaconate Director Andre Guillet and the entire State Board.

South Carolina's own Carraig Phadraig Major Degree team hosted the Major Degree following the Shamrock Degree put on by the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division from Beaufort County. On both Friday and Saturday nights an outstanding hospitality room was hosted by members of the Brian Boru and Maewyn Succat Divisions. At the last State Convention, the National Treasurer saw the addition of the Fifth District in South. This time, Judge James McKay took part in passing along a voting ruling that was made at the request of the State Vice President. South Carolina only has one District with two Divisions. Legal Chairman Patrick Sturdy, informed us that we were in violation of the National Constitution, where each Division in a one Division County SHALL act as a County Board with 16 votes. Everyone at the convention was allowed to vote. A resolution was passed to send to National that the wording be changed from SHALL to MAY. With a number of small Divisions, over 1 out of every 3 members would be eligible to vote. We encourage each state to check your voting method and join us in the resolution.

Outgoing officers were President James P Nettles Jr, Vice President Jim Kelly, Secretary Mason Luther and Treasurer Dave Carlson. The newly installed state officers are President Larry Papineau, Vice President Jim Lawracy, Secretary Bruce Thompson and Treasurer Richard Smith.

South Carolina will hold the Southern Conference Regional meeting later in the spring after all National Convention information is available. A meeting was held in Columbia this past spring. This year's meeting will be to discuss plans for the Region and our participation at the National Convention. The region includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

— Larry Papineau, South Carolina State President

## New Mailing Address

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West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006  
(973) 575-0050  
jcole4838@gmail.com

# Maryland

**By Tim Harvey**

A record snowfall in January did not deter State President Jay Linahan from making the rounds to install new division officers and February brought no relief to his busy schedule. On February 13th, Jay and Irish Railroad Workers' Museum (IRWM) President, Michael Mellett (St. Patrick division 5 member) welcomed Irish Ambassador to the United States, Anne Anderson, to the museum for a tour. The museum is the only nineteenth century, urban, working class, original house museum in the United States that shows how Irish railroad workers lived. This was also the site of the first official fundraiser for the Commodore Barry monument in Annapolis. Following the museum tour the Ambassador and party joined several AOH members and friends for lunch in a local restaurant where our artist in residence, Patrick Harnett, presented the Ambassador with his 1916 Rising artwork.

On February 20th AOH members from across the state came to Baltimore for the quarterly State Board meeting. The meeting was also attended by National Director Michael Delany who brought everyone up to speed on happenings at the National level and plans for the 2016 National convention in Atlantic City. Plans for the Maryland AOH were laid out to the membership with emphasis on increasing membership and the State's plans for the 1916 Rising Centenary Commemorations in April. Thanks go out to division 5 members Bob Cockey and his son Rob for the use of their soon to be opened restaurant for the meeting.

If a visit by the Irish Ambassador was not enough excitement at the IRWM, the museum board hosted the Second Annual St. Patrick's Kickoff Gala on February 26th. A number of the board members are also AOH members so it seemed only fitting that a large number of Hibernians were in the hall that evening. The evening began with music by our own Brendan Pelan. Maryland extends many thanks to our brothers from Washington DC for making to trip north and supporting the museum. It also seemed the perfect time to take a group photo to demonstrate Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Next came the big day, February 28th Jay Linahan was officially installed as the 2016 Baltimore St. Patrick's Day parade Grand Marshal during mass at the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the nation's first catholic cathedral. Jay will lead his fellow Deputy Marshals and all the Irish organizations down Charles Street past the Archbishop's residence on March 13th with a huge Irish smile! Congratulations President Jay.



**Members of the Maryland State Board gathered after a recent State Board meeting to kick off commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising.**



**AOH members for Maryland and Washington, D.C., attending the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Kickoff Gala to benefit the Irish Railroad Worker's Museum.**



**Marching in Maryland: 'Tis the season of St. Patrick and Hibernians throughout Maryland celebrated their faith, heritage and culture in grand style. Annapolis Hibernian Dave Aland was the Grand Marshal.**

# New York

**New Hibernian Hall opens**

On January 9, Long Island, New York's Suffolk County Board added another Hibernian Hall to its community. The 48-year-old Division 9 named for Father Murphy of Boolavogue now calls 172 North Country Road, Mount Sinai, home. The Division celebrated its grand opening with county, state and national AOH and LAOH officers in attendance as well as Town Council member Jane Bonner, who presented a proclamation signed by the entire town board welcoming the new hall to the community. Ms. Bonner said that there were many applicants for the property, but the town approved the AOH as residents because they were most in keeping with the moral values of the community. In keeping with those Hibernian values, the dedication was started with a Mass celebrated by State Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid.

The hall is named Hennessy Hall in honor of the beloved late John Hennessy, a long-time member who held most division, county and state offices up to N.Y. state president. Also in attendance was John's wife, past LAOH National President Margaret Hennessy, and members of the family. Current Division President Walter Butler strutted all night like a new father and in his opening remarks of welcome, gave all credit to the members who put in hours of labor to turn the once bare block-house into a beautiful hall. AOH National Historian and founding member of the division, Mike McCormack, recalled the origins of Division 9 and explained why Father Murphy was chosen as their namesake.

Other dignitaries present were: LAOH State President Karen Keane, County President Patricia Ratigan and V.P. Patricia Cremmins; AOH State V.P. Vic Vogel and officers Tom McKenna, Matt Buckley and County President Jack Ryan. AOH and LAOH presidents of nearby Division 8, Richie and Pat Cremmins, made a presentation of an artist's conception of the Patriot Leaders of 1798 from an 1891 edition of the Shamrock Newspaper and a welcome plaque. After the welcoming ceremony an evening of food, beverage and music followed with congratulations all around.

# Ohio

**Triplet sons join the Order**

The Irish Brigade Division 1 of Medina County, Ohio, had a unique experience occur at their monthly meeting in March. One of its charter members, Eric Amsden, brought his 17-year-old triplet sons to be installed in the division. Eric, being the proud father, was able to lead his sons in the pledge of the Order. The newest Hibernians are Alex, David and Luke Amsden.

The division is always glad to see the sons of members join, but was especially pleased to have this unique experience happen.



# Missouri

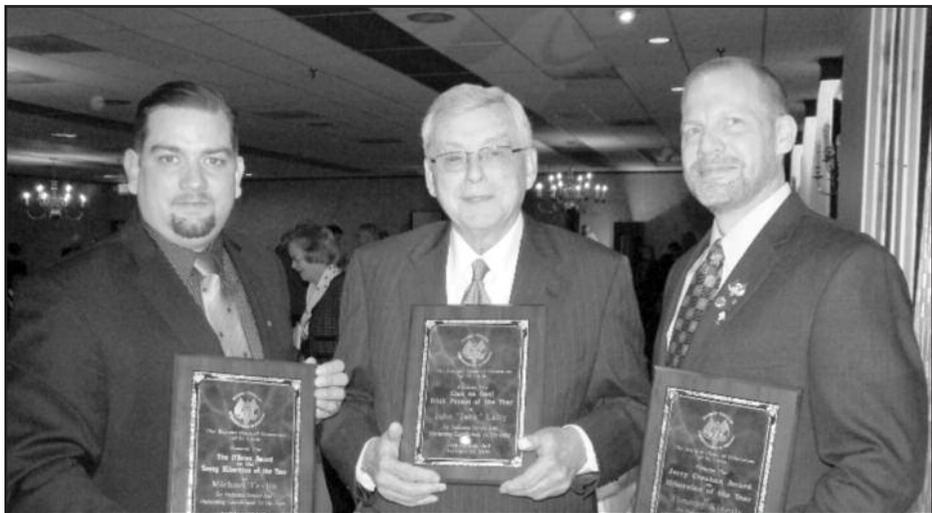
## St. Louis AOH Emerald Ball

Jack Lally, former Executive Director and CEO of Cardinal Ritter Institute and President and CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, was recognized for his more than four decades of service to the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis Archdiocese by the men and women of the St. Louis AOH at the group's 26th Annual Irish Emerald Ball on Feb. 27.

In accepting the award, Lally praised the Hibernians for their continued focus on their Irish Catholic Faith and their efforts on behalf of the community reflecting AOH's devotion to Christian Charity.

In addition to Lally, the Hibernians honored Tim Kinealy with the Jerry Creahan Award as the Hibernian of the Year, and Michael Tevlin with the Tim O'Brien Award as the Young Hibernian of the Year.

Proceeds from the event, held at Andre's Banquet Center, will be donated to Cardinal Ritter Senior Services.



2016 Emerald Ball honorees, from left, Michael Patrick Tevlin, Fr. Tim Dempsey Division's Young Hibernian of the Year; Jack Lally, Irish Person of the Year; and Tim Kinealy, Fr. Tim Dempsey Division's Hibernian of the Year.

## Judge Wahl named Irish Person of the Year

St. Louis Municipal Judge James Dailey Wahl, co-chairman of 2014 AOH National Convention in St. Louis, was recognized as the Irish Person of the Year in a special event held March 5, in St. Louis County. The ceremony was put on by members of the Norwood Hill Country Club. The annual event honors members of the St. Louis Irish-American community for their contributions to both the City of St. Louis and the local Irish-American Community. Master of Ceremonies, St. Louis City Circuit Judge Mark Neill, lauded Judge Wahl for his many accomplishments, including being a champion of "all things Hibernian." Neill gave special recognition to Wahl's efforts to the secure the 2014 Hibernian convention for St. Louis. During his remarks, Judge Wahl thanked his family for their support and he also recognized the large contingent of Hibernians who attended the ceremony, asking them to stand to be acknowledged by the audience.



James Dailey Wahl, left, and Mark Neill.

# Wisconsin

## Rev. William J. Kelly, SJ Division- Milwaukee, WI Milwaukee Division honors retired Chaplain and re-names Division

At the annual New Member Initiation Mass and Induction Ceremony on Dec. 9, 2015, we honored our recently retired Chaplain by re-naming our Milwaukee Division to honor his long-standing and faithful service to our members for the past 35 years in Wisconsin. We are now officially designated the Rev. William J. Kelly, SJ Division.

Father William Kelly, S.J., completed 30 seasons as team chaplain for the Marquette University Men's Basketball program. Born and raised in Chicago, Father Kelly earned his bachelor's degree from Saint Louis University in 1948. Following a three-year teaching stint at Saint Louis University from 1948 to 1951, he went on to earn a master's degree in theology from St. Mary's College in Kansas.

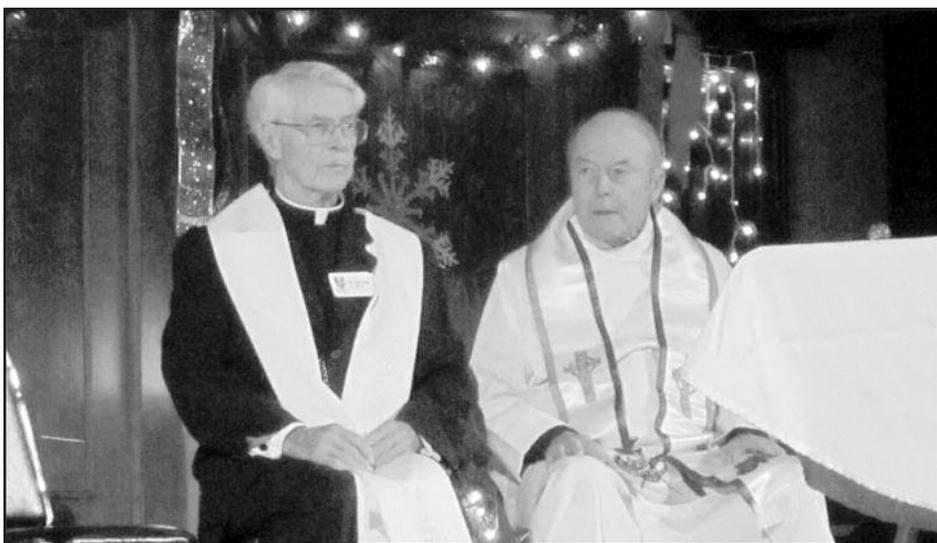
Ordained in 1954, Father Kelly attended Catholic University in Paris from 1958 to 1961 and subsequently obtained his doctorate of theology from there in 1963.

Father Kelly taught at Marquette from 1961 until his retirement in 2000.

Fr. Kelly also received a formal written commendation from the Mayor of Milwaukee, Tom Barrett, thanking him for his significant contribution to the Irish community in the Milwaukee area as well as to the community at large. The Mass and ceremonies were held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center in Milwaukee, which is designated a 'National Historic Site' in the National Register.

Also, the Oshkosh Irish Fest was held June 11-14, where attendees enjoyed the music, the food, the dancers, the children's area, the presentations, the vendors, the 5K Run, the raffle, and, of course lots of fun. The event is held at the Leach Amphitheater on the Fox River- a very beautiful setting to listen to Irish music. The headliners for this year's event were international recording stars, 'Gaelic Storm'. The Rev. William J. Kelly, SJ Division participates in ushering the 'Hibernian Mass' on Sunday with Father Bill Howard officiating.

Submitted by Rick McMahon



Rev. Fr. William J. Kelly, S.J.- AOH Division Chaplain and Rev. Fr. J.J. O'Leary, S.J at Presentation Dinner honoring Fr. Kelly [



AOH Ushers at the Mass, from left, Terry Donahue, Carey Merkl, Mike Driscoll and Dick Casey.

**Make your Convention Reservations n  
Information on page 24**

# North Carolina

The Saint Brendan the Navigator Division One of New Hanover County, NC, celebrated its 17th St. Patrick's Day Parade with some 45 non-commercial units from Wilmington and its environs. Each year we invite the Camp Lejeune Marines to march with us and treat them to a post-parade luncheon at the Wilmington Hilton Riverside. Irish music and dance pervade the corned beef and cabbage luncheon activities where we also hold our Irish trip raffle drawing. We have, in the past, sent seven families across the pond. The raffle is our chief fundraiser, allowing us to support the Tuition Assistance funds of both Wilmington's Catholic Schools and other charities. Picnics and a Christmas dinner party with our Ladies will complete the year's activities. We would be remiss if we did not mention the outstanding help and support of our Ladies' Division.

Our new Division officers are: President Rich Coyle; Vice-President Phil Dagnon; Financial Secretary Jim O'Reilly; Treasurer Chris Smith; and Recording Secretary Terry Neilan

## Old St. Joseph's On the Feast Day of St. Patrick

On the Feast Day of St. Patrick, Monday, March 17th, we'll be celebrating our annual AOH St. Patrick's Day Mass at Old St. Joseph's Church in Mt. Holly (2139 Mountain Island Highway/NC 273, at the intersection of Sandy Ford Rd.). The Mass will begin at 9:00 am and we will be joined by our Brother Hibernians from Charlotte and the Ladies AOH Ladies of the Lough Division. Before the Mass we will have a blessing of the grave of the church's founder and first pastor, Fr. T. J. Cronin, a native of County Cork at 8:45 am. Father T. J. Cronin, the first pastor to the Irish community in the area and founding priest of the parish which was constructed shortly after his death. St. Joseph's was built in 1843 for and by Irish immigrants, who had come to mine for gold along the Catawba River. It is the oldest Catholic church still standing in the state and is an official state and US historical site. Since the parish is inactive, the Mass of St. Patrick is one of the two or three Masses celebrated there throughout the year. Fr. McNulty will celebrate the Mass. After the Mass we will be heading over to a local establishment for food and refreshments. This Mass and the gathering afterward are open to members and guests.

## Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle

Every September, the Mecklenburg County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians hosts an Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle to benefit Hibernian charities. Only 500 tickets are sold. A donation of \$25 is requested per ticket. The winner to receive a 7 day trip for two to Ireland, including airfare from Charlotte, NC-to-Ireland, Car Rental, and 6 nights in B&B's. Instead of the grand prize, the winner can also accept \$3,000 cash. The 2016 Drawing will be held on Sept 17, 2016 at Killington's Pub in Huntersville. Winner need not be present to win



**Troop 8 earns Bishop Begley Award:** The Bishop Michael Begley award was presented to Troop 8 of St. Matthew on Feb. 1. The Bishop Begley Award is sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Sons of Erin and is awarded to the Boy Scout Troop in the Charlotte Diocese that best demonstrates Duty to God, Community Service and Scouting Skills. From left, Alex Flores, Senior Patrol Leader; Sean O'Daly, Vice President, Sons of Erin Division (which meets @ St. Matthews); and Mitch Cox, Troop 8 Scout Master.



**George Huber (left), the president of Greensboro's Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Dale Brown of Cycles de Oro give a check to Ellen Bishop of the Down Syndrome Network of Greater Greensboro on Jan. 7. The money was raised at the 2015 Rotha Turas charity ride.**

# Pennsylvania

## Busy weekend in Bucks County

The Michael Dougherty Div. 2 of Bucks County, PA, had a busy weekend in February. At their club house in Bristol, the oldest AOH in Pennsylvania, established in 1883, they hosted a state meeting that attracted more than 60 National and State officers.

Ed Halligan, PA State President, opened the meeting by introducing the National Officers, Secretary Jere Cole, Project St. Patrick Chairman Tom O'Donnell, Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy and Director Sean Pender.

Some of the special topics that were spoken about were member retention, trying to obtain more younger members into the AOH, Divisions getting their forms 9 and 11 in on time and correctly with their EIN numbers on the forms and the upcoming National Convention in Atlantic City this coming July.

On Sunday the 28 members of the Isle of Erin Degree Team showed for up the 81st exemplification of the Major Degrees of the Order. Opening up the degrees was Kevin Burns, President of the Michael Dougherty Division, as 26 brothers waited to take their degrees with 53 observers filling the hall.

The degree team did a real good job and was one of the best degrees the team put on to date. Kevin Burns was very happy at the end of the day knowing that his AOH Division just had finished a great weekend with back-to-back events.

## Scranton AOH helps the needy

The Father Patrick Healy Division 6 of the AOH in Scranton, PA, had their third Annual food drive during the Scranton Saint Patrick's Parade on Saturday March 12th. Scranton's Parade is said to be the 2nd largest Saint Patrick's Day Parade, per capita, in the United States. All of the collection of food and monetary donations will be distributed to the needy in Lackawanna County.



**Pennsylvania President Ed Halligan with Jim Anderson of PFC Michael McGinnis AOH Division 2, Bucks County, Jim received the award from the State Board President for his dedication to the Order.**

## 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](mailto: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

# Profiles in Patriotism

## Tomás Ceannt (24/Aug/1865 – 9 May 1916)

Tomás Ceannt (Thomas Kent) was born in Bawnard House, Castlelyons, Co. Cork, in 1865 to a Republican family. When Thomas was 19 he emigrated to Boston where he worked as a church furniture maker until he returned to Cork due to ill health.

He became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and Sinn Féin. The Kent family was supportive of the 1916 Easter Dublin Rising and would have traveled to Dublin had they been aware of events unfolding in the capital. When news of a planned Rising in Dublin reached the Kent brothers, they waited in neighboring houses for orders to mobilize. As members of the local IRB, they knew they would be suspect and didn't reside at home for a few days. When Eoin MacNeill sent J.J. O'Connell to Cork with the order to stand down, the Rising went forward in Dublin and by April 30 it was over. Learning that the Rising was over, the brothers, Thomas, William, Richard and David returned home only to be awakened in the early hours of 2 May to the sound of gunfire.

The RIC had been sent to arrest all known sympathizers throughout the country, including members of the IRB and the Volunteers. They were to be brought to the local barracks for interrogation. The police came to the Kent house with orders to arrest the whole family, surrounded the house and called for the four brothers to come out. The 84-year-old mother, Mrs. Kent, called out: We are soldiers of the Irish Republic and there is no surrender. A gunfight ensued which lasted for four hours, in which an RIC Head Constable William Rowe, was killed, David Kent was seriously wounded, and the Kent's ammunition ran out. The police finally took the Kents into custody. Richard attempted an escape on foot to the woods but was cut down in a hail of bullets and died two days later at Fermoy military barracks.

William and Thomas Kent were taken to Victoria Barracks and both were sent for court martial on 4 May for the murder of the RIC officer. William was acquitted, but Thomas was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad in Cork on 9 May 1916. David Kent was brought to Dublin where he was charged with the same offence, found guilty and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted and he was sentenced to five years penal servitude.

Thomas Kent was buried on the Barracks grounds (now Collins Barracks) and the Kent family tried without success to learn from British archives where he was buried. The British finally released the information and on September 18, 2015, the remains of Thomas Kent were properly and honorably interred in St. Nicholas Cemetery after lying in state in Collins Barracks for two days.

## William 'Willie' Pearse (15/Nov/1881 – 4/May/1916)

William 'Willie' Pearse was born at 27 Great Brunswick Street (now Pearse Street), Dublin, in 1881, five days after the second birthday of his brother Pádraic. The two brothers developed a close friendship in which William was completely devoted to Pádraic. Willie had inherited his father's artistic abilities and chose to follow in his footsteps as a sculptor. He was educated at the Christian Brothers School and he studied at the Metropolitan School of Art in Dublin under Oliver Sheppard. He also studied art in Paris. While attending the Kensington School of Art he gained notice for several of his artworks. Some of his sculptures are to be found in Limerick Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. Eunan and St Columba, Letterkenny, and several Dublin churches. He was trained to take over his father's stonemason business, but in 1908 he left his father's workshop to become a teacher at Pádraic's Saint Enda's School.

Like his brother, William was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers and member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). When Pádraic became more and more involved in the IRB, Willie took over the day-to-day running of Saint Enda's. Willie never achieved a rank of significance in any of nationalist organization to which he belonged, yet he remained a close associate of his active brother. On Easter Monday 1916, Willie joined his brother in marching to the GPO and stood by his side as Pádraic read the Poblacht na hÉireann proclaiming the Irish Republic. The rank of Willie during the Easter Rising is disputed. According to some he was an officer. British General Sir John Maxwell described Willie as acting as an officer. However, when Willie pleaded guilty at his trial, he stated that he was only the personal attaché of his brother without direct command. In any case, he took part in the Rising and was always at his brother's side in the GPO.

After the surrender Willie spent Saturday night on the lawn across from the Rotunda Hospital with the Irish soldiers who had surrendered. He was marched to Richmond Barracks on Sunday morning with the rest of the men where he was tried by Court Martial. It has been said that since he was only a minor player in the struggle, it was his surname that condemned him. However, at his court martial he rather exaggerated his involvement and perhaps condemned himself. On 3 May, he was granted permission to visit his brother for the final time, but while he was on the way to Pádraic's cell, he heard shots ring out from the Stonebreaker's Yard and his beloved brother was no more! William Pearse was later visited by his sister and mother. They spoke in his cell and he told them that he had not seen or spoken to his brother since the surrender. Willie was shot dead in the same spot as his brother at dawn the next day. His body was taken to Arbor Hill cemetery and thrown into the pit beside Pádraic and covered in quick lime.



# Virginia



## Col. Cunningham division installs officers

Virginia State AOH President Eugene Bransfield joined with members of the Colonel Cunningham Division at their January meeting in Ashburn, Virginia to conduct the installation ceremony for the Division's new officers. President Bransfield (in green jacket, left center) is pictured with the new officers and other Division members immediately after the ceremony. The new officers for the Cunningham Division are: President John (Jay) McCarthy, Vice President J. Cole Slattery, Recording Secretary John Farmer, Treasurer: Tim Kinslow; Financial Secretary: John (Jack) Devins; Chairman of the Stranding Committee: Tim Melia; Marshal: Robert (Bob) Connors; and Sentinel: Robert (Bob) Carmack. Attendees took time after the installation to pause for a photo with State President Bransfield before they began discussions on the 2016 calendar of events, the Division's charities and missions budget, fund raising efforts, and plans for celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

## in memoriam



**David Francis McAllister Sr.**, age 78, Treasure Lake, DuBois, Pa., died Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016, at his home.

Born April 7, 1937, in West Roxbury, Mass., he was the son of the late George E. and Ruth (Marsh) McAllister. On Sept. 9, 1967, in St. Matthews Church in Dorchester, Mass., he married Patricia C. McAllister. She survives.

He retired as the president and owner of D.F. McAllister Associates in DuBois after over 20 years of service. Previous to that, he was the director of marketing and safety at Butler Trucking and Coastal Tanklines.

He was a member of St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church. He was the founder and past president of Patrick Healy Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in DuBois. He also was president of Canadian-American Motor Transportation Association, president of AOH Chapters in Watertown, Mass., and Akron, Ohio, where he started the Akron St. Patrick's Day Parade.

He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 519 and the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 2661, both in DuBois. He was a past member of the Treasure Lake Lions Club, the Rotary Club International in Massachusetts, and the Olympic Athletic Club. He was an avid golfer and an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. He loved to travel, but most of all, he loved being with his family.

David is survived by three children, Karen McAllister of Lowell, Mass., Debra West and her husband, Daniel of DuBois, Pa. and David McAllister, Jr. and his wife, Tracey of DuBois, Pa.; and ten grandchildren: Jay, Sonia, McKayla, Caitlin, Sean, Nicole, Scotty, Cullen, Connor and Madison. He was preceded in death by his brother, George McAllister and an infant sister. Memorials may be sent to Penn Highlands Hospice, 100 Hospital Ave. and/or St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, 116 S. State St., both in DuBois, PA 15801.

## Joseph Shields

The Father Abram J. Ryan Division lost a dear brother, Joseph Shields, on January 16, 2016. Joe was an excellent Hibernian in every sense of the word. He was not only a long-time member but he also served as our Treasurer for over two decades. His bright smile and humor were always welcome to us and when he showed up for meetings or events everything just seemed to be okay for all. He was always a calming influence to us all.



Joe was a native of Spencer County, Kentucky, graduated from Spencer County H.S. and the University of Louisville. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving from 1949-1955. He retired from Progress Paint Mfg. Company, where he was the controller for 43 years. He was a very active member of all of the following: St. Louis Church Msgr. Bouchet Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus-St. Louis Bertrand, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of the American Revolution, KY Colonels and the Highland Post #201 of the American Legion. He received the Father Matt Brennan Award from the AOH. He was a long time Louisville Bats fan, and he always had his rosary with him.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Minnie Shields, his brother, Frank, and sister, Anna Hochstrasser. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Ann; son, Michael (Lora Ogden) Shields; daughter, Anne Marie (Shane) Karpinsky; and grandsons, Drake and Spencer Karpinsky. Joe is also survived by his brother, Anthony Shields (Rose Marie); two sisters, Betty Cecil (Marty) and Jane Bush (Herman); and many loving nieces and nephews. He was a devoted and wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Funeral was held at St. Louis Bertrand Church and burial took place at St. Louis Cemetery.

# Ladies hibernian news

## President's Greetings

by Mary Hogan

and kindness that St. Brigid showed to others be in our hearts. Happy Saint Brigid's day to all.



### Ladies AOH National Board

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# The Hibernian Rifles in Ireland

By Mike McCormack, National Historian

Until recently, The Hibernian Rifles of the American Alliance have only received a few lines in accounts dealing with the 1916 Rising. However, as part of our organization, they deserve to be better known.

Most know our American AOH, formed in New York and Pennsylvania, was descended from earlier secret societies in Ireland that were part of a long legacy of seeking Irish independence as far back as 1641. By enlisting Irish immigrants, the new American Order took on an animosity toward Britain, which was the cause of many of their members' forced exile, especially during in the years of the Great Hunger. They also maintained a close alliance with the Fenian and Clan na Gael organizations with the AOH raising funds and political awareness to support Irish independence, while the Fenians and the Clan supported a militant approach. The AOH also created a military-style committee called the 'Hibernian Rifles' to drill, train and serve as a protective honor guard for AOH functions.

In the early 1850s, some Societies in Ireland adopted the AOH name and established links with the American Order. In Ireland, the AOH evolved into a non-violent political society and, though supporting Irish independence, had little in common with militant Irish republicanism. Problems of a political nature emerged in the 1890s and the organization separated into the American AOH and the AOH BOE (Board of Erin). As the BOE grew more toward constitutional nationalism, a number of more militant divisions in Ireland broke with them around 1907 and maintained their affiliation with the American Order as the American Alliance (AA).

## Highly selected men

The break was clearly between constitutional nationalists and physical force republicans. John Joseph Scollan as National Director of the AA, moved from Derry to Dublin in 1912. At this time the AA had three Divisions in Dublin and a number in provincial towns. Scollan later wrote, "I decided to organize a company in each division to be known as the Hibernian Rifles which correspond to the American organization. I started a unit in each division and succeeded in getting about twenty men to join in each. These were all highly selected men. At this time the total number of members of the divisions were 80, 100 and 150, approximately so that a unit of 20 men was a good beginning." He stated that the Rifles were non-sectarian and did not bar anyone from joining. As Commandant of the Hibernian Rifles, Scollan directed and controlled the force.

A newspaper, 'The Hibernian', edited by Scollan, was published from June 1913 until March/April 1916, and had a national circulation of about 2,500 copies. The DMP (Dublin Metropolitan Police) in 1919 unsuccessfully applied to the Attorney General to have the paper suppressed as seditious. John J. Walsh, a prominent member of the Irish Volunteers who had been barred from Cork, moved to Dublin and joined the Hibernian Rifles as Vice Commandant because of his experience. Sympathetic former British soldiers provided instruction in foot drill and other military training. Recruitment was largely from the AA divisions but, after the first advertisements began to appear in Connolly's 'The Irish Worker' and 'The Hibernian' newspapers, membership grew.

John J. Scollan's 1916 Hibernian Rifles' service medal.



By late 1913 the Hibernian Rifles had established units in Armagh, Belfast, Castlebar, Cork, Dingle and Dundalk. During the 1913 Great Dublin Lockout, many of their members were workers in Connolly and Larkins's union so Scollan applied to the American AOH; he received enough money to augment the AA strikers pay with 12 to 15 shillings per week. In 1914, with American money, the Hibernian Rifles were able to buy arms. The Hibernian Rifles also manufactured canister grenades and British surveillance estimated that they had about 140 men and 25 rifles drilling at the Hibernian Hall at 28 N Frederick St. The Clan Na Gael Girl Scouts, formed in 1910 under the auspices of the Hibernian Rifles, also drilled at the Hall.

## 'Through God's Grace'

When the Irish Volunteers split in 1914 after John Redmond offered them to the British Army, the AOH BOE remained loyal to Redmond and the Hibernian Rifles sided with the original Irish Volunteers. In a lecture to the Sinn Fein Michael Dwyer Cumann in 1914,



The Hibernian Rifles banner.

entitled "Treason in Ireland", Scollan said, "Many more of us through God's grace shall live to see the Union Jack of England down in the dust and our own immortal green interwoven with orange and white of the Irish republic waving proudly and victoriously over the land."

In 1915, Tom MacDonough asked the Hibernian Rifles to participate in the O'Donovan Rossa funeral, which they did, 150 strong, carrying rifles, the American flag and their own banner. They led the AA divisions and Ladies Auxiliary and dipped the American flag at the funeral (American flag no-dip protocol had not yet been established). They went on to participate in the Easter Rising and the four-page newsletter printed on Tuesday lists the Hibernian Rifles as part of the 'Dublin Division of the Army of the Republic'. They fought in the GPO and at the Exchange Hotel where member Ed Walsh was killed. They surrendered with the GPO garrison. Scollan was held at Richmond barracks before being transported to England's Wandsworth prison. In July, he was transferred to Frongoch Internment camp in Wales where other Hibernian Riflemen had been interned. Scollan was appointed camp treasurer until he was transferred to Reading jail in October. His position was filled by Michael Collins. Scollan and the Hibernian Riflemen were released under the general amnesty at Christmas 1916. J.J. Walsh was less fortunate, being singled out for Court Martial and sentenced to 10 years penal servitude because of his previous role in the Irish Volunteers. Walsh was released with the remaining prisoners on June 1917. The remaining Hibernian Rifles, along with the remaining Irish Volunteers, Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan coalesced into the military wing of the resurgent Sinn Fein political party and the original Irish Republican Army was born.

On Feb 9, I received an e-mail from Jackie Edgar in Seattle seeking information on her Grandfather whose name was J.J. Scollan! Excited, I immediately contacted her and she was kind enough to send me a photo of Brother Scollan's medal. She is looking for more of his memorabilia and will be traveling to Ireland for the Centennial where I hope to meet her. Coincidentally, an e-mail from AOH Historian Denis McCarthy of the County Cork Association, seeking information on a banner that he had found on the Internet, opened another door. The banner belonged to the Case family in Dublin and Richard Case said that in 1916, a soldier showed up at his grandparents' house and asked them to hold some bullets and a banner and he would return for them later. He never returned, and the family still had the banner, which they offered to the military museum at Collins Barracks. They couldn't identify its origin and brother McCarthy sought help via e-mails. The mystery was finally solved by John Ridge, President of the NY Historical Society, who identified it as a banner of the Hibernian Rifles of the American Alliance, noting that the number of shamrocks and laurel leaves total 48, which was the number of United States in 1912. With the help of these concerned historians, the Hibernian Rifles of the American Alliance need no longer be just a footnote in the story of the Easter Rising.

## New York



Suffolk Division 7 gets an AED: New York Suffolk County AOH Division 7 purchased an Automatic Defibrillator for its Hibernian Hall in East Islip through a \$1,500 grant from the NYS Irish American Legislators Organization. The grant was arranged by state Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino, whose mother is Irish, with help from state Senator Phil Boyle and Div. 7 member Dennis Bennett. Showing off the new AED were, From left, Div. 7 V.P. Larry Wolff, Div. 7 Pres. Dave Ring, Garbarino, Boyle, and NYS V.P. Vic Vogel. Photo credit Div. 7's Dennis Bennett

National Hibernian Digest, March-April 2016



Brooklyn's parade officials installed: Members of Kings County AOH and LAOH at the installation dinner for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Park Slope, Brooklyn. National LAOH President Mary Hogan, fourth from left, seated, will be Grand Marshal of the parade. Submitted by Phil Gilson, Div. 12, Kings County, New York.

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



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