

Hibernian Easter Rising Centenary Mass & Commemoration a Success



The AOH/LAOH 1916 Centenary Committee with Irish Consul General NY Barbara Jones.

By Dan Dennehy

New York's Saint Patrick's Cathedral and 345 Park Avenue were the majestic settings for the National AOH LAOH 1916 Easter Rising Centenary Mass & Commemoration on April 23.

The day began with a Memorial Mass. Our Hibernian Chaplains were escorted to the altar of the renewed cathedral by the gleaming flags of Ireland and the United States held aloft by the distinct NYS Hibernian Honor Guard, led by Chris Templin; the precise Irish Defense Force Color Guard, led by Captain Emmet Harney; and our Hibernian 69th Regiment representative Patrick McGovern past pews filled with distinguished guests and the brilliant sashes worn by our Hibernian family.

The cathedral's vaulted roof and rafters were raised to Heaven by the joyful sound of the massive organ and our Hibernian Festival Singers, led by Christopher Bilella & Ronnie Allen.

The Mass was warmly greeted by Celebrant Monsignor Robert Ritchie, inspired by Homilist Monsignor Tom Leonard and

Petitions by Brian O'Dwyer. Our AOH & LAOH National and NYS Presidents & Vice Presidents participated in readings and as Offertory gift bearers. AOH ushers efficiently seated everyone and assisted with Communion. Our Mass was made possible by St. Patrick's Cathedral, the generosity of Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Rector Monsignor Ritchie, Master of Ceremonies Rev. Andrew King, Musical Director Dr. Jennifer Pasqual, Director of Operations Kevin Donoghue and the tireless, yet seemingly effortless coordination of Tom Beirne.

Filling the 2,200 seats of NY's Saint Patrick's Cathedral on a sunny Saturday afternoon is no small feat, but to lead the entire church to 345 Park Ave Plaza afterwards takes a miracle! Thanks to extensive planning in cooperation of the NYPD, and stewardship of NYS President Tim McSweeney and Jim Burke, everyone was able to join a grand Procession in orderly fashion. Seven AOH Pipe-bands demonstrated their playing and marching talents in

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Brady awarded JFK Memorial Medal

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians announced their highest honor, the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Medal. It will be awarded to Major General Patrick Brady. General Brady was awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor. The award presentation will be made at the closing banquet of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' National Convention on July 14, 2016 in Atlantic City, NJ.

While in Vietnam General Brady was awarded the Medal of Honor for a series of rescues, which began at sunrise and ended after dark. Repeatedly competent advisors warned him that the missions were impossible due to weather, the enemy situation, and mines. On three different missions and six tasks, Major Brady extracted patients from areas where other aircraft failed. On two different occasions his aircraft was hit by automatic weapons fire. On a third occasion his aircraft was severely damaged by a mine. Major Brady's aircraft were so severely damaged that three aircraft were required to complete the missions and at the days end the aircraft he flew had over 400 bullet holes in them. In the process two crewmembers were injured. During the day Major Brady evacuated over 70 patients many who would have died without expeditious medical care.

In two tours in Vietnam he flew over 2,500 combat missions and rescued over 5,000 wounded. He developed foul weather and tactical techniques for air ambulance rescue never before executed in combat for which he is identified in the Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War and other books as the top helicopter pilot in that war. Some pundits recognize him as the most decorated living

veteran.

General Brady is the only living Army veteran of Vietnam to hold both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, our nation's second highest award. His other awards include two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm and Silver Star and 53 Air Medals, one for valor. He is a member of both the Army Aviation and Dust Off Halls of Fame, he is the first and only Army Aviator in the National Aviation Hall of Fame. He is also the only Army Aviator to receive the Bob Hoover Freedom of Flight Award.

He recently co-published a book, *Dead Men Flying*, which covers his experiences with the origin and execution of Aero Medical evacuation in Viet Nam, called *Dust Off*, the greatest battlefield lifesaver in history.

General Brady is the former President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Seattle University and an MBA from Notre Dame University. General Brady and his wife Nancy were blessed with six children.

General Brady is a Catholic of Irish descent who is truly outstanding in his field of endeavor.



Major General Patrick Brady

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President Brendan Moore

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The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST

"The land, One and Indivisible, Though the heavens Fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$8.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

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Thursday, September 22nd

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Friday September 23rd

VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue

FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday September 24th

5K Run-8 AM SIGN-UP-\$15.00 fee Olde New Jersey Avenue (prizes awarded)

VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION - 10 AM - Bill Henley Park

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IRISH DANCE LESSONS - FREE - 11 AM till 1 PM - Food Court Stage

LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue

FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

Sunday September 25th

MASS - 10:30 AM Saint Ann's R.C. Church Glenwood & Atlantic Avenue

PARADE - 12:30 PM - 20th & Surf to Spruce & Olde New Jersey Avenue

VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

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president's message

by Brendan Moore

On Moving Forward

ATLANTIC CITY: The 2016 AOH-LAOH National Convention is drawing nearer and nearer, and the planning team is presently tackling the many smaller issues that require attention. Hopefully, the big issues and challenges have been addressed, but you will have to be the judge of that! I cannot start to estimate the many hours that the New Jersey Convention Committee has generously given to this monumental work. If you have not yet made your plans to attend (booked a room, reserved an event package, or placed a convention journal ad), then you need to take care of business NOW.

1916 CENTENARY: The first six months of 2016 have been both frantic and magical for all of us. There was no opportunity to catch one's breath following the normally hectic St. Patrick's Season. Late March saw Hibernians boarding planes for Ireland and enthusiastically participating in so many meaningful commemorative programs honoring the men and women of 1916. To the Hibernians who had the courage and fortitude to organize tours for their Brothers and Sisters, we owe you much gratitude. It was simply incredible to stand in conversation on Dublin's Grafton Street and accidentally meet up with so many Hibernians from so many states, with everyone experiencing the same rush of exhilaration and excitement. Most moving and memorable for me was the honor of being asked to represent the AOH and place a wreath on the Patriots' Memorial during the very moving Sinn Fein Commemoration at Arbor Hill Cemetery.

Our own 1916 Commemoration in New York City on Saturday, April 23rd, was an absolute success. Partnering with the LAOH and Ireland's New York Consulate, we filled St. Patrick's Cathedral (which seats 2,100) and afterwards processed to the Consulate's plaza on Park Avenue for a solemn and inspiring observance. National Vice President Jim McKay and his committee deserve both our praise and thanks for this unforgettable event, including the magnificent Spring day they somehow provided.

Congratulations also to so many Brothers in so many places who took the time to organize a local 1916 event. But let me caution everyone that we cannot move toward 2017 with the attitude that we have done our duty in honoring those who fought, sacrificed, and died for Irish freedom. Let us not see closure where there is none. We must continue to view the 1916 Easter Rising as a major milestone along the road to our ultimate destination, which is a United Ireland.

IT'S TIME: By mid-July we will be blessed with new leadership selected by our delegates to the National Convention. This process builds the health and vitality of the AOH and every organization or institution. We must welcome new ideas and new ways of doing things because when we stop changing we start dying. I can only urge you to extend to our newly elected officers the same support, encouragement, and friendship that you have so often and so generously bestowed upon me. You have enriched me with your energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and kindness. I am most grateful.



national secretary

by Jere Cole

The national convention in Atlantic City is rapidly approaching. There are still some divisions who owe their 2015 national per capita which was due in February. If your division has not paid, it will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in the convention.

Remember, you are paying for membership as of December 31, 2015 minus the total number of priests, active military, and national life members. Be sure to include your completed Form 11 with the per capita check so that we can credit your account properly. And, we need your EIN number written at the top of the Form 11 to file with the IRS. Some divisions failed to give us an EIN number. A copy of the Form 11 was mailed back to you requesting the number. If your division does not have an EIN number, you need to file for one immediately with the IRS. It is required by law. Go to www.irs.gov/businesses and click on Employer ID Numbers, or call the IRS at 1-800-829-4933. Please note that 23-7633959 is an incorrect EIN number and you must apply for a different number. We will be forwarding a tax-exempt filing letter to the IRS which includes a list of divisions' EIN numbers. Apply for your EIN number as soon as possible so that your division is a part of our list. Your cooperation is appreciated!



vice president's report

by Jim McKay

I hope all of our members had a great St. Patrick's Day season and know that we all conducted ourselves as Hibernian gentlemen. April was also a big month for the Irish in this country as we all commemorated the Centenary of the 1916 Rising in Ireland.

The National Hibernians participated in this historic event on April 23, the eve of the calendar Commemorative Day of April 24 in 1916. The National Boards of both Orders gathered in New York at St. Patrick's Cathedral for a 1 o'clock Mass on that Saturday. Every seat in the Cathedral was taken and all were moved by the solemnity of the proceeding. Monsignor Ritchie celebrated the Mass with 12 concelebrants, who were Hibernian Chaplains from across the United States. Obviously the National Chaplains of both Orders were present to concelebrate the Mass (Reverend Tom O'Donnell of the AOH and Reverend Michael Martine of the LAOH). A very stirring sermon was given by Monsignor Thomas Leonard. Following Mass, almost 2,000 Hibernians, along with pipe bands and banners, processed down 51st Street from 5th Avenue to Park Avenue. For almost 30 minutes, the heart of New York City stopped.

Barbara Jones along with the Irish Ambassador to the United States, Ann Anderson, conducted a ceremony on the Plaza of the Irish Consulate building at 345 Park Avenue. This ceremony was conducted in strict Irish protocol, very similar to the events in Dublin at the GPO on Easter Sunday of this year. In fact the same Proclamation reader, Captain Kelleher, who performed the duties in Dublin on Easter morning, also read the Proclamation in New York.

A very spirited reception was held afterward in the lobby of the Consulate building. A good time was had by all. Food and drink were plentiful as was Irish music. Many thanks should be given to the Centenary Committee formed over a year ago to put on this function. Furthermore, special "kudos" should go to Brothers Tom Beirne and Dan Dennehy who were the committee's arms and legs in preparing these events.

The next day was the same at Pearl River, where the National Board participated with the Pearl River Divisions as well as members of the New York State Board in the Commemoration activities there. Brother Jim Russell of Pearl River should be thanked for helping coordinate this event and his liaison with the National Board with the April 23rd event in New York City. The whole weekend made everyone proud to be a Hibernian.

All attention should now turn to Atlantic City for our National Convention. The National Board and Brother Sean Pender and his Convention Committee are working hard to insure another successful convention. Rooms are filling up at the hotel and all those who have not made arrangements should take steps to do so.

Division Presidents are asked to alert their members who plan to attend the convention, and who have not received their Major Degree, that the Isle of Erin Degree Team from Pennsylvania will be staging a Major Degree onsite in Atlantic City. To help the Degree Team with numbers accommodations, it would be helpful if your Division could send in a list to the Isle of Erin Degree Team leader, Jim Murphy jambwm@msn.com, with the names of your members who wish to take that next step in Hibernianism.



chaplain's report

by Father Tom O'Donnell

The Tale of Two Cathedrals

On April 23, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City was overflowing with thousands of Irish men, women and children celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Easter rising in Dublin, which took place in 1916. I was privileged to be one of the many celebrating priests and rode my mobility scooter down the middle aisle behind the concelebrating priests and in front of the celebrant, Monsignor Robert Ritchie.

As the liturgical procession moved toward the high altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral, my thoughts turned towards a walk down the center aisle of another cathedral, St. Mary of the Assumption/St. Nicholas Cathedral in Galway, Ireland. My father, Bartley, and my mother, Nellie, were with me that day in June of 1966. This was the first and only trip that my mom and dad made back to the Old Sod since they left in 1924. While taking in the magnificence of the Galway Cathedral, my dad informed me that this sacred building was erected over the sight of the old Galway jail where he was held prisoner for over six months.

In 1916, after the fight for faith and freedom began, my dad joined the Galway Volunteers who were opposing the British in the western part of Ireland. Young Bartley was only 16 at the time. He and his brother, my Uncle Tom, sabotaged many British trucks that were carrying munitions and supplies along the Galway-Clifden road. Unfortunately, the O'Donnell brothers were captured by the Black and Tans and thrown into the Galway jail. They were incarcerated for over six months. At one point they tried to escape but the tunnel collapsed on them.

The Bishop of Galway, the Most Reverend Michael Browne stated: "There could be no nobler or fitting use than to erect a Cathedral in thanksgiving to God, Who sustained our people in their days of trial. A Cathedral replacing a jail is the most perfect symbol of triumph of a people who were proscribed for being Irish and Catholic." The construction of the Galway Cathedral began in 1958 and was completed in 1965.

As I concelebrated Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral I could feel the presence of my dad and the many brave men and women who fought for faith and freedom in 1916 and the years that followed. As Irish Americans we can honor the memory of the Freedom Fighters of 1916 by continuing to work toward a free and united Ireland. There is still a jail in the Emerald Isle and the chains of the jail are still surrounding the six counties of the North. Let us continue to work and pray for the day when there will be One Island-One Nation with freedom and justice for all.



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treasurer's report

by Dan O'Connell

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as an elected member of the AOH National Board for the last eight years (four as Director and four as Treasurer). Working with President Brendan Moore, Vice President Jim McKay, Past National Secretary/Past National President Tom McNabb and most recently Secretary Jere Cole has provided me the opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge about the operation of the order. I have said many times that the two years working with Tom McNabb provided an opportunity to earn a Masters Degree in Hibernian Operations. Together, Tom McNabb, Jere Cole and myself enhanced the computerization of the AOH National Office. The backbone of the office operation is the 30 years of work Brother McNabb put forth to develop the processes we use and improve long into the future.

As you know, I will be running for National Vice President this summer during the Atlantic City Convention. If elected, I am committed to the same efforts I have put forth the last four years. I am proud of the accomplishments in the office of the Treasurer, the office of the Organizer and the office of Immigration. I am honored by the opportunity you have given me and excited about the future. I could not imagine moving forward without the experience I gained serving the AOH under President's Seamus Boyle and Brendan Moore. Their Leadership has built my foundation and given me the tools needed succeed in my next role.

We have significant improvements in

the office of the Treasurer. Working together with the leadership and several members around the country we have made significant changes that will help us continue to advance the AOH. The first major change was electronic checking. This has saved us money and improved our General Accounting Principles.

Shortly after becoming Treasurer we discovered the issue with our Tax Exempt status and our EIN number. We immediately searched for an accounting firm with experience and expertise to help us solve this issue. The new firm led us down the Long Road to Success and as reported in the past we are back on track with our EIN and our Tax Exempt Status. Being back on track doesn't mean all issues are gone, it will be critical for the next treasurer to work closely with Divisions, Counties and States to be sure they are able to get back on track locally as well.

We then moved our accounting to Quick Books, which works hand in hand with Chase Bank and our electronic checking. Taking advantage of the systems at hand we now have real time accounting as each check with written and each deposit is made. The AOH membership witnessed this first hand during the 2015 National Convention when the Treasurer Report was presented. The convention package included a profit and loss statement as well as a complete balance sheet. The move to electronic checking and Quick Books has also assisted our auditors in their work at the convention.

Treasurer Transition:

My time as treasurer has been rewarding however I must confess I am looking forward to a new challenge. For transition purposes, we established a timeline for the Office Transition last October and I look forward to meeting with the new Treasurer in Youngstown Ohio on July 21st - 24th to complete the transition. We will meet with our bank, our investment broker and our tax accountants on Friday and then have a full day of training on Saturday.

Communications:

Throughout the last four years we worked to improve communication with the states, the divisions and the members taking advantage of e-mail and social media. This has been critical to us in getting information to the states about Hibernian issues as well as divisions paid and unpaid. This information is what we use to issue delegates at the National Convention. Beyond the direct e-mail to the state presidents I have worked to create a mail chimp account that now boasts 7,200+ members. This allows us to communicate with the membership instantly. The 7,200 number is good but we are working everyday to ad new members. Keep an eye out for continued information on our upcoming convention in Atlantic City, July 11th through the 15th.

Taxes:

Each division, county and state board must file a 990 with the IRS each year-end and each must have and use their own EIN (Employee Identification Number, IRS tax ID number) when filing. The only thing you need to use to identify with the AOH national 501C8 tax exemption is the group number 0832.

As division leadership changes and many new board members are not always made aware of the procedures of the

previous board. It is critical that when you become an elected officer in a division that you meet with the former officers and discuss and learn about the tax procedures as well as the payment procedures of the national per capita and the filing of national forms. Following the proper procedures will keep you in compliance both legally with the IRS and in good standing with the AOH.

You are required to keep proper records and follow proper accounting procedures whenever you are working with AOH funds. It is important that you restrict the national and state dues collected each year so you have the funds to pay your division per capita on time at the beginning of the following year. Remember, if your national and state per capita is not paid (due by February 15 of the following year), your division and all of your members are not in good standing.

Even though your division (state or county) is included in the group exemption list each division (state or county) must still file a tax return. Failure to file a tax return can result in the loss of your EIN, which will make it difficult and or impossible to open new bank accounts etc.

Divisions that do not file their taxes will have their EIN number revoked and loose their tax-exempt status. If this occurs it is a time-consuming process to get restored and could cost more than a \$1,000. I can attest from experience that it is a daunting task to get your exempt state reinstated. Do your best to keep everything on track and up to date.

Thanks to each and everyone who has assisted me over the years. Your efforts and your patients are appreciated. Don't hesitate to contact me should you need anything in the future.

Daniel.Oconnell@aoh.com.
God Bless,

ELECT **Danny O'Connell**

National Vice President

**Strong Leadership
Proven Results**



**VOTE
DANNY O'CONNELL
AOH NATIONAL
Vice President**

Paid for by the Ohio State Board, Ron Hagan President

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- Reinstated Federal Tax Exempt Status and EIN.
- Successful National Office move.
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- Continues Division and State Commitments to Project St. Patrick, Freedom for All Ireland, Sons of Milesius Degree Team

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Leadership,
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ELECT **Denny Parks**

AOH National Director

Youth, Experience, Commitment!

- Co-Chair Hibernians helping Hibernians CD fundraiser for Hurricane Sandy Relief.
- Established Clergy Dinner honoring all county clergy - three years running.
- Ohio State Secretary, past Ohio State Director.
- Mark Heffernan Division President, Akron Ohio.
- FFAI Commitment — Led the passing of United Ireland Resolution in Akron Ohio.
- Committed to Catholic Action, Demonstrated results.

**LEADERSHIP
RESULTS**



**VOTE DENNY PARKS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Paid for by the Ohio State Board, Ron Hagan President.

Convention News

By Director Sean Pender, Chairman

2016 has already been a historic one for our Order, Hibernians throughout the country have commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising remembering the sacrifices of the brave leaders of 1916. Now it is time to turn our attention to our upcoming 98th Biennial National Convention in Atlantic City, from July 11 to July 14.

As of May 1, 90 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 convention ever. So don't be disappointed and book your room and package now. Divisions, boards, and individuals also need to prepare and submit their ad for the commemorative convention ad book. Included within this digest is all the information you will need to book rooms, choose packages and place an ad.

Thanks to the talents of our National AOH web master Jeff Nisler all registrations for the convention can be completed on line at www.aoh.com/ac2016.

HOTEL ROOMS: On line at www.aoh.com/ac2016, book your room by clicking on hotel registration, this will take you directly to Harrah's on line registration. If you prefer to book your room, by phone you can call 1-866-503-3904 and give the reservation code SH07AH6. Details included in this edition of the Hibernian Digest.

CONVENTION PACKAGES: Online at www.aoh.com/ac2016, reserve your package by clicking on Package info. Make sure you book before June 1st and save. Full packages cost \$200 per person by June 1st and \$220 after and include:

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 Eamonn Ryan Band. Black Tie Optional.

A la carte options are also available on line or by mail. If you prefer to reserve your package by mail use the application included in this edition of the Hibernian Digest.

CONVENTION AD BOOK: On line you can submit and pay for your journal ad on line by clicking on the Journal Ad Book tab. If you prefer to submit ad by mail, see journal ad book form included in this edition of the Digest. Take and ad out to support your candidate, promote your events and organization, or recognize the historic year of 2016.

PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT SHUTTLE: The local committee has arranged for a very economical airport to Harrah's shuttle for all arriving via Philadelphia airport. Arrangements for shuttle service from the Philadelphia Airport to Harrah's have been made with "Super Trans - Philly Shuttle Transportation". To make online reservations, please visit <http://www.supertranspa.com/aohnationalconvention.html> or use the link on the Convention website or call either 800-309-2000 or 215-333-1441. The special convention rate is \$21 one way or \$35 round trip per person. You must make your reservation in advance and provide flight details required to help them make your trip as smooth as possible. Once at the airport, please call Super Trans after arrival or proceed to Zone # 7 (an assigned shuttle pick up area near the taxi and train area) to meet the shuttles. Please feel free to call "Super Trans" with any questions

SCOOTER RENTALS: For our guests who need mobility assistance the committee has provided two options:

Mobility On Wheels, they have a guaranteed delivery policy. Their representative will meet you at Harrah's either in the lobby or at the Valet parking to deliver the scooter. To make reservations on the website: <https://mobilityonwheels.com/scooter-rental-atlantic-city> or by telephone 609-266-5600 or 855-484-4454.

Diamond Scooters, a division of Mobility123, is the premier mobility scooter rental company serving Harrah's & Caesars in Atlantic City and surrounding shore points. They have a large selection of durable rental equipment to ensure you are 100% satisfied. Rentals are delivered to Harrah's & Caesar's Casinos. To reserve a mobility scooter or wheelchair please call 1-888-519-1300 or online at <http://mobility123.com/rent-scooters-harrahs-caesars-atlantic-city/>

OFFICIAL CONVENTION MERCHANDISE: The local committee has partnered with a local esteemed merchandise vendor to provide a wide array of official convention merchandise. Visit the national convention website at www.aoh.com/ac2016 where you can order and buy merchandise on line and pick it up at Harrah's. T-shirts, golf shirts, caps, fleece, outdoor and promotional merchandise available. Ladies all merchandise available in ladies styles and cuts. Order on line and save. Merchandise will also be available at the convention.



TUESDAY JULY 12TH PRESENTATION OF EASTER 1916 THROUGH SONG AND STORY: The NJAOH/NJLAOH has arranged a very special presentation of "Easter 1916 Through Song and Story" for Tuesday night July 12th. Created by Jack Kilroy of Cleveland Ohio and staged by his 1916 players they will tell the story of Easter 1916 through song and story. This beautiful, moving and rousing seventy-minute production will tell the story of 1916 through the eyes of those who were there and their interactions with the heroes of 1916. The local committee hopes you will join us before you set about your exploration of the Atlantic City area Tuesday evening. Sponsored in part by the famous Irish Pub on St. James Place this wonderful event will capture your attention and move your Irish soul. Hear the words of Pearse and Connolly while listening to the music of 1916. The Foggy Dew, Dying Rebel, Grace, James Connolly and the Boys of the Old Brigade are just some of the songs that will take you back to Easter 1916. Tickets are just \$10 per person and available on line at www.njaoh.com/1916 and at convention registration. Limited seating so buy tickets early.

So don't be shut out, reserve your room, book your package, place your ad, book your shuttle or scooter, buy your official convention merchandise and buy your ticket for Easter 1916 Through Song and Story just visit www.aoh.com/ac2016 your one stop shop for the 2016 National AOH/LAOH convention.

See you on the Jersey Shore real soon.

Kentucky



Members of the Father Abram J. Ryan Division on St. Patrick's Day at the Franciscan Kitchen. They served a traditional Irish meal to over 300 homeless people in the Louisville area.

Hibernians served the needy in the Louisville area

The Father Abram J. Ryan Division kept with tradition this past March. It all began with the annual Wearn' O' the Green Party held March 5th. The week was capped off on March 12th, the day started with our annual St. Patrick's mass that was celebrated by the Archbishop of Louisville, Joseph Kurtz. Then it was on to the Highlands for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Under sunny skies and a large crowd gathering on both sides of the street everyone both young and old had a grand old time.

On March 17, the Hibernians took over the Franciscan Kitchen and served a traditional Irish meal to over 300 homeless people in the Louisville area.

On April 24, the Division celebrated the 100th Year Celebration of the Easter Rising by having the mayor of Louisville, Greg Fischer and our own brother Scott Fitzgerald read the Proclamation at Molly Malone's Irish Pub.

Our brothers and sisters would like to congratulate John O Dwyer, President of the Father Abram J. Division, and Julia Garrison, President of the Mother Catherine McAuley Division of the LAOH, on their marriage that took place on April 16.

— Submitted by Rob Fallahay



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Immigration

by Dan Dennehy
Chairman

As your National Immigration Chairman, I am grateful for President Brendan Moore's clear guidance and friendship. President Moore's wisdom and experience have been demonstrated through his past two terms and many years as on the Leadership Team of the NYS and National AOH. Brendan tasked his Board to learn our jobs and improve communication with each other and our fellow members, not always an easy task given the nuances of each position. I hope that my communication with you have proven the value of our President and our Order's mutual goals.

Hibernians are often called on to assist members in distress. In these efforts, we learn the strength within our Order and ourselves. In the past four years, together, we have helped the displaced Hibernian families after Hurricane Sandy and Irish families & young fellow J1 students after the tragedy of the Berkeley, CA balcony collapse. We have assisted Irish immigrants of all ages, defended the Irish Republican detainees, lobbied with fellow Irish immigrant advocates, maintained important relations with Ireland's Embassy and Consulates, strived for real reform to help the Irish and educated others on the visas and paths to citizenship Irish people are currently entitled to.

Thank you all for your support of our efforts on behalf of Brother Malachy McAllister and his family. Your calls & letters to your district's U.S. House Representative, the support of our AOH National & State Presidents and Boards have absolutely made the difference in this desperate issue. The massive response from the public to our mass distribution emails (Kudos to Danny O'C & Jere Cole), online petitions and social and print media coverage were inspiring. The letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson received a remarkable 45 House co-signers! Johnson suspended the order of deportation at the 11th hour and Malachy will be allowed to stay for another 12 months.

We have flexed our Hibernian political muscle by contacting our Federal, State and local government officials the help an Irish immigrant and to promote and defend our core values. We do all of this with dignity, respect, and clear communication from the greatest Irish American network in history. We ourselves are that network and that is the Hibernian Way!

It is not possible to credit everyone Hibernian or not, who helped us individually but special thanks are extended to AOH National Director Sean Pender, NY President Tim McSweeney, NJ President Sean Hughes, NJ VP Larry Prella, NY Treas. John Manning, Bronx Division 5 President Martin Galvin, NYS FFAI Ciaran Geraghty, National Webmaster Jeff Nisler, Hibernian Digest Editor John O'Connell, and NYS Publicity Kevin Cummins and Kevin Ellis. Integral to every effort we make on behalf of Irish Immigrants are our Hibernian secret weapons: Emerald Isle Immigration Center Chair Brian O'Dwyer & Executive Director Siobhan Dennehy & the EIIC Board and staff, Chicago Celts Billy Lawless, Fmr. U.S. Rep. Bruce Morrison and attorneys Jim Byrne and Eamon Dornan.

We received valuable assistance from the following and their tireless staff: U.S. Ambassador Kevin O'Malley, Irish Ambassador Ann Anderson, Consul General Ireland NY Barbara Jones, U.S. Senators Bob Menendez & Chuck Schumer, Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs members Peter King (NY), Chris Smith (NJ), Richie Neal (MA), Elliot Engle (NY) and Ed Markey (MA).

Special thanks to Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs Chairman, Congressman Joe Crowley (NY) and his staff, standing by Malachy and who drafted a "Dear Colleague Letter." Directed at Homeland Security Secretary, Crowley's letter became the basis of Malachy's home District, Congressman Bill Pascrell's (NJ) Private Bill. Now, with the momentum gained by our efforts, we plan along with Congressmen Crowley, Neal and others to create a legislative measure to prevent similar issues of deportation, work authorization, travel restriction and visa denials for Malachy, Thar Saile and others who fought for Peace and Unity in Ireland. As details of this effort materialize, I will stay in touch with you all.

It was great to see so many of you at the April 23rd National Hibernian 2016 Easter Rising Commemorations in NYC co-chaired NYS Director Tom Beirne and myself, under the tremendous direction of National Chair and Vice President Judge Jim McKay. I was honored to attend 1916 Centenary events in Ireland & here including the excellent Westchester County 1916 Dinner with Tim Pat Coogan, NYS AOH History program at the Consulate, Albany, Rockland, NY County events and many others.

Thanks also for your continued support of the Irish Immigrant Centers. I love to hear from the various centers about how Hibernians are supporting them. A fine example

of how you can help is New York County Division 7 & Chairman John Tully's excellent committee on their hosting of the fun, exciting, musical and scenic Celtic Cruise for the Emerald Isle Immigration Center www.eiic.org Division 7's luxurious yacht cruises past NY's skyline, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island again on June 8, 2016. To support the NY Co. Division 7 Celtic Charities, please contact www.celticcharity.com or (212) 717-9955.

Brothers, I'm grateful for the support & encouragement of my wife Siobhan and family, the opportunity bestowed by past and current National leaders, the lifetime friendship of NYS President Tim McSweeney, the full endorsement of the NY State Board, and by true leaders from across our Order as I join a field of vital, dedicated and experienced Hibernians seeking election to our National Board. I truly wish each, and every one of them, and you, the best. With your support, I will do my very best at our National Convention in Atlantic City as a candidate for National Director, and beyond.

New Hampshire

Co-grand marshals in Manchester parade

For the first time in the history of the event, the annual St. Patrick's Day parade was privileged to have co-Grand Marshals to lead the procession down the main thoroughfare of New Hampshire's largest city.

The couple, William D. "Bill" Biser and his wife, MaryEllen Biser, both long time members of the William J Shanahan Manchester, NH AOH and LAOH Divisions 1, have contributed countless hours and energy in support of the organizations many community projects. They join a long and distinguished list of honorees who have led the parade, which has quickly evolved into one of the New England area's largest of its kind, thanks in large part to their leadership.

At a post parade celebration held at Henry J Sweeney American Legion quarters, Bill was again recognized by New Hampshire's largest Veterans organization for his tireless volunteer efforts, receiving the Gold Card award, the highest symbol of achievement and dedication. Pictured are Charles Levellie, Gold Club Committee Chairman, MaryEllen Biser, Bill Biser and Post 2 Commander Alan Heidenreich making the presentation.



Gathering after the Manchester parade were, from left, Charles Levellie, Gold Club Committee Chairman, MaryEllen Biser, Bill Biser and Post 2 Commander Alan Heidenreich making the presentation.



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Irish way & study abroad

by Bill Sullivan
Chairman

Irish Way, Scholarships

Congratulations to the AOH and LAOH 1916 Easter Rising Committee and to Judge Jim McKay, 1916 Commemorations Chairman, for a spectacular 100 Anniversary event in New York City on April 23. It was a great tribute to the men and women who 100 years ago put their lives on the line for Irish Freedom. Without their courage, zeal and bravery, Irish independence may not have come until many years later.

As the traditional school year comes to the end and with the summer months upon us, we want to thank those who inquired over the past year regarding the National Board's Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships. Hopefully, the information that we passed along to you was helpful and gave you some food for thought for future study in the Emerald Isle.

At our National Convention in Atlantic City and in the next several editions of the Hibernian Digest, we will be announcing the recipients of this year's Scholarship Awards. For those who will be attending our upcoming National Convention in Atlantic City please consider serving on the Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships Committee. Your input, suggestions and recommendations would be most welcome. Also at our upcoming convention, we will have information and pamphlets on both of these scholarship programs and opportunities. We are hopeful that this information will give you more insight into just what these programs offer and how the AOH is trying to foster among our children and grandchildren a love of Irish culture, history and knowledge of our ancestral homeland.

This fall in the Hibernian Digest, we will be announcing information on our 2017 scholarship opportunities. We hope that you will take a serious look and consider taking advantage of what these programs offer. Enjoy the great summer weather ahead and I look forward to meeting and talking with you in Atlantic City!



notre dame fund

by Ned McGinley, PNP
Chairman

The relationship between the AOH/LAOH Notre Dame Fund has within the past two years strengthened and expanded in many different ways. We have become an integral part of the campus in many ways and Notre Dame has honored our Orders by inviting us to many events on the campus.

Our date for our visit next year is already set for 10 September and, as was announced in a previous message, we will be visiting on a football weekend this year. The game will be against Nevada Las Vegas.

The Cushwa Center for Catholic Studies will be providing the Annual Lecture which we sponsor that weekend and we will be receiving our annual report from the Scholarship Committee and the Admissions Office. We also usually have an opportunity to meet with several of the sons and daughters or grandsons and granddaughters who receive moneys in the form of scholarships that we, the AOH/LAOH in America sponsor.

Last year's Cushwa lecture featured a book written on a murder in Chicago that involved Clan na Gael in the USA, Blood Runs Green: The Murder that Transfixed Golden Age Chicago. We then attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner Cushwa Center and were very well received by Notre Dame at the celebration. Our support for the Cushwa Center was honored throughout the dinner and the Cushwa Center Director was later a featured commentator on Pope Francis' visit to the United States last year.

Our report from Admissions and Financial Aid was great and a discussion and question session with one of the Hibernian Fund Scholarship Recipients went very well. The other recipients were off campus studying abroad. We also received a campus tour from Admissions which was very interesting and quite informative. We are now privy to the Admissions protocols and how Financial Aid is distributed to eligible students. One of the highlights is that Notre Dame's acceptance is "need blind", meaning if you are accepted they will supply your full need. Our scholarship helps to fulfill this promise for our children and grandchildren.

Our new direct affiliation with the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies had an immediate benefit after our initial meeting on the AOH/LAOH Notre Dame Fund Committee on our visit to the Cushwa for the Hibernian Lecture and our report on the AOH/LAOH Scholarship Fund when we were invited to see the trailer for the 1916 Documentary they were finishing up and readying for production. Our Committee was invited to the premier of the documentary in March.

Early in March, The National Boards of the AOH and LAOH along with the Notre Dame Chairpersons from our Orders were invited to the Premier of the 1916 Documentary and shown the greatest courtesy by the Keough-Naughton Irish Studies Institute. It was a wonderful opportunity for our fraternal orders to bond with Notre Dame University on an issue of tremendous interests to the brothers and sisters of our membership.

The acceptance the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of America on the campus of the University of Notre Dame has moved to a new status as we have made ourselves known more and more. The Provincial for the Holy Cross Order is Father Thomas O'Hara C.S.C., a longtime friend of ours and a former President of King's College, Father O'Hara celebrated the Mass here at King's College

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

A LEADER TO BE PROUD OF – A DEDICATED HIBERNIAN

"I would be honored to have your support"

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

before the National President's Dinner in 2005.

We have a young woman, Bridget Keating, a former recipient of our Hibernian Scholarship, who is the Budget Director for the Notre Dame President's Office and works with us. Both the Cushwa Center and the Admissions Office have contacts assigned to answer our questions and work with us. We also have direct contacts at Keough-Naughton with the Director Chris Fox and his staff.

Worth a mention: Father Patrick Sullivan C.S.C., an A.O.H. National Chaplain 2002-2006 and 2009 will be celebrating his 60th Anniversary as a Holy Cross priest on the campus of the University of Notre Dame at the end of May. Father Sullivan has been moved to the NDU campus "assisted living" facility for priests but "he" tells me he is doing well. Please keep Father Pat in your thoughts and Prayers.

I would like to thank President Brendan Moore, as well as VP Judge James McKay for the confidence they showed in appointing me to the post of AOH Chairman of the Notre Dame Fund. The assistance of Treasurer Danny O'Connell and Secretary Jere Cole was amazing and timely in this endeavor. I stand ready to be of service to our Order in any way.



in memoriam

Thomas J. Singleton

Thomas J. Singleton, of Mount Kisco, a Past President of NY State Div. 16, died on Nov. 2, 2015, at age 85. Born to Matthew and Margaret Singleton in Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1930, Tom attended local Mount Kisco public and parochial schools, then the State University at Albany and Albany Law School. He also attended the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and University of Maryland for additional studies. He practiced law in Mount Kisco for over 55 years, originally with Salvato and Singleton, then Singleton and Singleton and finally Singleton, Davis & Singleton PLLC.

Throughout his career, Tom was very active in veterans, civil rights and Irish causes and organizations. He leaves his wife of many years, Patricia; a daughter, Lauren Singleton Winston; and a son and law partner, Whitney Singleton. He leaves six grandchildren, Molly, Dillon and Madison Singleton and Conor, Ryan and Elizabeth Winston. He is also survived by his sister, Eileen Donnellan and brother, Joseph Singleton.



freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy
Co-Chairman

British government interference in the USA

It never fails to surprise me at the arrogance of the British government when it comes to playing with the legal system and their version of what is justice. They keep coming to America and interfering with our system for their own rewards. The MacBride Principles really irked them when the USA told them for fair play in hiring practices for companies in N. Ireland toward Catholics. Then, we recently experienced the State of Florida quietly rescinding the MacBride Principles law earlier this year, much to Irish American disappointment. (Isn't there a lot of retired Brits in Florida? Hmmm!) Thanks to some stellar work by Florida Hibernians and many Irish around the country registering their disappointment, the Governor of Florida recently reinstated the MacBride Principles. We need to be on our guard around the country for any further attempts to remove the Principles. Then we had the Brits again attempting to have AOH brother Malachy McAllister deported back to N. Ireland. Once again Irish America, with the AOH and LAOH at the forefront of the struggle, won a one-year reprieve for Malachy. So we need to prepare our strategy over the next 12 months to ensure the Brits do not succeed with their next bag of tricks against Malachy and his family.

A few years back the PSNI (we know them better by their old title 'RUC') annoyed the Boston College for the 'Belfast Tapes'. The PSNI were hoping data on the tapes would prove that Gerry Adams was a member of the IRA and had influence with the abduction and murder of Jean McConville. Well, Boston College is again being subpoenaed to turn over the confidential collection of interviews with some members of the republican movement from the North of Ireland. Work and pray they do not succeed. The Brits are sometimes successful when they apply pressure on Irish American affairs. Remember Joe Doherty? Yet back in Britain they continue to get their way when N. Ireland nationalists cry out for justice by demanding the RUC and MI5 hidden files be made public, revealing proof of collusion between them and loyalist murder gangs. In our lifetime, will we ever see justice for the Ballymurphy massacre, the Pat Finucane murder or the many other killings that were orchestrated by collusion between MI5, MI6, RUC, UDR, British Army, UVF, UDA, and Red Hand Commandos?

Detroit 1916 Rising Commemorations

In the summer of 2015 my wife Agnes and I, were invited to be members of the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration Committee for Detroit's Gaelic League Club. Along with other representatives of the Detroit Irish community we began meeting monthly and planning interim fund raising events. Our first major celebration was headlined by Jack Kilroy and his team fresh from the Cleveland Irish Festival, with a splendid rendition in song and verse of the 1916 Easter story. It was received by a lengthy standing ovation to a packed house. The program also included local Irish musicians and story tellers and was a huge success. During ensuing committee meetings one of our members reminded us that Robert Monteith, a member of the Irish Volunteers and aide to Roger Casement, was buried in a cemetery a little north of Detroit. With this news it was decided that a ceremony, with the family's permission, would be appropriate at Monteith's graveside.

Among the Irish government guests at this year's Detroit St Patrick's Day Parade were Orla McBreen, Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago, and Jimmy Deenihan, Fianna Gael T.D. Minister for the Diaspora Affairs. I had the pleasure to meet both at a reception after the parade. When they discovered that Robert Monteith was buried in the greater Detroit area, they asked for a visit to the grave. Several of us met with Orla and Jimmy at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery and proceeded to the grave. We laid some flowers on his grave, followed by few prayers. Both Orla and Jimmy agreed that a more elaborate ceremony along with a possible monument, with the Monteith family permission, would be appropriate in the future. Our committee contacted the Robert Monteith family and to our delight, his grandson agreed to come to Detroit and give us a presentation on his grandfather's history as he heard from firsthand accounts. On April 9, our 1916 Rising major event was another full house. Among our stars were Marilyn Madigan LAOH National Historian, who gave a splendid and enlightening history of the women and their heroics (especially the Cumman na mBan) involved in the Dublin Rising. Seamus Metress, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toledo, concluded the commemoration with a history of the reasons for the Rising, the repercussions that eventually led to the signing of the Treaty, a severed Ireland and the recent 'Troubles' in the North of the island. The next day along with approximately 60 attendees, including about 30 members of the Monteith clan, we met at Robert's graveside with many flowers and wreath laying. We conducted a solemn remembrance and Agnes and I were proud to lead the attendees with a solemn prayer ceremony. Orla McBreen made a return trip and was in attendance, and she also accompanied us back to the Detroit Gaelic League Hall. We were entertained with a special lecture from Charles Cushing P.D, grandson of Captain Robert Monteith and Mollie Burke Monteith, recalling first hand recollections and stories from his grandparents.

New York 1916 Commemorations

The New York commemoration events starting with the mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral and then the following Centenary Program outside the Irish Consulate in New York, was a first class event. The guest speeches, the reading of the Proclamation by an officer of the Irish Army, the Irish Army bugler playing 'Taps' while the Irish flag was at half-mast. Then, the raising of the flag to full height and the session finishing with the singing of the Soldier's Song by hundreds of attendees was an emotional experience my wife and I will never forget. We got to meet our friend from Ardoyne Holy Cross, Fr. Gary Donegan, a guest celebrant at the Mass service. He has a strong hug. He made us promise to see him this summer when home in Belfast.

Then the next day, April 24, we attended the Rockland County AOH and LAOH 1916 commemorations at Pearl River, New York. What a day! They started with 700 attendees



pro-life
by Edward J. Wallace
Chairman

Hiding the ugly truth of abortion.

One day after Planned Parenthood's president, Cecile Richards, spoke at Georgetown University, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl celebrated a University Mass for Life for college students at a nearby Catholic Church, encouraging them to stand up for God's gift of human life.

A Georgetown student group's invitation to Richards, the head of the nation's largest abortion provider, to speak on April 20 at the country's oldest Catholic university drew nationwide criticism and was countered by a week of pro-life activities at the school.

The events included panel discussions on the dignity of life and the importance of outreach to women facing crisis pregnancies, and a talk by Abby Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood clinic who is now pro-life and speaks out about the reality of that agency's abortion practices.

In his homily at the April 21 Mass, Cardinal Wuerl warned about a powerful politically correct movement and environment "all around us ... It says to set aside such things as the value of human life and substitute the politically correct position that actually you should be free to choose to kill the unborn child. But the word of God says to us, "Don't conform yourself to this age."

The congregation of nearly 150 students from local universities, along with faculty members, campus ministry staff and others from the area walked several blocks from their school's gates to the Mass and were greeted by Father Adam Park, the chaplain at George Washington University Newman Catholic Student Center. "Today in our culture when our Catholic faith is not always respected, we want to reaffirm our Catholic identity and witness the Gospel value of life," Father Park said.

Richards was greeted by a standing ovation by Georgetown students at her speech on campus the day before. In her opening remarks she expressed hope that Hoyas for Choice, an unofficial student group on campus that advocates for keeping abortion legal, would someday be recognized as "an official campus group" there, adding, "A girl can dream."

In his homily, Cardinal Wuerl encouraged students not to be "deceived by the politically correct rhetoric that uses words to hide true meaning. "Those in favor of killing the unborn child often speak of 'the product of conception' as opposed to the child in the womb. They speak about 'facilitating the conclusion of the life cycle' instead of 'assisting a suicide.' So it is with that buzz word 'choice.' When you use the word 'choice,' you have to complete the sentence. What is it you choose?" The word 'choice' is a smokescreen behind which those killing unborn children take refuge. Every chance you get, blow that smoke away, so everyone knows what it is we're talking about." He referred to students not being able to smoke in the university cafeteria or park wherever they want without consequences.

In her Georgetown address, Richards – whose Planned Parenthood organization provided 327,653 abortions in the United States in fiscal year 2014 – compared the struggle for "reproductive rights" to the nation's history of fighting for civil rights.

Cardinal Wuerl in his homily said, "Do not ever be convinced by the rhetoric of liberation that killing unborn, innocent children is in any way similar to the great social justice struggles that our nation has faced – many times enlightened by the Church's social teaching. Whether it was the fight against slavery, racial discrimination or unjust working conditions, the Church's proclamation of the dignity of all human life was at the center of the struggle. ... Do not let anyone reduce for you the greatness of the American dream to the level of free contraceptives. We're worth so much more. The dream is so much bigger."

Cardinal Wuerl noted that the students had joined together at that night's Mass "because we share a very different view of life, one that recognizes it truly as a gift from God."

Prayer for life

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

at Mass in the stand of their new GAA premises. Their afternoon program began with Pipers and Bands leading a procession of AOH and LAOH members and other local honorees to the GAA Field. Again the program was filled with an emotional series of presentations. After the introduction and the reading of the Proclamation we were entertained with moving speeches and a special rendition of 'The Foggy Dew' by a young lady with an exceptional voice and then a volley of 1916 songs from a junior choir that was a delight to the ears. Some AOH members wore replicas of the Irish Volunteers uniforms while some LAOH ladies wore Cumman na mBan uniforms. In front of the platform members and their children held portraits of all the 1916 heroes and also various Irish flags, during the whole program that lasted about two hours. An amazing reminder of the 1916 Rising.

To steal a quotation from our dear friend Marilyn Madigan, LAOH National Historian, "Being part of the two days of quality 1916 Rising Commemorations in New York made me so proud to be a member of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians."

This 2015-2016 Annual Christmas Appeal Fund Raiser has again been a successful event. Brother Sean Canning will be travelling to Ireland this year to make the check presentations. I will make my FFAI report at the National Convention in Atlantic City. See you all there. Tíocfaidh ár lá

Robert Emmet statue re-dedicated

By Ralph Day

President Brendan Moore joined with Ambassador Anne Anderson in the rededication of the Robert Emmet Statue in Washington, D.C. on April 27.

The AOH joined with the Irish American Unity Conference, the National Parks Service and the Smithsonian Institution to bring about the refurbishment, creation of the wayside marker, and re-dedication of the first statue in the world to ever honor Robert Emmet "The George Washington of Ireland." The combined AOH/IAUC effort, headed by Brother Jack O'Brien, took more than three years to accomplish.

The Emmet Statue was originally cast in 1916 to be the centerpiece of the rotunda of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum (now the Natural History Museum). It was moved to the current site at 24th and Massachusetts Ave. NW in 1966 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Rising.

The site has been renovated to mark the centenary anniversaries. The statue is now more visible, more open to the gaze of passers-by, with a new planting of Irish Yew trees and a new wayside marker.

Ambassador Anderson in her remarks noted: "The connection between the Robert Emmet statue and the commemoration of 1916 is not merely symbolic or circumstantial. The men and women of 1916 were heirs to a long tradition of which Emmet's story formed an important part. Patrick Pearse, in particular, venerated Robert Emmet and gave expression to his admiration in stirring speeches he made in New York and Brooklyn during his U.S. visit in 1914."

The ceremony included an inspirational reading of the proclamation by Captain Peter Kelleher of the Irish Army. He also read the proclamation at the GPO in Dublin and at the centenary celebration in New York City.

President Moore reflected on the dedication of the men and women that brought freedom to Ireland. He called up the words written centuries ago by St. Augustine, philosopher and Doctor of the Church: "If you say 'Enough', then you are lost. Move continually onwards, press on, journey on always. Do not stop. Do not turn back or stray away. Whoever advances not has come to a halt. Whoever returns whence he set out is in retreat. Whoever wearies has gone astray."

In concluding his remarks he noted "We need to be constantly and vividly reminded that it is now OUR challenge and OUR responsibility to keep their ideals and dreams alive. As we move forward ... We must continue to draw our inspiration and strength from our heroes and from each other. We must be the dreamers and doers!"

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Irish American Heritage Month

by **Neil Cosgrove**
Chairman

Brothers, another "Irish American Heritage Month" has passed and one again many of you have done exemplary work in have you state and local municipalities have March recognized as "Irish American Month". In this year of 2016, the Centenary of the Rising, it would be easy and understandable that IAHM could be lost given the proximity of the commemorations. Thanks to you efforts that didn't happen.

However, the challenge of IAHM is still in front of us. In too many of our classrooms the struggles and triumphs of the Irish in America are still not told; Commodore Barry, the Irish Brigade, Mother Jones and the 253 recipients of the Medal of Honor who list as their place of birth "Ireland" are strangers. Sadly we have also seen during this special centenary year that the force of revisionism are all too active, pushing agendas ahead of facts and sully the reputation of brave and noble women. Closer to home, Professor Richard Jensen who made the outrageous asserting that sign reading "No Irish Need Apply" did not exist and was a myth of the Irish American community, a claim quickly parroted by academia in numerous textbooks, has yet to issue a correction despite being confronted with a mountain of evidence and his flawed theory is still being promoted. One has to ask why and would their academic establishment be so slow to correct flawed research if it touched another ethnicity?

The future of our heritage lies with us; it will disappear if we don't pass on the stories of the contributions of great Irish American men and women. Are we to sit back and see March and St. Patrick's celebrations trivialized to a modern Lupercalia? The National AOH Convention, July 2004, unanimously adopted a resolution which endorsed Project Irish-American Heritage Month and stated "... local AOH Divisions are hereby urged to unite in this worthy mission by appointing Divisional IAHM Committees charged with developing and implementing strategies for the promotion and expansion of Irish-American Heritage Month celebrations in taxpayer supported institutions ...". Does your Division have an IAHM Committee? If not, now is the time to form one and to begin carrying out this important mission.

In this centenary year let us remember that one of the chief motivators of the leaders of 1916 was their concern that without intervention their history and heritage would disappear within a generation. Without exaggeration Brothers, we are facing the same challenge as regards our Irish American Heritage and Identity. We are an inconvenient enigma that academia and the politically correct cannot explain: a people who came to this country with nothing, asked for nothing and solely through their exertions have lifted themselves to make a mark in every field of endeavor. It is a story that resonates and is relevant today, a story well worth telling to Americans of all ethnicities and we should ensure that it is.



veterans affairs

by JJ Kelly
Chairman

There seem to be an unusually large number of bills and other programs now going on inside the beltway that may affect retirees, veterans and active duty service members. I'm going to use this report to highlight some of the most interesting.

First of all, for those of us who served in South East Asia during the Vietnam Era, be aware that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Bob McDonald is expected to decide by late summer whether to add several new ailments to the current list presumed caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other military herbicides. Among the ailments being considered are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson's-like symptoms and hypertension (high blood pressure). Note that when diseases are added, it is expected that more veterans (and dependents and survivors) should see speedier compensation claims. It should be obvious that Vietnam War veterans are in their 60s, 70s and 80s, and thus have many chronic diseases of older age. So for many of these ailments, such as hypertension, deciding if it is due to a veteran's age or being exposed to Agent Orange can often be quite difficult.

Both House and Senate are working on the Express Appeals Act, which directs the VA Secretary to carry out a pilot program to provide veterans the option of using an alternative appeals process to more quickly determine claims for disability compensation.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act directs the VA Secretary to conduct annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the VA.

For retirees, the House is working on the Disabled Veterans' Tax Termination Act, which would permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation. The Senate is considering a similar bill called the Retired Pay Restoration Act.

There are others. These seem to be the ones that can have the most benefit to all veterans and retirees. As always, keep up with what your member of the House and senators are working on. Let them know that we vets have served our country well, and deserve all those things promised to us for our service.

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.

Medal of Honor Grove

by Seamus Boyle and Mick Dunleavy



Brothers, the Medal of Honor Grove, (MOH) in Valley Forge Pennsylvania is a 52 acre site where every single recipient of the Medal of Honor is recognized. Every state in the nation has its own acre with an obelisk, flags and in ground plaques with all the pertinent information of the recipient from that state so that we never forget those who sacrificed so much.

Over the past 5 years, the AOH has spearheaded a cleanup of the entire site and with your help we have made thousands of dollars in repairs throughout the site. The AOH Obelisk, one of only 3 sites outside of the state sites, needs repair and refurbishing. We have been asking for donations to bring the entire 52 acre site back to its original condition but now we need your help to refurbish our own obelisk site commemorating all the recipients who are named there.

In order to complete the upgrade to the AOH Obelisk we need to raise an additional \$15,000 and the labor for this project will be mostly donated. Our members in the Philadelphia, New Jersey and Northeast area of our country have already committed to seeing this project through with your financial help. Please make a donation to this worthwhile cause, these recipients gave their all for you so the least we can do is make a contribution to finish this project.

When you are in Atlantic City for the National Convention please try to visit the grove, it is less than two hours away and if you have not been there before you will not regret going. Thank you on behalf of the AOH and the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove for your support.

Please make all checks payable to Hibernian Charity and mail to Ed Dougherty, 7236 Bross Ave., Philadelphia PA 19149

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Left: MHT Group walks the ground at Beech Hill home of the USMC base. Below: Must see Giant's Causeway!

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anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, another St. Patrick's season has come to past and we can report tangible progress on the Anti-Defamation front. Reputable, though in the past misguided, retailers have held to their commitments not to sell merchandise that defames our heritage. We did see one outrageous item being sold on the Walmart web site by a third party vendor; with one email drawing it to their attention they removed it. Even repeat offender Spencer's considerably toned down their offensive items this year; they will never admit it, but I fully believe they finally got tired with being associated as a trader and promoter of bigoted stereotypes. Thanks to you words is finally getting out that Irish Americans will not accept their heritage as being safe to defame and insult while extraordinary deference is shown to others. Hopefully these positive results will also change the attitudes of those who engage in the ultimate self-fulfilling prophecy "You will never change anything"; if you take no action you will certainly be right, but try and continuing try and you may be surprised at what can be done.

Of course, there is still work to be done. ABC TV still engages in caricatures of Irish Catholic's that would even make Thomas Nast blush in its show "The Real O'Neals". It is interesting to note that for a "comedy" I have yet to find a reviewer actually comment on it being funny. Most commonly the show is praised for being "ground breaking". Certainly it is that, I can't recall another show being given over to a producer with a well established antipathy towards the group depicted to be used as a launching platform to promoted bigoted tropes and stereotypes. These reviewers seem to confuse offensiveness with creativity or perhaps are blinded by their own biases. Brothers, it is imperative that we speak out against our show now; we don't want to wait until it has enough episodes that we start seeing it in reruns passing on anti-Catholic bigotry and Irish defamation to our children in early evening hours. Please contact your local Disney/ABC affiliate that it is long time to move beyond the bigotry of the 19th century "Know Nothings"; there is nothing "ground breaking" in the "The Real O'Neals". It is the same old stage Irishman material that the London West End has put out for years in an attempt to inductinate contempt for all things Irish.

Our forefathers new the pernicious effects of stereotypes and tropes, that is why it is part of our oath "That I will not countenance by my presence or support any performance that may reasonably be interpreted as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people, whether in public or in private, in song, recitation or story, on the stage or on the screen." Other groups to their credit demand that their heritage be respected, let it never be said we don't care enough to do the same for ours.



Director's Report by Greg Sean Canning

Remembering the Easter Rising

On Easter Monday, April 24th, 1916, Ireland's Easter Rising began. The brutal British suppression of that rebellion and the citizen outrage over the executions of its leaders would lead to the following historical events:

- The War of Independence (21 Jan 1919 to 11 July 1921);
- Signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty which led to the eventual partition of Ireland (London 6 Dec 1921);
Irish signatures: Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith
British signatures: Prime Minister David Lloyd George & other representatives
- Establishment of the Irish Free State (26 Dec 1922);
- The Irish Civil War (1922-1923);
- The rejection of the Free State's position as a dominion in the British Empire with the adoption of a new constitution & renaming the Irish Free State as "Ireland" (29 Dec 1937); and finally
- The formal establishment of The Republic of Ireland as a fully independent republic in 1949 (following the Republic of Ireland Act on 21 Dec 1948).

The Irish Volunteers had originally planned the Rising for Easter Sunday, April 23rd. However, the British had intercepted the delivery of arms abroad the Aud on Good Friday and captured Roger Casement, who had arranged for this important delivery. Upon learning of this, Eoin MacNeill (one of the principle leaders of the Volunteers) called off the Rising and ordered the Volunteers to stay home.

Thomas Clarke (military mastermind behind the Rising) and James Connolly (founder of the Irish Citizen Army) disagreed with MacNeill and insisted that the Rising go ahead — but one day behind schedule on Easter Monday. Unfortunately, the word about the rescheduled insurrection did not spread far. A vast majority of Volunteers were still in their homes around the country when the Rising began on Easter Monday morning.

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1,250 members of the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army assembled across Dublin and paraded down Sackville Street (renamed O'Connell Street in 1924), bearing full arms and one day's rations. This insurrection included 200 women from Cumann na mBan (Women's Association).

Before marching down Sackville Street, volunteer units had established armed barricades in the Northern part of the city. Within the first hour of the rebellion, rebels stormed and occupied several of Dublin's important political and economic buildings. Some of these included:

The GPO, Boland's Mills and Bakery, The Four Courts, Liberty Hall, Jacob's biscuit factory, College of Surgeons, Stephen's Green, 3 Railroad terminals, Jameson Distillery, The South Dublin Union (now St. James Hospital)



Director's Report by Tom O'Donnell Project St. Patrick Chairman

We are fully in gear with the Project St. Patrick Appeal. To date many Members and Divisions have responded to the cause. There is also a steady stream of returns from the PSP Memorial cards. The response so far this year has been excellent and we would like to thank everyone for their continued support. And if this is any indication, we should be able to improve on last year.

Again, we can only be successful in our endeavor of promoting and supporting seminarians and novitiates with your continued help.

Project St. Patrick Memorial cards are an additional source of funding. When a member, family or friend passes away a PSP Card is presented to the family and a donation is sent into the Hibernian Charity using the enclosed donation form. Additional cards can be obtained by contacting me at: NLNOD@comcast.net (Please type PSP into subject line.) Remember, as an Irish-American Catholic organization, we must continue to foster and support vocations both spiritually and financially.

I also would like to say "Thank You" to all the members that had sent well wishes on my recent health issues, it was great hearing from so many of you.

New Mailing Address

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jcole4838@gmail.com

The General Post Office (GPO) was stormed, seized and established as the rebel headquarters. It was at the GPO that the Irish Republic was proclaimed. At 12:20 PM — The Tricolour was raised above the GPO, along with a green flag bearing the words "Irish Republic". At 12:45 PM — Pádraig Pearse emerged from the GPO and read aloud the Proclamation.

The Proclamation was signed by 7 Irish Patriots (Fathers of the Republic) on behalf of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic.

1. Thomas J. Clarke
2. Sean MacDiarmada
3. Thomas MacDonagh
4. Pádraig Pearse
5. Eamon Ceannt
6. James Connolly
7. Joseph Mary Plunkett

The Proclamation, still applauded as a work of inspiration, set all citizens of Ireland on equal terms — men, women, and children, and praised the work of Irish emigrants on behalf of the Irish cause, in particular "her exiled children in America".

Unfortunately, the Easter Monday Rising, had no military prospects of success. Limited guns and ammunition with only 1 days ration of food are no match against armored cars, tanks, and gun boats. The hope was that it would have inspired a popular uprising among the people. There was also hope that a German success on the Western Front would break through England's defenses and allow substantial help to be sent before the Rising was crushed. Yet despite this, the Rising did bring about the events that would lead to an independent and sovereign Irish Republic in 1949.

While many would look at the Proclamation as an historical document, that Proclamation and the aspirations and dreams of the leaders of 1916 have not been fully realized. While 26 counties enjoy the freedoms and independence of an Irish Republic, there are still 6 counties where the flag of a foreign nation still flies over Irish soil.

Fortunately, times are changing. Forty years ago, the Irish Catholic/Nationalist population were denied basic civil rights and economic opportunities. Because of American involvement, the Good Friday Agreement, and implementation of the Mac Bride Principles, many of those barriers have been greatly reduced. Times are changing. Forty years ago, the Tricolour was not allowed to be flown anywhere within the 6 Counties. Today, Nationalists are free to do so in their neighborhoods. Times are changing. Forty years ago, the native Irish Catholic/Nationalist population was a minority in all 6 counties. Today, the native Irish Catholic/Nationalist population commands a majority in 4 of those 6 counties (Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Armagh). While Counties Antrim and Down still maintain a Unionist majority, the Irish Catholic/Nationalist population is in control of Belfast. Times are changing. Among those 35 years of age and younger, the Irish Catholic/Nationalist population now holds a majority. Times are changing. Today, the Nationalist percentage is between 47 to 48 % of the population. If present trends continue, there should be an overall native Irish Catholic/Nationalist majority within the next 18 to 20 years. At that time, if not sooner, with the help of God the dreams and aspirations of those brave men and women of 1916 will finally be realized. Times are changing.

The final chapter in the events of 1916 will never be completed until and the last remnants of foreign occupation on Irish soil is eliminated and all 32 counties are united under a democratic and free Irish Republic.

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catholic action

by Edward J. Wallace
Chairman

The Nitty-Gritty of Family Life

Pope Francis' hymn to love and family life is more like a country song than a Disney tune.

In 'Amoris Laetitia' (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, there is passion and devotion, but also heartache and sweat. The "magic" he wrote about is not momentarily sparkly, but the result of prayer, grace, hard work and a willingness to apologize – time and time again.

"Committing oneself exclusively and definitively to another person always involves a risk and a bold gamble," he wrote. But the payoff is huge.

The papal reflection on love, family life and the importance of marriage and child-rearing has sections that are deeply theological, pristinely poetic or even homiletic, like his reflection on the meaning of each line of the passage from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Chap. 13, used at millions of weddings each year: "Love is patient, love is kind..."

But it also got into the nitty-gritty business of life when a man and a woman leave their parents' home and try to make one of their own. However, while it quoted from some of his past speeches on family life, it did not include references to "plates flying during arguments" and refrained from making mother-in-law jokes, as he has been known to do.

Pope Francis reviewed the whole arc of married life from new and exciting young love to old age, sitting on the porch watching the grandkids play.

"Young love needs to keep dancing toward the future with immense hope," he wrote. "Hope is the leaven that, in those first years of engagement and marriage, makes it possible to look beyond arguments, conflicts and problems and to see things in a broader perspective."

While realistic about late nights and colic, the papal document is lyrical in its reflections on the blessings and challenges of welcoming children into families. He invited readers to join him standing in awe of God's gift of children, marveling that "God allows parents to choose the name by which he himself will call their child for all eternity."

Running after toddlers, supervising homework, trying to figure out how to be close to adolescents without smothering them and, finally, negotiating the "empty nest" syndrome all feature in the papal text.

Reaching together the later-stage of family life, he insisted, is possible and beautiful. "Although the body ages," he said, "it still expresses that personal identity that first won our heart. Even if others can no longer see the beauty of that identity, a spouse continues to see it with the eyes of love and so his or her affection does not diminish.

The path to the porch won't be easy, the pope wrote. But "each crisis has a lesson to teach us, we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart."

A Prayer for Family

Heavenly Father, please shine your light upon my family. Give us strength to overcome all of the difficulties that we are dealing with now and protect us against any and all problems we may encounter in the future. O Lord, please bring us together as we are meant to be. May the love that binds us only grow stronger as we fulfill the destiny laid out for us. Bless us Lord, In Your name I pray, Amen.

Florida

On March 23, the Florida State Board hosted a meet & greet with Martin Ferris TD, Sinn Fein, in Port St Lucie. This was Martin's first visit to Florida.

Divisions represented at the luncheon were: Brevard County AOH, Martin County AOH, St Lucie County AOH, St Lucie County LAOH and Martin County LAOH. There were a few interested patrons who came in to listen as well.



At the Florida Hibernian Meet & Greet were, from left, State VP Ray Lynch, Martin Ferris TD, National Director Greg Seán Canning, and State FFAI Chairman Shawn Sidway.



political education

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, as I write this column the events of the 2016 Commemoration of the Centennial of the Easter Rising are coming to a close. They have truly been impressive, particularly the AOH's own National Commemoration in New York City on April 23. Amid all the pomp and respectful ceremony there is one key take away; the role that Ireland's exiled children in America have played in the past one hundred years of Ireland's history. There would have been no Rising in 1916 without the support of John Devoy, Clan na Gael and the AOH; testament is born to this by the fact that five of the seven signatories had been in America for political purposes leading up to the rising. It was the American outrage over the atrocities during the Irish War of Independence, and specifically American reaction to the heroic hunger strike of Terence MacSwiney that forced a recalcitrant Britain to grant at least a partial independence in 1922. It was American diplomacy that accomplished what many considered impossible; bringing a halt to the ever increasing death spiral of violence that was known as "The Troubles" through the Good Friday agreement. The darker side of these facts is that Great Britain has only reluctantly moved to justice in Ireland when pressured by America. If we are ever to see the dream of a lasting peace with justice for all of Ireland then America, led by you of Irish America, must lead the way and be heard.

To that point, there is a need for all of us to speak loudly and clearly to our elected officials on an outrageous perversion of justice being perpetrated by Crown forces here in America. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has taken it upon themselves to engage in another fishing trip through the tapes of Boston Colleges "Belfast Project." These tapes were made for the benefit of future historians were former paramilitaries, republican and loyalist, were interviewed about their experience during the troubles an understanding that the recordings would remain private until their deaths. In 2013, the PSNI was successful in using the American-British MLA treaty (an agreement to investigate modern crimes, not raid scholarly archives) which led to the very public show arrest of Gerry Adams and his equally public release without charge a mere four days later. There has yet to be any prosecutorial action based on these seized tapes now three years on.

The PSNI now wants to obtain the personal tapes of the Belfast Project Coordinator, Anthony MacIntyre. One of the outlandish pretexts used to justify this Academic "smash and grab" by the PSNI is that MacIntyre belonged to a "proscribed organization," AKA the IRA. The PSNI does not have to go to Boston to confirm this, a mere Google will verify that Mr. MacIntyre was a Republican and spent 18 years in prison for political activities. Obviously the PSNI is fishing for something else and while asking for cooperation from the United States does not respect the United States enough to make clear their true motive and intentions.

To believe that it was a coincidence that this "show arrest" spawned by the PSNI's initial records grab happened to coincidentally occur at a time when Adams' Sinn Fein party was shown by polls to be in the ascendancy defies belief; just as the coincidence of the timing of this most recent PSNI Easter Egg hunt occurring precisely at a time of uncertainty in the formation of a government in the Republic of Ireland. Equally beyond belief is that this is the same British Government which has refused to release their own records on the Ballymurphy Massacre, the assassination of Pat Finucane and the Dublin /Monaghan bombing citing "national security."

This hypocrisy and arrogance is staggering and is a symptom of a continuing charade of justice that is threatening to undo the very foundation of the peace process for short term political gain. Please contact your local congressman and senator and ask that they put an end to PSNI "fishing trips" and begin investigating cases for which they already have documented evidence.

Join the AOH E-Mail List Today

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

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

New Jersey

NY NJ Port Authority Police Officers Patrick Gorman and Jessica Toritto traveled to Ireland for the centennial of the 1916 Easter Uprising. They were inspired by a trip that Officer Gorman's father, PO Thomas Gorman, made several years before he died responding to the 9/11 attacks.

Officers Gorman and Toritto joined members of the AOH for the visit to commemorate the uprising — when about 1,600 people rebelled against the British government in Ireland. Officer Gorman's father had been president of the PA's St. Michael Division #8 — Hudson County, and during his visit had marched in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade with his friends in the Shannon Airport Police.

After arriving at Shannon Airport, the group met with retired Shannon Airport Police Officer John Egan, who was a longtime friend of Officer Gorman's father, and Inspector Patrick O'Neil. They brought the group to the airside fire station to see the memorial for the 37 PAPD officers lost on 9/11, as well as a standalone memorial for Officer Gorman's father. The PAPD officers also were presented with a Shannon Airport Police Fire Rescue Service banner to bring back to the Gorman family.



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Oh, my God, how incredible was the three-day Commemoration of the Easter Rising in Dublin!

Saturday, Sunday and Monday were filled with remembrances of 1916 and the thousands who attended were not disappointed. On Saturday's opening day, I had been invited to speak at the Grave of the Patriots in Arbour Hill before the start of a Pipe Band parade that wound through Dublin from Arbour Hill to the Four Courts. As I looked out on the overflow crowd gathered in that tiny cemetery, I had to pinch myself thinking 'How did I ever get to be here?' It is certainly one of the most memorable experiences of my life. A video of my talk is on the AOH.COM website and, although it's thankfully not visible, there were tears running down my face the entire time as I spoke.

Sunday, most streets were blocked off and stages were set up at street corners with bands playing everything from traditional tunes to up-tempo favorites; there were even instructors teaching traditional celi dances in the streets and huge 'Times Square' size TV screens and sound systems erected on the corners carrying the music and action to all who couldn't get close enough to see over the crowds. On Monday, I can honestly say I've never seen so many people in one place as there were on O'Connell Street; they were elbow to elbow from curb to curb on O'Connell bridge all the way up to Parnell Street and in the center of the street were more stages with music and speeches. Even St. Stephen's Green was covered with tents and tables, laid out little more than 15-feet apart providing everything from storytellers to dancers and souvenirs. My credit card is black and blue, but it was worth every penny! Then we rented a car and went to the Ireland I love – beyond the Shannon – for another week. Of course, we went to Doolin! The soul of Irish music is there and it is a must on this man's itinerary on each and every trip to replenish my musical roots.

Upon my return to America, we set to work planning the final stages of the memorial dedication for May 3 when we unveiled a 12-foot monument to the memory of the leaders of the Rising and all who supported them on the anniversary of the date that the executions began and remembering Tom Clarke – a former Suffolk County resident – whom the British dispatched to Tir na nÓg on that day. It was unveiled at the edge of a lake on the Cohalan Court Complex in East Islip, Long Island on an overcast and drizzly day – a soft day to be sure.

Keynote speakers before an overflow crowd at the event were NY Consul General, Barbara Jones; Dail Eireann TD Eamon O'Cuiv, grandson of Eamon deValera; Judge Peter Fox Cohalan, grand-nephew of Judge Dan Cohalan who led the Friends of Irish Freedom that helped to fund the Rising; and yours truly. It was another memorable event and all

praise must go to the tireless committee led by AOH Div 5 President Chris Thompson and members of Suffolk County's AOH, Police and Fire Emerald Societies, Brehon Law Society, the Hibernian Riders MC, Alan E. Fricke Memorials and the Irish National Stone company of County Clare.

Thanks to the United Irish Counties for asking me to contribute to a compilation of essays on various aspects and heroes of the Republican cause published in time for the 1916 centennial. After seeing a copy, I realized that I was in quite intellectual company for the book is very informative on a variety of topics and a must for any Irish library. At a cost of only \$24, which includes shipping and handling, you can order it at unitedirishcounties@gmail.com

Speaking of books, I just finished a great one by singer/songwriter Cahal Dunne. For those of us who remember the Showband days in Ireland, it is especially interesting for he describes the hardships and humor of life on the road with a small band trying to make it into the limelight. The title, Put Your Rosary Beads Away, Ma refers to a mother's concern over the life chosen by her young musician son for whom she wanted a more stable life style. Google the title on Amazon.

So what do we do next year to excite the Irish community? It is the 150th anniversary of the 20 June, 1867 founding of the Napper Tandy Club in New York which was renamed Clan na Gael and who helped to fund the Rising after the demise of the Fenian Brotherhood. It is also the 150th anniversary of the 23 November unjustified executions of the Manchester Martyrs, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien accused of killing a policeman while rescuing two of their comrades from a prison van. Their remains, cremated in 1991, were re-interred at Blackley Cemetery in Manchester and have yet to be re-interred in the Republican plot at Glasnevin although a monument to their memory does stand there. As funeral masses were said around the world, monuments were also erected to their memory in Limerick, Kilrush (Clare), Clonmel (Tipperary), Birr (Offaly), Ennis (Clare), Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, (Antrim) and St Joseph's Cemetery (Manchester). This last one has been the scene of several disturbances since Republican sympathizers parade there on the anniversary of the executions and the monument has suffered several attacks to its structure and vandalism as well. It is listed as being 'at risk' by the Public Monument and Sculpture Association. Such was the enduring public admiration for these men that 40 years later James Connolly wrote in his newspaper, Workers' Republic, on 20 November 1915: The Fenians of Manchester rose, superior to all the whines about prudence, caution and restraint, and saw only two of their countrymen struck at for loyalty to freedom, and seeing this, struck back at the enemy with blows that are still resounding through the heart of the world. The echo of those blows has for a generation been as a baptismal dedication to the soul and life of thousands of Irish men and women, consecrating them to the service of freedom. The lasting memorial however is the song written by T. D. Sullivan, published a month after the execution on December 7 1867 and still being sung to this day – God Save Ireland!

Until next time, keep well, keep the faith and whatever you do, keep the tradition alive.

Profiles in Patriotism

Sir Roger Casement

(Sept. 1, 1864 – Aug. 3, 1916)

Born in Dublin to a Protestant father and a Catholic mother, at 17 he went to work for a shipping company in Liverpool and was sent to West Africa. There he took a position in the British Consulate. Always a fair and honorable man, he wrote a report exposing the inhuman treatment of native workers in the Congo. The report was published and when he returned to England in 1904 he was celebrated. In London he met Alice Green, a historian who denounced England's exploitation of the Irish. Her argument impressed him and when he returned to Ireland he looked up her friends: Bulmer Hobson, Eoin MacNeill, and Erskine Childers and became a confidant of these and other nationalists.

His diligent service earned him the post of Consul General at Rio de Janeiro and there his sense of fair play caused him to write another scathing report on the cruelties practiced on native workers. It became an international sensation. He returned to England in 1911 and was knighted for his public service.

Casement retired from the Colonial Service in 1912 and returned to Ireland where his sense of fair play was again aroused – this time by the conditions of his own people. His nationalist sympathies led him to join the Irish Volunteers in 1913.

When next he visited London, he was on a different mission – he was en route to Germany to arrange for 1500 guns to be brought into Howth Harbor. When money was needed to secure more arms, Casement went to New York in July, 1914 to see John Devoy who had been raising funds among the American Irish. While in America, England declared war on Germany and Casement contacted America's German ambassador seeking aid for Irish independence. On October 15, 1914 he sailed to Germany,

carrying a small fortune to purchase more arms. The Germans dispatched the ship AUD with a cargo of arms to be landed in Co Kerry. Casement landed ahead of AUD on Banna Strand in Tralee Bay on Good Friday, 1916 to warn the Volunteers to call off the Rising as there were only 20,000 old rifles instead of the 40,000 expected.

The British, alerted to the plans, met the bewildered Casement on the beach and hurried him off to London. At the same time AUD was stopped by the British Navy and, rather than submit, she was scuttled by her own crew. John Devoy's Gaelic American newspaper claimed that American President Wilson learned of Casement's mission after U.S. Federal Agents raided the NY office of the German attaché and warned the British (New York Times, April 27, 1916). One of Casement's companions did get the word to Volunteer President Eoin MacNeill who issued a cancellation order, causing the failure of a nation-wide Rising. Meanwhile in London, Casement in an effort to avoid the slaughter of his comrades, "pleaded with intelligence officers to be allowed to communicate with MacNeill to prevent a Rising, but his interrogators intimated to him that they thought it better to allow a Rising so that its perpetrators could be excised from the body politic. There, if you want to find it, was Perfidious Albion at its most cynical!" (Michael McDowell, Sunday Business Post of 27 March 2016).

Casement was found guilty of treason and sentenced to be hanged. A world-wide furor erupted over this just man, recently knighted by the Crown for his efforts on behalf of persecuted natives, sentenced to death by that same Crown for daring to challenge the exploitation of his own downtrodden people. In an effort to reverse public opinion, the British circulated copies of diaries alleged to be Casement's, which recorded homosexual practices. Much controversy surrounded these Black Diaries, but they had the desired effect. The public furor died down and Casement was hanged and buried in Pentonville Prison on



August 3, 1916 – the last of the 1916 patriots to die.

For many years after Ireland finally won its limited freedom from England, official requests were made to have Sir Roger's remains returned to Ireland. Finally in 1965 England relented, but only after circulating the despicable Black Diaries once again. This time they didn't reckon on modern analytical methodology and the diaries were denounced as forgeries. Despite English efforts to sully the name of this dedicated Irish patriot, Casement's remains were respectfully received by the Irish people, given a State Funeral and re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery on March 1, 1965 - just one year before the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Editor's Note: Years later, in conversation with another great patriot, Joe Cahill, who had once been apprehended bringing arms into the IRA, he asked if I knew the name of the ship he was caught on. I replied 'Yes, it was CLAUDIA'. He asked the significance of that name and I told him I knew of nothing significant in Irish history about the name Claudia. He just smiled and said 'drop the first two and last two letters and what have you?' He just loved the irony!

Massachusetts

By Bill Sullivan

April was a busy month for Massachusetts Hibernians. Divisions across the state held commemoration ceremonies marking the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising. Commemoration events were hosted by Division 8 in Lawrence on April 13; Division 1 in Holyoke on April 23; Division 36 in Worcester on April 24 and Division 14 in Watertown on April 30. Division 1 Holyoke at their event on April 23, raised over \$4,000 for the Sisters of St. Joseph. A large group of Massachusetts Hibernians were also in attendance at the AOH/LAOH Easter Rising Ceremony in New York City on April 23.

The Massachusetts State Board AOH in conjunction with the Tara Court Major Degree Team of Suffolk County, New York, hosted a Major Degree Ceremony on May 7 at the Home of Division 36 in Worcester. Brother members from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island attended. Jack Lahey, AOH Mass State Board Vice President, coordinated this event.

The Second Annual Massachusetts State Golf Classic was held on May 9 at the Beverly Golf & Tennis Club in Beverly hosted by Division 18 of Salem. A dinner followed the golf tournament at the Home of Division 18. Charlie Sinclair, Division 18's President, chaired the event.

Division 18 AOH in Salem recently voted unanimously to dedicate their Division to Salem native, Major John Michael Tivan. Major Tivan was a veteran of two tours in Viet Nam, where he earned a Bronze Star with a V for Valor. He delivered the first H-46 helicopter to the USMC in New River, NC, and piloted Marine 1 Helicopter for President Lyndon B. Johnson. He found and was the first President of the Lt. Col John A Dowd Division in Woodbridge, VA.

The Massachusetts State Board Annual John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial Exercises will be held on Saturday, June 18 at Holyhood Cemetery in Chestnut Hill. AOH and LAOH Mass State Board Chaplain Father Patrick Armano will celebrate a Mass at the gravesite and Michael Quinlin will speak on O'Reilly's life and legacy. A reception will follow at the home of Division 14 in Watertown. Past State President Dick Thompson of Division 14 is Chairman of this event.

A large group of Hibernians throughout the Bay State are planning on attending the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Atlantic City in mid July. All are looking forward to renewing old friendships and meeting new Hibernian friends from across the USA while enjoying the hospitality of the New Jersey Hibernians.

The AOH and LAOH State Boards will hold their Third State Dinner in Watertown on Sunday, November 6, State Presidents Paul Hogan of Division 1 Holyoke and Anne Marie Nyhan Doherty of Division 8 Lawrence are Co-Chairing this event.

Division 9 AOH in Plymouth will host the spring meeting of the AOH Massachusetts State Board on June 11.

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



Hibernians from Massachusetts gathered at the Irish Consulate in New York City to Commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising on May 23. From left, Bill Sullivan, Mary Ellen Pelletier, Donald Pelletier, Anne Marie Nyhan Doherty, Kathy Rafuse, Tim Doherty, Carol Calderone, Jack Lahey, Janet Girouard, Sue Fink, Bob Collins and Bob Bateman.



Division 36 Worcester made the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising on Sunday, April 24, with a ceremony at Worcester City Hall. Pictured are 1916 Commemoration Chairman James Browne Jr (at podium) with the readers of the 1916 Proclamation from Division 36 AOH and LAOH: David Clark, Dottie Doyle, Kevin Carroll, Mary Whidden, Michael Donnelly and Rosemary Foley.

Texas

Special Mass in Austin, Texas, Commemorates Irish Uprising

A special vigil Mass at Saint Mary Cathedral in Austin, Texas, on Saturday, April 23, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916, which started the movement to gain independence for most of Ireland from Great Britain. Father Peter Walsh, C.S.C., chaplain of the AOH and LAOH of Austin, celebrated the Mass. It was followed by a reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic (Poblacht na hÉireann) on the front steps of the Cathedral by Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell.

Following the Mass, the groups enjoyed a reception hosted by BD Riley's Irish Pub, a supporter of AOH events throughout the year.

The next day, the Hibernian groups and their families attended a special showing of "1916 — The Irish Rebellion," a documentary hosted by Consul General Farrell at the Irish Consulate.

"It's important to remember the souls who wanted something more, something better for their people, children, and grandchildren. The leaders of the Easter Rising knew the stakes but fought for freedom and liberty anyway," said Mike Joyce, President of the Travis County Division. "We remember the Irish people's striving for self-determination, both then and now, and pray for peace." — Mike Joyce, AOHTexas@yahoo.com.



Gathering for the commemoration were, from left, Shana Joyce, Nevic Donnelly, Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell, and Sophia Donnelly before the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic in front of Saint Mary Cathedral on April 23 after a Mass sponsored by the Hibernians of Austin.

Indiana

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Our Lady of Knock Division 1 LAOH and Kevin Barry Division 3 Hibernians posed in front of the altar at St. John's Catholic Church before our Sunday, March 13, Mass. This photo has become a tradition that begins the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration, an event that has been sponsored by Indianapolis' Kevin Barry Division for over 50 years. The pre-Mass ceremonies continued with a wreath-laying at the Celtic cross in the church courtyard. Mass was then said by Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, with the help of AOH Chaplain Father Glenn O'Connor and Fathers Jim Farrell and Joe Moriarty.

After Mass a bagpipe band led the crowd in a short parade through downtown Indianapolis from the church to the Indiana Roof Ballroom where dinner was served.

Following the meal, Program Chairman Jim McGinley introduced our Master of Ceremonies, Father Jim Farrell, who, after a short speech, introduced Division President, Matt Davis for the presentation of our Hibernian President's Award winner, Mary Moriarty Adams. She is a retired Indianapolis City County Council representative having served for 28 years.

Vice-President Bob McCurdy presented \$2,600 to St Meinrad's Seminary. Each year this donation is a gift collected from members through our Map of Ireland program.

The songs and stories of Ireland's Mossy Moran followed, with a special emphasis on the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916.

Scholarship Chairman Pat Miles continued the day's events by presenting the winner of the Hibernian Kehoe \$1,500 Scholarship, Eamon Hegarty, and the winner of the Katie White \$1,500 Scholarship, Katie Coffey.

The day concluded with Raffle Chairman Ed Cahill coordinating the drawing of our AOH Raffle; first prize was a trip to Ireland. — Jim Lynch



Indiana Hibernians posed in front of the altar at St. John's Catholic Church before their Mass on March 13.

Alabama



St. Baldrick's Fund Raising

The Father Treacy Division in Huntsville, AL, held its first large Charity Fundraiser for St. Baldrick's - raising funds for childhood cancer research and support. The division was humbled by all of the support from the shavers, photographers, musicians, Straight to Ale hosting the event, and many others. The majority of the division worked leading up to the event or at the event and we were able to raise \$16,239 for St. Baldrick's!



Flags blessed

The Father Treacy Division served as the color guard and were honored to have Father Kelly bless the American and the Irish flags when the parade was stopped outside of St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church. This year, the parade almost didn't occur because insurance was now required for all public events and the parade had never had to cover those expenses before. Our division donated \$250 to help cover the costs and ensure the parade continued on. In addition, this was the third time that a brother from our division was honored to be the Grand Marshal of the parade and this year marked the 39th Ellen McAnnally Memorial St. Patrick's Day parade.

— Submitted by Michael Bollinger, President, Father Treacy Division

Nebraska

On parade in Omaha

Sarpy County, NE, Division and participating members of the Lincoln AOH Division marched in the Omaha St Patrick's Day Parade on March 12 in downtown Omaha. The parade went great with thousands of spectators and a very large line of march, with after-parade events.

—Submitted by Robert McEniry, President, Sarpy County Division.



Nebraska Hibernians, from left, Derrick Masters, Tom Ryan, Ben Coleman, Dylan Tilley, Bob McEniry, Kevin Campbell, Colm Breathnach, Mike Wear and Matthew Brewer ready for the Omaha parade.

Illinois

By John F. O'Donnell, Division 32 Trustee

Division 32ers filled up "to go" bags at the Easter feeding for the less fortunate at the Our Lady of Lourdes soup kitchen March 23. From left, standing, are the three Toms of O'Connor, Burke and Rowan, while sitting is Dennis Collogly. Some 135 people attended the Easter ham dinner. The Hibernians next event here will be a June 22nd BBQ.

Other Division 32 events planned included: a Saturday, April 23, Easter Uprising Commemoration at the Irish American Heritage Center and our annual golf outing Friday, May 20, at Chevy Chase GC in Wheeling, IL which serves as our division's main fundraiser thru hole sponsorships and ad book purchases.



Nebraska Hibernians, from left, Derrick Masters, Tom Ryan, Ben Coleman, Dylan Tilley, Bob McEniry, Kevin Campbell, Colm Breathnach, Mike Wear and Matthew Brewer ready for the Omaha parade.

Chicago Hibernians commemorate 1916 Rising

Members of the John F. Kennedy Division 59, Mount Greenwood, Chicago, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. The group attended mass at St. Cajetan and then met for breakfast at the Beverly Woods Restaurant. They reconvened at the AOH monument in Mount Olivet Cemetery. After prayers, Kevin Kennelly, St. Barnabas Parish, read the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic aloud.

John Donovan, President of the Division, said, "The AOH monument is a logical site for us to reflect on the sacrifices of the men and women who fought for Irish independence especially in 1916 because the monument was created with Irish symbolism, a harp, a wolfhound and a Celtic Cross to memorialize Irish brethren who died destitute or without family." — Submitted by Robert "Bob" J. Szyman



Division 59 commemorated the Easter Rising at the AOH monument in Mount Olivet Cemetery. From left, Kevin Kennelly (St. Barnabas) reading the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Art Kennelly (St. John Fisher), Division President John Donovan (Queen of Martyrs), Kevin Gill (St. Germaine), and Terry Connell (Old St. Patrick).

Deadline for July-August issue

All articles and photos are

due no later than

JULY 1, 2016

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Shortly after I submitted the Connecticut news for the March/April edition of the Hibernian Digest, I sadly learned of the passing of Dorothy (Dot) Kasey of Meriden. In the late 1980's, I had the honor and privilege of serving as AOH Connecticut State President at the same time that Dot served as State President of the LAOH. Dot was a great Lady and I learned much from her regarding the history and traditions of Hibernianism in Connecticut. I know she is resting in peace. She was a wonderful person.

Over the last six months we have been following the footsteps of New London AOH President Rick Connell as he trained to run the Boston Marathon to raise money for cancer research and honor the victims of the terrorist bombing on Boylston Street. Rick has completed his mission. He recorded a time of 4 hours and 15 minutes over the 26-mile route and in doing so raised \$61,900 for Dana-Farber Cancer Research. Well-done Rick!

The Waterbury AOH has been doing good things. The Veterans Committee held a dinner and beer tasting event on April 21 to raise funds to help needy Veterans. While the Scholarships Committee established by the late Jack McCarthy awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to students attending Sacred Heart and Holy Cross High Schools, the Monsignor Slocum Division awards a third annual \$1,000 scholarship through the Waterbury Sportsman Club.

We have found out that both the Waterbury and Danbury Divisions have annual setback leagues. If there are other Divisions that have Setback card players perhaps this could become the basis of a State AOH card tournament.

Connecticut Hibernians led by Jim Gallagher and State President Tom McDonough did their part in the National AOH effort to prevent the deportation of Malachy McAlister. Many phone calls were made and this proved successful in getting several Connecticut congressmen to sign on to the McAlister cause.

The men and women of AOH and LAOH of Stamford held their annual Mass and Communion brunch on March 13. The Mass was held at the Basilica of Saint John with the brunch being held in the Stamford AOH Hall. This long-standing event is always a success and this year the featured speaker was noted scholar Christine Kinealy who is the Director of the Great Hunger Institute in Hamden.

I was privileged to be able to attend two outstanding events on successive days in commemoration of the Easter Rising. The AOH National Commemoration at St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Irish Consulate on April 23 was a five-star event and National Vice President Judge Jim McKay, ably assisted by Tom Bieme and Dan Dennehy, deserve accolades. It was beyond impressive to see all 2,100 seats in St. Patrick's Cathedral filled with Hibernian women and men.

Equally impressive was the unveiling of the monument at the Fairfield County Gaelic Club on April 24. The Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggano at St. Thomas Aquinas

Church was very inspiring. At the end of the Mass those in attendance departed the Church as the choir sang "A Nation Once Again" and journeyed over to the Gaelic Club where Master of Ceremonies AOH member Pat O'Connell guided hundreds of attendees through a moving program leading up to the unveiling of the beautiful monument dedicated to the seven men who were executed by the British for signing the 1916 Proclamation proclaiming Ireland's independence. After the monument was unveiled, Bronx Hibernian leader Martin Galvin gave a stirring address surrounding the events of 1916 and the unfinished work yet to be done in the North of Ireland to make Ireland a 32 County Republic.

A number of Connecticut Divisions held events commemorating the 1916 Rising. Waterbury held its annual Irish Commemoration breakfast on April 17. New London sponsored ceremonies at Hannifin's Irish Pub on April 25 where the Proclamation was read and the video *Mise Erin* was shown.

Danbury was not to be out done as Chaplain Father Jeffrey Couture celebrated a commemoration Mass that filled the Irish Center to capacity on April 23. In addition the Proclamation was read, the bagpipes were played and songs were sung and a number of items and photos were exhibited.

In anticipation of the Danbury event, I submitted the following item that was printed in the *News Times of Danbury*:

"... On April 23, 2016, People of Irish heritage and good will from the Danbury area will gather at the Irish Center on Lake Avenue in Danbury to honor the memory of the men and women who participated and died in the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916. The Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916 was an attempt by Irish men and women to throw off 800 years of foreign rule and declare an Irish Republic in the name of the people who inhabit the island of Ireland. Though the Rebellion failed it led to the establishment of the 26 counties Irish Republic with the hope that all of Ireland in light of the Good Friday agreement of 1998 will eventually be unified.

It is quite fitting and proper that people of Irish heritage gather on the Centennial of the Easter Rising since people of Irish heritage have since they first came to Danbury over one hundred and fifty years ago hoped to transport the freedom they enjoyed in America back to the people of Ireland.

The Irish born veterans of the American Civil War who marched in Danbury's first Memorial Day parade in 1868, as part of the Warren Circle of the Fenian Brotherhood, longed for a free Ireland.

The men and women of the Ancient Order of Hibernians first established in Danbury in 1873 have always supported the cause of Irish freedom, as did the members of the now defunct Robert Emmett Club of the Clan Na Gael."

Perhaps the editor of the *Danbury Times*, Mr. Levi Osborne said it best in addressing the marchers in the first St. Patrick's Day parade held in Danbury in 1863 when he stated:

That they... "educated under the democratic institutions of their adopted country, will one day aid in removing the folds of the British serpent now encircling the Emerald isle."



New England liaison Bill Sullivan, Connecticut State President Tom McDonough and Rising Monument Committee Treasurer and Bridgeport Division President Tom Keane stand before the newly unveiled Monument to the Signers of the 1916 Proclamation at the Fairfield County Gaelic Club on April 24. Photo by Nuala Purcell.



Past Danbury President Eugene Fedigan, Connecticut State President Tom McDonough and Past National Directors Frank Kearney Jr., and Phil Gallagher at the Irish Consulate in Manhattan after the ceremonies commemorating the Easter Rising on April 23.

Pennsylvania

Caption does not match photo!!!

100th Commemoration of the Easter Rising

On Easter Monday, March 28, the Pennsylvania State Board celebrated the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The Proclamation was read by Past President Judge Thomas J. Munley who also gave a background of the original reading in 1916. Past National AOH President Ned McGinley spoke of the importance of the original reading that started the movement for freedom.

Pennsylvania AOH State Vice President Joe Hosie thanked all the Irish Organizations and members of the public who came out to recognize the strong men and women who took a stand against the people who took their land, religious freedom and broke up their families.

In attendance were the AOH and LAOH from Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, PA AOH State President Ed Halligan, PA AOH State Treasurer Denny Gaw, PA AOH State Freedom for Ireland Chairman Gerry McHale, AOH Lackawanna County President Joe Walsh, LAOH Lackawanna County President Dorthea Crowley. Members of the Gallagher School of Dance performed as well as the Wyoming County Pipe Band. Also in attendance was State Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich.



Gerry McHale, PA, AOH State Freedom For all Ireland Chairman; John Kane, Past National AOH Director; Atty. John McGee; Past President Judge Thomas J. Munley; Joe Hosie, PA, AOH State Vice President.

National Hibernian Digest, May-June 2016

Montana

There was a series of commemorations of the Easter Rising that took place in Montana. The first of these events was in Anaconda, Montana, April 23, and was a gathering of the AOH Divisions from across Montana at the General Post Office in Anaconda Montana. Anaconda has played a major role in the history of the Irish in Montana over the last 140 years. The Anaconda community grew as a destination for Irish immigrating to America in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The Anaconda Division of the AOH headed the commemoration activities there with John "Bobo" Kelly taking the lead. Mr. Kelly's hard work and dedication is not only a reflection of the wonderful Irish of Anaconda, but an honor to his forefathers who were so supportive and instrumental to the Easter Rising when it happened a hundred years before.

The second commemoration in Montana was in Helena on April 25, at the State Capitol with the Governor's proclamation event commemorating the Easter Rising and proclaiming April 24, 2016, as Irish Republic Day in Montana.

It was also the opening of the Erin's Exiled Children exhibit, "Irish America and the Road to the Rising." We are very proud of this traveling exhibit that explains the history of the 1916 Rising and the integral role of Irish America. It was a collaboration of the AOH, the Irish Studies Program at the University of Montana, the Butte-Silver Bow Archives and the Gathering.



The Gathering of AOH Divisions from across Montana at the General Post Office in Anaconda.



Erin's Exiled Children Exhibit, "Irish American and the Road to the Rising."



Montana Governor's Proclamation event commemorating the Easter Rising. Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney reading the Proclamation.

California

Remembrance is Powerful

By Sean Gunning

On Saturday, March 26 in Southern California—sunshine, light breeze, high-70s—over 100 men and women put aside their routines and responsibilities and gathered to celebrate an extraordinary event that occurred on the other side of the world before any of them were born.

When a dedicated group of men and women—school teachers, union leaders, struggling actors—planned and executed an act of explosive revolution in Dublin on April 24, 1916, the people of Ireland and England were shocked into awareness. An awareness that the long-suppressed cry for freedom was still very much alive and burning in the graveyards and stockyards and railyards of Ireland. During the Easter Rising, "The Soldier's Song" was defiantly sung as the new Song of Ireland. The uprising was swiftly and brutally put down, as it had been before. But this time, in the fires that raged that day and the days that followed, not just in buildings, but in the hearts and minds of all who cried for freedom, a new political dawn was born.

And so when men and women of the same spirit gathered at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building in Anaheim to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Rising, and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States and the pursuit of liberty and justice for all, the courage and sacrifice of the 1916 freedom fighters was foremost in their minds.

Liberty and justice for all. Those are very powerful words. And so too were the words of our host for the event, Dan Murphy, who spoke eloquently and sincerely about the greatest country in the world...America. At first, some of us thought he'd accidentally said America instead of Ireland, but by the time he was done explaining how grateful he was to have the freedom to pursue his devotion to a Free and Independent Ireland from his adopted home in America, he'd reminded us all just how fortunate we are to be living in America. Even our Irish-born, senior statesman for all things Irish in Orange County, the revered and loved Jerry O'Keefe, admitted he'd been moved. He wasn't alone.

In 1926, ten years after the Rising, the chorus of "The Soldier's Song" was quietly adopted as the official National Anthem of Ireland, and remarkably, it's still Ireland's Anthem today. I say remarkably because the lyrics are militaristic, have been difficult for many Irish people to sing for many decades, and have been challenged on a number of occasions. And yet it endures.... As does Ireland's cry for full and complete independence from the Crown.

Remembrance is powerful, and, as Sister Eymard Flood reminded us so gracefully, so is prayer. Perhaps we can all take a quiet moment to pray that the recent global centennial commemorations will advance liberty and justice for all Irish people, in the way the sacrifices of the freedom fighters did in 1916.

Our commemoration program and additional event photographs can be viewed at: <http://www.aohoc.org/>



Orange County and Long Beach Hibernians held their annual Easter Commemoration at the VFW of Anaheim. We had a wonderful turnout of Brothers and Sisters to celebrate and honor the men of the Irish Rebellion of 1916. David McKenna did a masterful job as Chairman and Daniel Murphy kept the program rolling and was honored with a plaque for his decades of service. Sister Eymard Flood gave an inspirational spiritual message, Eamonn Knuff provided the musical entertainment and Terry McCarthy piped in the processional. Many thanks to the Tristen Wolfe and the 3rd Cork Brigade for their reenactment participation and all of you who made this a proper tribute as well as a success.

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New Hampshire

New Hampshire Hibernians commemorate Easter Rising

Members of Rev. William J. Shanahan Division 1 – Manchester, N.H. marked the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rebellion with a series of public events in Manchester on Sunday, April 24.

The day began appropriately with a Mass at St. Raphael’s church celebrated by Father Jerome Day, O.S.B. and dedicated to the patriotic Irish men and women of 1916. Members of the Division and their families entered the church with Father Jerome behind the Hibernian color guard.

The church was decorated with an oversize display of the Poblacht na n Eireann draped in orange, white and green bunting, and a large orange, white and green floral wreath commemorating the centennial. After Mass, Hibernian piper Sean Markey led the colors and parishioners out of the church.

The events continued in downtown Manchester as nearly one hundred members of the AOH and the LAOH, along with the Hibernian Pipes and Drums and members of the public gathered in front of the old St. Anne’s church, a longtime center of the Irish community in Manchester, for a boisterous procession through the city.

Led by pipes and drums, with flags and banners flying, the procession stopped in front of the old Manchester Post Office, where a local professional actor re-enacted Padraig Pearse’s reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, which concluded with enthusiastic applause.

The procession then made its way to City Hall, where it was met by local dignitaries, including Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas. The Division presented the commemorative wreath to the City, and it was graciously accepted by the mayor, who advised it would remain on display in City Hall for the entire week.

Division historian John Jordan read a speech given in 1917 by a Manchester parish priest, which promoted the cause of Irish independence and referenced the 1916 Rising. State Senator Lou D’Alessandro read a Proclamation from New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan, which declared April 24 – 29 to be Easter Rising Centennial Week in New Hampshire.

The public events concluded with a rousing rendition of The Foggy Dew by Hibernian Brother Marty Quirk, after which the Irish tricolor was raised in the City Hall courtyard, where it flew for the remainder of the week.

— Submitted by Michael Farley, President, Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1

Ohio



Tressel named Irishman of the Year

Mahoning County Division 6, Youngstown, Ohio, was proud to honor Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel as our Irishman of the Year during our 2016 St. Patrick’s Day Mass and Luncheon. Jimmy Lewis was bestowed with his National Life Membership award at the same event. The event included a 1916 commemoration and recognized the great history of Irish Americans in the Mahoning Valley. From left, Danny O’Connell, AOH National Treasurer; Jimmy Lewis, AOH life member; Jim Tressel, Mahoning County Irishman of the Year; and Mark Klacick, AOH Mahoning County 6, Oh, Division President.

Akron Hibernians commemorate the Rising By JC Sullivan

The Summit County AOH Board, along with the Mark Heffernan and St. Brendan Divisions, held a “Rebels Night” at the Heffernan Division Hall on Saturday prior to the anniversary of the Rising, just as many of Ireland’s original participants did. Callahan and O’Connor donated their band’s musical talents to the evening.

On Sunday they attended the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Vincent De Paul, a church the Irish in Akron built. Fathers Norm Douglas and AOH Chaplain Tom McCann concelebrated the well-attended and colorful Mass. Afterwards, Paul Callahan read from a scrolled paper the Irish Declaration of Independence on the front steps of the Church. Afterwards a brunch was served at the St. Brendan Division Hall.

Wisconsin

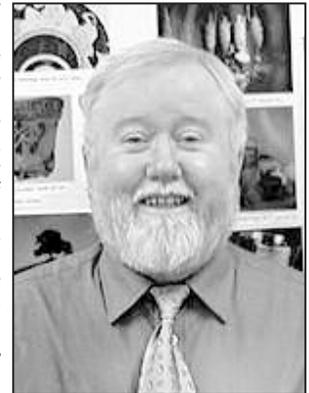
New officers installed for the 2016-2017 term

At a recent Milwaukee Division meeting, the membership elected new officers for 2016-17. We are very fortunate to have such an active and eager membership willing to put forth their talents and time to serve the members and support our numerous initiatives, including our strong long-standing financial support of students at three Milwaukee inner-city Catholic schools- St. Rose of Messmer, Nativity Jesuit and Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee.

Our newly-elected Division Officers include are Shawn Lundie, Shannon Burns, Tom Powers, Mike Finley and Bob Mikush.

John Gleeson’s presentation on the Easter Rising

The Division was also very fortunate to have John Gleeson give a presentation on the Easter Rising of 1916. Gleeson is the retired co-director of Center for Celtic Studies at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He directs UWM’s Colmcille Semester program in Ireland and teaches courses in the Ethnic Studies Program. John also leads non-credit study tours to Ireland and Scotland. He has lectured extensively on Ireland and is a regular consultant and contributor to print and broadcast media on Irish issues. John is well known in the community as a speaker and cultural activist. He was voted 1993 “Irishman of the Year” and is numbered among Irish America magazine’s Top 100.



John Gleeson, retired Co-Director of the Center for Celtic Studies at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Minnesota

Shamrock Division celebrates Founders Day

On a fine spring day, April 30, the Shamrock Division met to celebrate Founders Day, install new members to our Order and award scholarships.

Established 36 years ago, the Shamrock Division has been celebrating Founders Day annually at St. Thomas Church in Jessenland, Minnesota. Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish settlement in Minnesota, gives a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of our Founders Day. The day was well attended by our local members and clergy.

The Scholarship Committee interviewed scholarship candidates and awarded \$500 AOH Scholarships each to Madison Hartmann of Le Sueur, Zoe Grubbs of Mpls and Brenna McSweeney of St Paul. Scholarship selection was based on the applicants Irish heritage, education plans and how they plan to promote their Irish heritage in the future.

Induction of nine new members through the Induction Ceremony was overseen by Chapter President Tim Halloran. New members included: Joe Fahey of Belle Plaine, Joe Moriarty of Jordan, Brent Shaughnessy of Belle Plaine, Sean Moriarty of Jordan, Ashton Pankonin of Belle Plaine, Marty Fahey of Belle Plaine, James O’Brien of Le Sueur. Rhett McSweeney of Mpls and Kevin O’Brien of Shakopee. Following the Induction Ceremony, Catholic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Hession.

Pictures and more information about the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our web site at hibernians-shamrock.com



Hibernians Tim Halloran and Bruce Kelly. Scholarship recipients, Madison Hartmann, Brenna McSweeney and Zoe Grubbs. Members Clarence Doheny and John Devins Sr.

Make Your Convention reservations now!
See page 28

Virginia

Michael L. Creegan April 5, 1944 – April 8, 2016

Father Mychal Judge OFM Division and the Virginia State Board mourn the passing of charter division president Michael L. Creegan. Mike served the AOH in many capacities: he was the State webmaster, past president of the Prince William County Board, and long-time member of the Brian Boru Degree Team. Mike was a two-time recipient of the Virginia State Board St. Columille Award for sustained outstanding performance. Mike served his country in the United States Army and was a devoted member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Triangle, VA, where he served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and lecturer. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Otella Creegan; three sons, Michael L. Creegan, James F. Creegan, and Anthony Patrick Sean Creegan and one granddaughter, Courtney Leigh Creegan. A retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant, Mike was buried with full military honors at Quantico National Cemetery.

Focusing on the Centenary Anniversary at area libraries

General T.F. Meagher Division (SP01) The essence of Irish-American Heritage Month and the Centenary Anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916 was shared with patrons at four Fredericksburg, VA libraries. Desmond Flanigan He coordinated with the library graphics department for crafting of beautiful 4x5 foot posters to explain the purpose and aftermath of the Rising and he organized displays at each location. Des was assisted by Neil Buttimer, Peter Carroll, Harry Crisp, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Paul O'Brien, and Hugh O'Brien. The renowned Muggivan School of Irish Dance demonstrated traditional Irish dance. During the nearly 40 hours spent at the area libraries, Hibernians shared their knowledge of Irish history, immigration, and the Easter Rising of 1916 with more than 200 visitors. The General T.F. Meagher Division brothers distributed nearly 200 pamphlets that traced Ireland's road to freedom from 1155 to 1916 and beyond to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. The booklet contained the Poblacht Na h Eireann and biographies of the seven executed leaders.

The seven signers of the Irish proclamation were portrayed by AOH members Tom Forbes, Brian Hegarty, Mike Gawkins, Mike Canning, Hugh Naughton, John Costello and Ed Rossmore. Mike Muldowney represented a reporter interviewing F. Grace Gifford Plunkett played by Lori Forbes, President of the Mary Ryan Division of the Ladies AOH. Vince Eikmeier led the group in the singing of the Irish National Anthem at the end of the presentation.

Frank Herbert Pat Cady Division (AL01) April was a very exciting month for Herbert-Cady Division as seven new brothers entered the Order: Paul Krawzak, Jim McGuinness, Mike Hahn, Blaze Pugh, Ryan Walsh, Mike McEntee, and Tim Donnelly. To promote Irish heritage the Division voted to support the Michael Collins Gaelic Football Club of the GAA. John Kilday organized a family fishing trip outing and Terry Riley leads the Brothers in serving the hungry at Christ House. Terry also coordinated a tour of the Port City Brewing Company. A Washington Nationals baseball game outing is in the works, possibly involving a water taxi from Olde Town. GO NATS!

Fr. Mychal Judge OFM Division (PW02) hosted a Celtic Crossings Concert in support of activities for the 100 anniversary of the Easter Rising. Headliners included Phil Coulter, Geraldine Branagan, and Andy Cooney. A crowd of 300 included the Deputy Head of Mission from the Embassy of Ireland in Washington DC, Mr. Michael Lonergan, and several officers from the Virginia State Board. The concert introduced pieces of Irish history both in Ireland and the US.

Ancient Order of the Hibernians: Giving Back After They Received

Prince William Living Magazine (pwwliving.com), by Olivia Overman, 3 March 2016 (edited and reprinted with permission)

Prince William County, Virginia has three Hibernian Divisions: the Lt. Col. John A. Dowd USMC Division in Woodbridge, the Father Edwin Kelley Division in Manassas and the Father Mychal Judge O.F.M. Division in Triangle. These divisions help keep Irish culture of art, dance, music, and sports alive.

Giving Charitably

One of the great things we do in the Lt Col Dowd Division is to give scholarships for members' children and grandchildren," said Art Corbett, current president of the Division. A member, Jack Kane, endowed the Kane Scholarship Fund in 1996 in honor of his father. "We manage this trust fund and use the money to support Catholic education," he said. While there are criteria for the high schools attended, there are no such criteria for colleges attended for scholarships. According to the division's treasurer and past president, John Berry, the scholarship fund totals about \$10,000 a year, and while most of it is given to children and grandchildren of members, there is also an amount that is given to deserving rising high school students from the parochial schools of St. Aquinas, Holy Family and St. Francis.

The Father Edwin Kelley Division in Manassas is the founding member of Inisfail Inc., the holding company that puts on the St. Patrick's Day parade in Manassas. "We sell a lot of ads for the parade program and raise funds this way," said Vince Fitzpatrick, president of the Prince William County AOH. "This is our main event of the year along with a beer tasting event, which supports military charities, including Able Forces and T.A.P.S., Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors," he said. "We make most of our charitable donations to elementary schools in the City of Manassas. This past year [2015] we donated \$6,000 to local charitable organizations, including the schools." Involved with All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, the Kelley Division, most recently, provided 100 percent of the funding for the stained glass window in the church. "For a group of 52 members to donate \$15,000 is no small feat," said Fitzpatrick.

Father Mychal Judge OFM division, chartered in 2012, was named after the Chaplain for the New York Fire Department and was killed as part of the rescue efforts in the World Trade Center attacks. "This year we have the honor of hosting a concert including Irish

legend Phil Coulter, and what the New York Times calls 'Americas Favorite Irish signer,' Andy Cooney, and the Irish Pops Ensemble at Forest Park High School on March 18," said Dan Sullivan, president of the Fr. Judge Division. "Much of the proceeds from these concerts are used to fund our charitable giving. We give to local Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, Hibernian Charities, Youth Ministries, local parishes, and a local food bank and outreach facility," Sullivan said.

The Ladies Ancient Order of the Hibernians (LAOH), the Lt Col Dowd Division, works diligently with churches and other organizations to provide charitable assistance. "In particular, we work with Birthright, which provides financial assistance for pregnant women and children and the Tepeyac Family Center, which provides health services for pregnant women," said Kathy Sullivan, vice president and past president of the LAOH. Each year a baby shower brunch is held, and baby clothes and gift cards are collected and donated to the organizations. However, it is the largest fundraiser, the St. Brigid's Gala. "We have a silent auction, a raffle, Irish dancers and an Irish pub," said Sullivan. The group also works with St. Margaret of Cortona, Family Transitional Housing in providing apartments to homeless families as well as adopting three or four families for Christmas.

Preserving Irish Culture

Marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day parades in Manassas and Alexandria is a must for the Prince William AOH. "This year the [Manassas] parade will be on Saturday, March 12," said Fitzpatrick. The parade is sponsored by a number of local companies, including The Old Town Sports Pub, which is a big supporter of the event. "Several pipe bands stop by the Old Town Sports pub after the parade where sometimes they have a tent set up. There's a lot of Irish music around Historic Manassas on St. Patrick's Day," he said.

Members of the Lt Col Dowd Division cannot be missed during the parade as they proudly carry a giant tri-color flag, approximately 15 by 25 feet, along the parade route. "The division had this custom made. It's not designed for a flag pole, but it has handles to allow people to carry it," said Berry. The division has recently also commenced road bowling. For the uninitiated road bowling is an Irish sport where individuals or teams try to take the fewest throws to propel a metal ball along country roads. The Dowd Division, along with members from the Father Edwin Kelley Division and the Father Mychal Judge Division, competed in the event the week before Thanksgiving at the Prince William Forest Park. "There are very few places we can do this," said Berry. Describing his quest for park approval for the event, Berry said, "There was a lot of explanation required for the senior park ranger there. We would like to do [another] one in the spring or summer as well as restoring the all-county picnic."



The Major Dooley Division presented the 1916 Easter Rising Centennial at Keagan's Irish Pub in Richmond



Harry Crisp, Des Flanigan and Bill Halpin at England Run Library.

St Patrick's Parades and Festivals

There wasn't space in the last issue of the Digest for all the photos received from around the country. So here are some images from some more of the great Hibernian celebrations of 2016. — Digest Editor John O'Connell



PREPARING TO MARCH
Past Suffolk County (New York) President Brian Clancy, left, Suffolk County President and 2016 Grand Marshal Jack Ryan, Junior Past Suffolk County President John Hurley and Past Suffolk County President Jeff Nisler preparing to march in the Huntington Parade. Photo submitted by Brian Clancy.



Annapolis AOH Commodore John Barry Division, Div. 1, and Anne Arundel LAOH Div. 1, celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a Mass at St. John Neumann Church. The Mass was celebrated by Father Guri, CSsR, who is studying here in the U.S. He talked passionately on how the Irish were instrumental in his priestly formation. He said a prayer of thanksgiving to God for St. Patrick and all the holy men and women who left their homes in Ireland to bring the faith and civilization to all the world. He told his audience that there was probably not another priest in Annapolis with such devotion to St. Patrick and better to celebrate with the Irish this day. It was a moving and inspiring homily. Photo submitted by John O'Neill



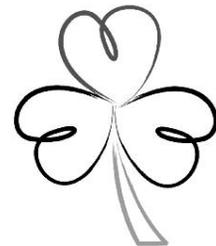
A SEA OF GREEN IN PITTSBURGH
The sun rose on the horizon in a bright blue sky in Pittsburgh on Saturday, March 12, and you could see right away that it is going to be a glorious day. It was a chilly morning, but the excitement kept them warm as Pittsburgh Hibernians like Parade Chairman Pat O'Brien of AOH Division 4, Patti Flaus of LAOH Division 32, and members of AOH Divisions 1 and 23, such as brothers Kevin Day and Dan Devinney, were already on the streets to help organize the 20,000 marchers and vehicles in the annual Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day parade. —Jim Green, AOH Division 1, Pittsburgh



Photo of St. Patrick himself and the AOH Division 1's float in Holyoke, Massachusetts, for their parade on March 20. Photo submitted by Bill Sullivan.



THE AOH SPIRIT IN MONTANA
The weather couldn't chill the Hibernian spirit at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Butte, Montana. Submitted by Joseph E. Lee, President, Division 1, Butte.



Hibernians in Baltimore, Maryland, enjoyed a wonderful St. Patrick's Parade. Submitted by William Prybil.



PREPARING TO MARCH
Past Suffolk County (New York) President Brian Clancy, left, Suffolk County President and 2016 Grand Marshal Jack Ryan, Junior Past Suffolk County President John Hurley and Past Suffolk County President Jeff Nisler preparing to march in the Huntington Parade. Photo submitted by Brian Clancy.



Pennsylvania's AOH and LAOH from Jim Thorpe (Alec Campbell, Division 1), celebrated our 19th annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Thousands of people came from far & wide to enjoy the great celebration. Ten of the best pipe bands on the east coast of the United States provided entertainment and many dignitaries from across the state including State Senator Yudichak, State Representative Doyle Heffley and many, many others. We were especially honored to have Francis (Snits) O'Donnell serve as our Grand Marshal. Our parade also honored the memories of our deceased brothers. The parade was stopped in front of the old jail where members of the Molly Maguires were hanged. Each of their names was called out as a remembrance. AOH Division president Chuck Thamarus, started the parade with a short speech and was instrumental along with LAOH president Mary Dugan Figura in organizing the parade.

South Carolina

A Commemoration of the Centennial of the Easter Rising in Charleston

On Sunday, April 24, Hibernians gathered and held a glorious Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916. Held on the grounds of the Irish Memorial on the banks of Charleston Harbor in Charleston, South Carolina, the program, led by Master of Ceremonies immediate SC Past State Vice President Jim Kelly, started at 11:50 a.m. The agenda was timed to have The Proclamation of The Provisional Government of the Irish Republic read at 12:04 p.m., duplicating the actual time that Pádraig Pearse first read that historic document on the steps of the General Post Office in Dublin on April 24, 1916.

The Committee for this Commemoration was co-chaired by SC LAOH State President Cheryl Daniels, Charleston's LAOH Our Lady of Knock Division President Ginger Frederick, AOH Brian Boru Berkeley County Division 1 President Tim Kenefick and Jim Kelly, PP, also of Brian Boru Berkeley County Division 1.

This well attended event was made possible by the collaboration of the men and women of Our Lady of Knock, Charleston, Brian Boru Division 1 Berkeley County, John L. Manning Division 1 Charleston County, State AOH District 1 Director Bill Ferrara and the Irish Historical Society of Charleston, SC. A musical overture was provided by Na Fídlí, Charleston's only youth Irish Fiddle Group, who also presented their joyful Irish jigs and reels at the conclusion of the Commemoration.

The agenda began with introductions by Jim Kelly, Invocation by Deacon Daniel McNerney, the singing of the United States National Anthem by Michael Boone, all members of Brian Boru, the Irish National Anthem sung by Dr. John Corless, PP Irish Historical Society of Charleston, reading of the Irish Proclamation by Joseph P. Kelly, Director of Irish Studies and Irish American Studies at the College of Charleston, a presentation on the "Woman's Role during the Rising" by Cheryl Daniels, Recitation of William Butler Yeats' poem "Easter 1916," by Martin "Bomer" Cleary of Brian Boru, a Reading of the Names of those Executed by Virginia Frederick and Tim Kenefick, placing of a wreath in Commemoration of the Men and Women of the Easter Rising by Cheryl Daniels and Tim Kenefick with a closing Benediction by Deacon Daniel McNerney.

The event was framed by the 32 County Flags of Ireland, provided by John L. Manning Division President Bud Wham, and Division members. The standing room only audience of Irish men and women included members of the LAOH, AOH, the Irish Historical Society of Charleston and the Hibernian Society of Charleston, with family, friends and other honored guests. The sunny blue skies, the sparkling waters of Charleston Harbor and the phalanx of the 32 County Flags of Ireland provided a stunning, beautiful and fitting setting for this glorious ceremony. Master of Ceremonies Jim Kelly closed the event by reminding everyone that 26 plus 6 equals 1, explaining that when the 32 Counties of Ireland are united from 26 and 6 separated Counties into 1 Sovereign Nation of Ireland, that math equation will finally be correct.



The Harp and Shamrock Division 1 South Carolina, back row, from left, Joseph Deehan, Kevin Cummins, Frank Benedetto and Jack Gilchrist; front row, Daniel Regan, Hugh O'Neill, Tommy Ennis, Len Byrne and Tom Farrell.

Commemorating the Easter Rising in South Carolina

Those who gave their lives in the fight for Irish freedom were honored by the men and women assembled with the AOH – Harp and Shamrock Division 1, Greenville, South Carolina, on Saturday, April 23, with a couple of presentations, delivered with poise and compassion. A poem and an inspired reading of the Easter Proclamation

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New York

Myles Scully Division supports fundraising benefit for Yonkers Hibernian

The members of the AOH were out in force on April 2nd to help support a fundraising benefit for a fellow Hibernian in Yonkers. Jimmy "Big Poppa" Casey is a proud member of Division 1 in Yonkers and suffered a terrible injury back in January during the Blizzard of 2016. He is a popular figure in the local Yonkers Community, where he has organized and run the Annual Toys for Tots program over the last 14 years.



Jimmy had slipped on ice in front of his home the night of the blizzard and was knocked unconscious by the fall. Jimmy lay exposed to the elements where over 2 feet of snow fell in subzero temperatures. He was not discovered until the next morning where he was found clinging to life. He was stabilized by doctors, but he suffered from extreme frostbite on both of his hands, which subsequently required the amputation of many of Jimmy's fingers. The benefit was organized to assist with Jimmy's medical and rehabilitation expenses.

"The outpouring of support from the AOH was tremendous," said Division President Kevin Ellis, "Once we put the word out, the response was almost immediate." Checks began arriving shortly thereafter from Divisions and individual Hibernians across New York State. Support even came from as far as Chicago, Illinois and Roanoke, Virginia. "We were blown away when we received a check from Division 32 in Chicago," said Ellis. "We even had individual members from Long Island drive up to show support for Jimmy."

A total of over \$2,000 was received at the time of the benefit, and additional donations are expected in the near future. When combined with the contributions of Division 1 and its members, the total was brought to over \$4,000.

Jimmy Casey continues to remain in the hospital during his recovery, and it is still unclear at this point when he will be able to return to a normal life once he is released. There were many at the benefit who took notice of the large AOH presence at the benefit. "The AOH is not just a fraternal organization, it is a true brotherhood," said Ellis, "That quality shined through for everyone to see here today, Jimmy has a tough road ahead, but he will know that he has his Hibernian brothers standing with him."

Division 1 is still accepting donations for Jimmy Casey. You can send your donations by mail to AOH Division 1 Yonkers, c/o Jimmy Casey Fund, P.O. Box 1020, Yonkers, NY 10703.

Bronx holds annual Mass, donations made

The Bronx County Board celebrated their annual Mass at St. Barnabas Church and breakfast at the Heritage on McLean Ave. on April 3.

The guest speaker was Congressman Joseph Crowley, who spoke about the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland. AOH National Director Charles "Chip" McLean, National Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy, NYS Vice-President Vic Vogel, former NYS President James Burke, Tommy Beirne, District Director, and Kevin Ellis, President, Division 1-Yonkers attended.

The County Board, at the recommendation of the Four Bronx divisions, awarded \$500 each to the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, St. Lucy's Food Pantry, Throgs Neck Benevolent Assn., RJM Haitian Relief Fund, and \$250 each to the Sisters of Life and the Sisters of the Poor.

Inducted into the Order of the Gael for service to the Hibernians were: Sean McCarthy, Dan Donovan, Pete Tarsnane, Jerry Collins, Mike Halloran and Pat Scanlon. Thanks to Mary Hogan, President, NYS Ladies A.O.H, for approving and preparing the citations.



Congressman Joseph Crowley accepted an award for years of support of the County and Division 3 Hibernians. From left, John Ward, County V.P. and president, Division 4-Throgs Neck; Joseph McManus, president Division 3-East Bronx, Crowley and Bronx County Board President Bob Nolan. Photo Sean McCarthy/Jay Olfano.



The Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians, in conjunction with Rockland Irish Northern Aid, the Rockland GAA and the Council of Irish Assoc. of Greater Bergen County, commemorated the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Events included a Mass of remembrance, a parade, a reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, speeches by guest speakers and a tribute. Photos by Bob Reers.

Pennsylvania



Msgr. Farrell Division 2 installs officers

On Monday, March 21, officers of the AOH were installed by PA State Vice President Joe Hosie at the Trinity Club, 83 South Main Street, Carbondale. Seated, from left, Gerard Hosie, Chairman Standing Committee; William Pryle, President; William Toolan, Marshal; Donald McCarthy, Treasurer; standing, from left, Jim Henning, Sentinel; Harry Smith, Recording Secretary; Jeff Sears, Vice President; Francis Truman, Historian; Joseph Hosie, PA State Vice President; Rick Burnett, Financial Secretary.

On Feb. 27, Msgr. William Farrell Division held their Annual Communion Dinner. The members met at Saint Rose of Lima Church Hall and were piped into Mass by Leo Schott. The beautiful Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Andrew Kurowski who favored the Hibernians in his homily. After Mass, dinner was served in the Church Hall. On the dias were Lackawanna City Commissioner Patrick O'Malley; PA State Director/Lack. Cty. President Joe Walsh; Chaplain Rev. Shane Kirby; PA State Vice President Joe Hosie; Div. 2 Vice President/Master of Ceremonies Jeff Sears; Historian Frank Truman; LAOH Cty. President Dot Crowley; Lack. Cty. Sheriff Mark McAndrew; Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich; Past Vice President Frank Burnett.

Following Dinner, Richard Ruggiero was honored for his dedication and loyalty to Division 2 and was presented with the Harry Cook Award. Cory Myers received the Calladaugh Award for his outstanding service to the Division. John Price was this year's recipient of the Hibernian of the Year. John is also a local Businessman of Carbondale. He received a Waterford Crystal Cross and a Blackthorn Walking Stick as well as proclamations from Lackawanna County Commissioners, State Representatives, and the City of Carbondale. —Joe Hosie



At their annual banquet were Art Hunter, Div. 65 Financial Secretary, Ed Halligan, PA State President, Joe Martin, Peter McEneaney, Mrs. Robert McEneaney, Bernie Cunniffe, Denis Kelly, President Div. 1 Delco, Pat Mulhern, Div. 65 Delco President.

Stet president honored

Division 65 Delaware County, PA, held their 10th Annual Banquet on April 10 in honor of their division's namesake, Joseph E. Montgomery, at the Spring Valley Banquet Hall in Springfield, PA. After a prayer of thanks led by President Pat Mulhern, attendees were entertained by the sounds of the energetic band Fair Trade.

President, Denis Kelly accepted the Hibernian Friendship Award on behalf of Division 1 Havertown, PA. Other award recipients for the evening were Bernie Cunniffe, Joe Martin, Pete McEneaney and the late Bob McEneaney.

The most prestigious award that the Division presents annually is the Joseph E. Montgomery Award, given to an individual who possesses the integrity and positive attributes most often associated with Joseph E. Montgomery's character. This year's recipient was Ed Halligan, PA State President. Having known Joe Montgomery for many years through the Hibernian charitable and social events, Ed Halligan gave a touching speech about Joe. Ed stated how humbled he was to receive this award in honor of a man who he held in the highest regard who was the clear depiction of true Hibernianism.

A lovely time was had by all.

Missouri

St. Louis Hibernians gathered a week prior to March 17th to honor seven distinguished citizens at a special reception and award ceremony in South St. Louis near the site the Hibernian 33rd annual Saint Patrick's Day parade. The ceremony was dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement officers, public safety personnel and union members killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

The annual event, now in its 14th year, began shortly after the tragic events of 9-11. St. Louis Hibernians wanted to do something special to honor New York City's first responders for their sacrifice on that day. So a group was formed to study the possibility of bringing in representatives from the New York City Fire and Police Departments to serve as Grand Marshals of 2002 Hibernian parade.

Ultimately two New York City Firefighters, Rich Riccardi and Steve George, and two New York City Police Officers, Det. Brian Hearn and Patrolman Michael McHugh accepted the invitation. To Hibernians finance the travel cost of the four, the Hibernians put together a special benefit. Following that event, Judge James Dailey Wahl suggested that St. Louis Hibernians continue the practice by recognizing first responders from the St. Louis community. Later that group was expanded to recognize local civic leaders and Union members.

So the award ceremony, now known as "Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats" was launched.

The 2016 honorees included St. Louis County Police Officer Sgt. Andy Hale, St. Louis City Police Officer Joe Hill, St. Louis County Firefighter, Vincent Schram and St. Louis City Firefighter, Battalion Chief Michael Shane Fitzgerald. They were joined by Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster and Labor member Michael R. Mahler. The group was joined by the 2016 Grand Marshal this year's Hibernian parade, Fr. Christopher Dunlap, the pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Dogtown.

Funds generated by the event help underwrite the annual Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dogtown in South St. Louis and also supports local and Irish charities.

This year the Hibernians presented a check for \$1,000 to the Backstoppers organization, which provides financial assistance to the spouses and dependent children of police officers, firefighters and volunteer firefighters, and publicly-funded paramedics and emergency medical technicians who lose their lives in the line of duty in 18 counties in Missouri and Illinois.

Judge Wahl, who has chaired the event since its inception, thanked all those who have supported the 'Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats' over the years.

"We are really gratified by all the support St. Louis community, especially our civic leaders and labor unions have given the Hibernians, in putting on this event to honor these outstanding individuals" said Wahl.



2016 Hoses, Handcuffs and Harthard Honorees were, from left, Civic Leader, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, Labor Leader Michael R. Mahler, St. Louis City Police Officer Joe Hill, St. Louis County Police Officer Sgt. Andy Hale, St. Louis County Firefighter Vincent Schram and St. Louis City Firefighter, Battalion Chief Michael Shane Fitzgerald, and Fr. Christopher Dunlap, Grand Marshal of the 33rd Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



At the presentation to the Backstoppers were Dennis Pogue (left) President of the Fr. Tim Dempsey Division, and Jerry Ryan, Missouri AOH State Board President (far right) present a ceremonial check in the amount of \$1,000 the St. Louis Backstopper organization. Accepting on behalf of Backstoppers is Missouri Attorney General, Chris Koster (center).



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Is iomaí eachtra atá ar bun i mbliana chun Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 a chomóradh. *There are lots of events going on this year to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.* Agus tá leachtanna cuimhneacháin nua ina seasamh ar fud an domhain in ómós do laochra na haoise sin. *And new memorials have been erected all over the world in honor of the heroes of that time.* Tá an AOH féin bainteach leis an gcuid is mó acu, déarfainn! *The AOH has to do with most of them, I'd say!* Ach tá daoine eile ag ceiliúradh linn freisin, agus is maith sin. *But other people are celebrating with us too, and that's good.* Rinne mórán daoine a lán oibre chun an t-airgead a bhailiú, na pleananna a shocrú, is gach rud a chur in ord is in eagar. *A lot of people have done a lot of work to collect the money, set the plans, and organize everything.* Tá a fhios ag léitheoirí an nuachtáin seo faoina leithéid, dar ndóigh! *The readers of this newspaper know about such things, of course!* Ní neart go cur le chéile. *We're only strong when we work together.*

Tá na leachtanna cuimhneacháin seo an-tábhachtach, mar is óna leithéid sin a fhoghlaiméoidh mórán daoine faoin stair, agus cothófar suim sna heachtraíthe i ndaoine nach raibh eolas ar bith acu gan iad. *These memorials are very important, since it's from such that lots of people learn about history, and interest in the events will be stirred up in people that knew nothing at all without them.* Agus níl a fhios ag éinne cé chomh fada amach romhainn a tharlóidh sin. *And nobody knows how far in the future that might happen.* De thaisme a thagann daoine trasna ar an eolas seo, minic go leor. *People come across this knowledge by accident, pretty often.*

Bhí deis agam cuairt a thabhairt ar Bhoston le déanaí, agus nuair a bhí mé ansin, shíúil mé Lorg na Saoirse sa chathair. *I had a chance to visit Boston recently, and while I was there, I walked the Freedom Trail in the city.* Sin bealach a cheanglaíonn na háiteanna stairiúla is mó lena chéile, a bhfuil baint acu leis an Réabhlóid Mheiriceánach. *That's a path that connects the most important historical places together, which have to do with the American Revolution.* Tá brící sna cosáin is sna sráideanna chun an tsli a nochtadh, agus tá sé an-éasca a leanúint. *There are bricks in the sidewalks and streets to reveal the way, and it's very easy to follow.* Áiteanna an-suimiúla atá le feiscint, mar Boston Commons, sean-tséipéil agus reiligi, foirgnimh thábhachtacha mar Halla Fanueil agus teach an Stáit, teach Phóil Revere, srl. *Very interesting places are to be seen, like the Boston Commons, old churches and cemeteries, important buildings like Fanueil Hall and the state house, Paul Revere's house, etc.* Molaim go hard é. *I recommend it highly.*

Feadh an loirg, taobh leis, tá dúpla leacht cuimhneacháin eile nach mbaineann leis an Réabhlóid, agus tá siad ar fheabhas. *Along the trail, next to it, there are a couple of other memorials that don't have to do with the Revolution, and they're excellent.* Ceann acu atá i gcuimhne an Uileiloscithe, agus an ceann eile atá i gcuimhne an Ghorta Mhóir. *One of them is in memory of the Holocaust, and the other is in memory of the Great Famine.* Tá Leacht Cuimhneacháin Shasana Nua ar an Uileiloscadh ann ó 1995, agus Leacht Cuimhneacháin ar an nGorta Mór ann ó 1998. *The New England Holocaust Memorial is there since 1995, and the Irish Famine Memorial since 1998.*

Cosán trí cholún gloine atá sa cheann ar an Uileiloscadh. *The Holocaust one is a path through glass columns.* Bíonn gal fhuar ag teacht aníos ón gcosán, agus tá uimhreacha na ndaoine maraíthe ar na colúin. *Cold steam comes up from the pathway, and the numbers of the people who were killed are on the columns.* Tá eolas eile agus scéalta scríofa feadh an slí. *Other information and stories are written along the way.* Tá colún ard ann do gach campa murdair mór. *There is a tall column for every murder camp.* Ba dheacair an cosán seo a shíúil gan tocht i do scornach. *It would be difficult to walk this path without a lump in your throat.* Is iontach an leacht é. *It's a wonderful memorial.*

Tá plás cruinn ann do leacht an Ghorta Mhóir, agus plaiceanna timpeall air a thugann eolas don léitheoir faoin nGorta agus an bhaint láidir a bhí ann idir Boston agus Éirinn ag an am. *There is a round plaza for the Famine Memorial, with plaques around it that present the reader with information about the famine and the strong connection which there was between Boston and Ireland at the time.* Tháinig na mílte daoine ó Éirinn go Boston féin. *Thousands of people came from Ireland to Boston itself.* Agus sheol muintir Bhoston bia go hÉirinn le cabhrú, freisin. *And the people of Boston sent food to Ireland to help, too.* Tá dealbha de theaghlach ocrach agus os a chomhair de theaghlach slán folláin, le taispeánt go mbíonn cúrsaí go dona le daoine áirithe, na bochtáin de ghnáth, agus ag an am céanna, ní bhíonn sé go dona do dhaoine eile, agus go mba choir don lucht atá thuas cabhair a thabhairt don lucht atá thíos. *There are statues of a hungry family and in front of it of a safe and healthy family, to show that things are bad for some people, the poor usually, and at the same time, it's not bad for others, and that those doing well should help those who are not.*

Tá sé an-oiriúnach go bhfuil na leachta cuimhneacháin seo i gcóngar Lorg na Saoirse, mar tá baint nach beag acu leis an saoirse, agus linne mar mhuintir, i mo thuairim. *It's proper that these memorials are near the Freedom Trail, as there is no small connection between them and freedom, and us as a people, in my opinion.*

Letters...

Racism against the Irish is still on display

Dear Editor:

Why in our politically correct society do we still see racism as displayed in a Saint Patrick's Day card prominently displayed in a local grocery store?

I recently found an objectionable Hallmark card with a chimpanzee dressed in Irish garb at a local H-E-B Grocery. The response from the manager at the H-E-B was positive. After seeing the card and agreeing that the content was objectionable, he removed all the cards from the display, but the episode illustrates that vigilance is still needed to guard against slurs.

During the month of March and especially on March 17 throughout the United States, Irish-Americans celebrate their Irish heritage. What we also remember in March is the profound injustice the Irish people received at both ends of the Great Migration.

The Irish suffered greatly at the hands of the British. The potato famine was the beginning of what is more accurately known among the Irish as An Gorta Mor, the Great Hunger.

History is written by the victors and so the natural disaster of potato blight is recorded as the reason that millions of Irish were forced to immigrate. In actuality a complex set of social conditions created by the British government and landowners forced the Irish off their native land. But that is another story.

Once they arrived in the U.S. in large numbers, the Irish were subject to negative stereotyping – often portrayed as happy, lazy and stupid, but with a gift for music and dance. Drunkenness and criminal activity have roots in the racist term “paddy wagon” a short version for Patrick, a reference to the Irish.

Ape-like caricatures were common in mainstream news publications as early as 1867 in a Thomas Nast cartoon “The day we celebrate.” The cartoon depicted St. Patrick's Day celebrants as violent drunken apes.

True, we may never obliterate racism, but we must still call to account those who continue such stereotypes.

Thomas Miner
Member, Austin-Travis County Division 1

A faith-filled study program

To the Editor:

I wanted to let you know that plans are moving forward on our fourth St. Columcille Institute which will be held at Ards Friary in Donegal, Ireland. The St. Columcille Institute is a faith-filled study abroad program designed for both Irish and American students who are seeking to strengthen and deepen their understanding of the Faith as Catholic leaders of the New Evangelization.

We are making a strong effort to try to boost the number of Irish students in the program by offering financial aid and partial scholarships available. We are particularly looking for young men who wish to be leaders in the new evangelization. We are asking for your help in getting this brochure and link into the hands of college aged men and women who are serious about the new evangelization. Surely, there are vibrant, intelligent, earnest young Catholics in your circle who would love this opportunity. Please encourage them to apply. We have Irish students who have attended and have stated the institute was a life changing experience for their faith.

<http://www.christendom.edu/ireland>
Timothy T. O'Donnell, STD, KGCHS
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New York



PIPING UP FOR THE DOMINICAN SISTERS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY
AOH New York State Vice President Vic Vogel paid a visit to Dominican Sisters of the Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse in Amityville on St. Patrick's Day to play his bagpipes for over 130 resident and retired nuns who live there. The Motherhouse offers resident and nursing home care for retired nuns and was founded in 1873.

Ladies Hibernian News

President's Greetings

by Mary Hogan



I wish to thank everyone who participated and organized the many events commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The LAOH participated in events across our country and in Ireland; every event I attended or received updates about I was told there was at least 2 to 3 times the attendance than expected. Ladies we can be proud of the role we played in this historic event. Please remember to send your photos of your events to our webmaster, publicity and History offices so we have a record of our Order's participation. Remember this is also our history.

In Ireland, I had the pleasure of representing the LAOH at numerous events in Dublin commemorating this historic event. I attended a grand reception hosted by Sein Finn to thank all the Irish Diaspora; Rita O'Hare was honored and Gerry Adams spoke. On Good Friday, I marched in the 'Lost Leaders March' from Kilmainham Jail to Arbor Hill Cemetery where 14 of the 16 executed are buried. On behalf of the LAOH, I participated in the official ceremony of laying a wreath at the graves. I marched in several parades and attended several official receptions, all representing the members of the LAOH a wonderful honor. On Easter Sunday, the President of Ireland invited the LAOH as his guest to review the main parade on O'Connell Street in front of the GPO. I can't begin to express what an honor that was to walk the same streets that many of our families did over 100 years ago, the same streets that the brave women and men of 1916 fought for Ireland's freedom. On Easter Week, there were many historic events throughout Ireland. I was privileged to attend many of these on behalf of the LAOH; I also met many other Hibernians from across our country who made the journey to be part of the Commemoration. I made a trip to Ormagh, County Tyrone to see some of the areas that we as an organization support. It was a very moving to see the areas where some of the bombing took place and to meet with local people who are so appreciative of the support the LAOH provides. I met with John McDermott, the Irish playwright who will have a play produced about the aftermath of the civil war. Sr. Conchita from the Killeshandra Nuns invited us to see their residence in Dublin. They thanked us for our generous donations to assist their elderly sisters. I found myself really moved. These Sisters have given a life of service to others yet they are truly thankful for the donations received from the LAOH. I explained that this is what the LAOH is about helping others.

Sadly, my trip had to end and I had to return to the USA. Upon arrival, it was a busy time coordinating the USA Commemoration in the New York City. In conjunction with the AOH and the Irish Consul (NY) Barbara Jones the event was a huge success. St. Patrick's Cathedral was packed with not a seat left. All you could see was tricolor sashes throughout the Cathedral. The Hibernian Festival Singers provided the music and our National Chaplains Fr. Michael Martine & Fr. Tom O'Donnell con-celebrated the Mass. Also on the altar was Msgr. Richie (the Rector at St. Patrick's) and Msgr. Tom Leonard who was our Homilist. The joint committee of this event worked many hard hours to bring everything together. The day was spectacular. The solemn ceremony on the Plaza of the Consulate's building was moving. The two flags, USA and Ireland, stood side by side just as our two countries will always stand together. At the reception, I was thrilled to speak to everyone of this historic day. 100 years earlier our LAOH National President Ellen Ryan Jolly pledged the support of the LAAOH to Ireland's freedom; as your current President, I re-pledged that same support that Ireland's exiled Daughters in the United States will continue to support and work towards a free and united Ireland. To Honor our History is to Remember our History.

We are just weeks away from our National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ where our member delegates decide the future of our Order. It is important that your state's delegate attend. As of know, we have several contested offices, National President and National Catholic Action. All candidates have worked hard for our Order so it is imperative that our member delegates attend the convention, meet the candidates and vote for the "GOOD OF OUR ORDER". Many issues for the future are decided at our National conventions, so please make every effort to attend.

All updates are posted on our national website www.LadiesAOH.com. Our members, particularly the officers, should register to receive a notification when updates are posted.

Finally, when I was at Notre Dame University in March I arranged a Mass to be said for all my Hibernian sisters and brothers in thanks for all that you do. As we celebrate the Easter Season, the resurrection of our Savior, let us remember all of our members and their families who have passed on during this year. Please stop and say a prayer for them and for our Order that we may have a successful convention. I am looking forward to meeting you in Atlantic City.

Vice President

Patricia A O'Connell

I hope this issue of the Hibernian Digest finds you making your final plans to participate in the AOH-LAOH 98th Biennial National Convention being held at Harrah's Resort and Casino in Atlantic City NJ July 11-14, 2016. As a LAOH member, you have an important role in participating in the business of the Order through the work of the various designated committees and the discussions and actions that take place during the general business sessions at the National Convention. It is through working together on the business of the Order that the Order continues to grow and to remain true to our mission.

All LAOH members who have not received the Degrees of the Order are invited and encouraged to register to participate in the Degree Ceremonies at the National Convention. The PA Philadelphia County Tara Degree Team will exemplify the Degrees on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM. You may register for the Degree Ceremony by downloading the Tara Degree Team Registration Form on the LAOH National Website, www.ladiesaoh.com. Look for the Tara Degree Team Registration Table at the Convention. There will be a Registration Table located near the designated area for the Degree Ceremony beginning at 1:00 PM on Thursday, July 14, 2016. The Degree Registration Fees are as follows: \$20 per LAOH Member for those taking their Degrees and \$5 per LAOH Member for those who are observing the ceremony. To be eligible to observe the Degree Ceremony, you must have taken your Degrees.

On behalf of the National Board, I want to thank the LAOH State Boards who nominated candidates for consideration for the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award that will be bestowed during the National Convention. Nine (9) candidates were nominated from five (5) states. By the time you read this issue of the Hibernian Digest, the name of the 2016 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award winner will have been announced.

During the next 30-60 days, State Vice Presidents may be requested to submit some additional information or to provide some clarifying information for their State's Degree Team/s and Junior Division/s. I encourage Degree Team Directors and State Vice Presidents to raise questions regarding the collecting of data for the Annual Membership Reports and Annual Financial Reports for their Degree Team/s and Junior Division/s. Gathering the data and maintaining continuity in these records should not be difficult. Neither the Degree Teams nor the Junior Divisions operate in isolation but they are authorized to operate within the structures of the states in which they exist and under the National Constitution of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

Let me take this opportunity to thank each member reading this column for the support you have provided to me as a member of the National Board since 2008. I ask that you support me as your candidate of choice for the Office of National President at the 98th Biennial AOH-LAOH National Convention in Atlantic City NJ in July 2016.

Ladies AOH National Board

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rev. Michael Martine | Chaplain | juris1917@aol.col.com |
| Mary Hogan | President | MaryHogan@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Pat O'Connell | Vice President | PatriciaOConnell@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Carol Sheyer | Secretary | CarolSheyer@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Karen Keane | Treasurer | KarenKeane@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Marilyn Madigan | Irish Historian | MarilynMadigan@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Dee Ramp Wallace | Missions & Charity | DeeRamp@Ladiesaoh.com |
| MaryAnn Lubinsky | Catholic Action | MaryAnnLubinsky@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Maureen Shelton | Organizer | Organizer@Ladiesaoh.com |
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| Peggy Cornish | Freedom For All Ireland | FFAI@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Joan Berry | Supplies | Supplies@Ladiesaoh.com |
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| Elizabeth Kreasmer | Degree | DegreeTeam@Ladiesaoh.com |
| Kathryn Keane | Auditor | Kathryn@Ladiesaoh.com |
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PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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

LAOH Happenings...



Arbor Hill cemetery in Dublin, resting place of 14 leaders of the Easter Rising.



1016 commemoration - Battery Park, NY: LAOH members with Consulate batbata Jones.



Mary Hogan with Irish playwright John McDermott, Ormash Co. Tyrone



National FFAI Chairman Peggy Cornish and National President Mary Hogan at NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Kilashandra Nuns with Mary Hogan, Dublin Ireland.



National and NYS Boards at St. Patrick's Day Parade, NYC.



100th Anniversary Easter Rising Reception, NYC. Consulate Barbara Jones, AOH Vice President Jim McKay and LAOH President Mary Hogan.



LAOH with Roses at St. Patrick's Day Parade, NYC.

Immigration and Legislation

by Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty and Sandi Swift, Webmaster

In the last issue, the LAOH and AOH made a plea to our members on behalf of AOH Brother Malachy McAllister who was on the verge of being deported. Malachy has always had strong support from the AOH, LAOH and Irish American organizations. U.S. Representatives Joseph Crowley (D-Queens, the Bronx), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus and co-chair of the Congressional Ad-Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), Peter King (R-NY), co-chair of Friends of Ireland, Richard Neal (D-MA), co-chair of Friends of Ireland, and Chris Smith (R-NJ), co-chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, sent a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement urging the agency to intervene to stop the deportation of Malachy McAllister. The letter was signed by 44 bipartisan Members of Congress.

The Irish community as well as people outside the AOH/LAOH, in support of Malachy came together. He is now safe for another year. With this recent news and plea to support Malachy McAllister in his fight against deportation it was an eye opener as to how many people were still unaware of the Irish and immigration status issues.

During the recent 1916 Commemoration events held in New York City, I was fortunate to speak to our webmaster, Sandi Swift who is most knowledgeable on this issue. Sandi offered some history and thoughts which I am including within this article.

According to Sandi, there has been a similar, ongoing struggle with other Irishmen for many years. In 1997, after deportation proceedings, and as part of the Peace Process with then President Bill Clinton, the Department of Justice announced it was suspending deportation proceedings against six IRA members who were living in this country. The six are now down to five, with the passing of the late Kevin Crossan. All of these men are aging, nearing retirement, and succumbing to the

same medical issues that their American peers face. Ireland and the British governments have moved on, which is evidenced by the current Deputy First Minister of Ireland, Martin McGuinness, a former IRA member.

In 2009, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) notified the six they would be placed on deferred status. This would allow the men to work and travel. Most people would find it hard to believe that President Clinton intended for these men to be harassed and face the issues they do on a yearly basis and sometimes more often. However, since nothing was completely stated with regard to the six, it left ICE and Homeland Security to make up the rules as they go along. Most of these men have been here 30 years or more, and all is not well. Work permits are delayed, sometimes affecting their employment, and travel paroles are delayed up to three years, if granted. With the current administration, driver's license have been tied to the work permits, therefore, if ICE sits on the work permits, up to six weeks after expiration, the men cannot drive legally.

Deferred Action does not keep these men from being threatened by ICE. In 2014, just prior to the AOH/LAOH Convention in St. Louis, one of these men was placed on "State Restriction." This meant he could not leave the State without written approval from ICE. He was given no reason for this action. His attorney advised the agent that the man was on deferred status and this was an inappropriate order. The ICE agent proceeded anyway. After an article was written in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch a call was received from ICE stating that this "action" was done in error. The stress, time off of work and attorney's fees were a result of this "error" or straight out harassment.

Now is the time for the Irish Community, particular the AOH/LAOH, to keep up the support and fight for a settlement of all these men, with or without deferred status. Many have been here for years, own businesses, have American born children and grandchildren, and making a living without government assistance. If they were forced to return to Ireland it would be very difficult for them to support themselves and their own lives could be in danger.

So why are ICE and Homeland Security going after them now? What happened to the Peace Agreement? We need to rally and work for permanent status for these men and not let them go through the stress they do each and every year and sometimes several times a year. Let us educate ourselves as to what is going on and find out how we can help. Let us vow to keep the subject ever present.

Maryland

by Teri Sparks

*There's a time for remembering, a time to recall,
The trials and the triumphs, the fears and the falls,
There's a time to be grateful for the moments so blessed,
The jewels of our memory where love is our guest.*

Lyrics: There is a Place by Liam Lawton

There is, indeed, a time and a place to remember and remember we did! Maryland LAOH divisions, together with our AOH brothers, dedicated a weekend in April to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising Centennial. Over the course of two days, we honored our history in customary Irish fashion through fellowship, storytelling, music and worship.

LAOH, AOH and guests gathered at the Immaculate Conception School in Towson, Maryland on Saturday, April 16, 2016. All were invited to enjoy the company of each other and refreshments in the cafeteria as we perused historical displays, which were impressive in both presentation and rich portrayal of history. Displays featured maps, timelines, and photographs of brave women and men who risked everything for the cause of freedom, as well as exhibits depicting weaponry, uniforms and, of course, the Proclamation. A large banner proclaimed the names of the 40 innocent children who fell victim to the violence. Their names, printed boldly on a background of blue sky and clouds were a sobering reminder of the cost of the uprising.

In the auditorium, after a moving piece by bagpiper, Kevin Nolty, AOH, we were treated to dramatic recitations. Michael Flannery presented "Easter, 1916" as William Butler Yeats and Irene Dunphy performed "Foggy Dew". A reenactment of the reading of the Proclamation was performed by Michael Carruthers as Padraig Pearce. Danielle Adams, as Constance Markievicz, presented "The Women of the Rising". The actors, dressed in period clothing, were illuminated by spotlights in the darkened auditorium. The effect was transporting and the audience, transfixed.

The curtain rose and we were entertained by the musical talents of "Irish Blessing". With the perfect combination of historically significant story telling, humor, music and Irish dancing, we learned, celebrated and thoroughly enjoyed our way through the rest of the evening.

The next morning, we celebrated Mass together at St. Patrick's church in Baltimore City. Attendees included many of the guests of the night before as well as additional members and their families. Fr. Martin Burnham, AOH Deputy National Chaplain & MD AOH State Chaplain, along with Msgr. John FitzGerald, celebrated a memorial Mass against the historical backdrop of St. Patrick's stunning altar, exquisite statuary and beautifully stained-glass windows.

MD LAOH President, Cyril Seacock and MD AOH President, Jay Linahan, participated in the Mass. Fr. Martin reminded us of the costs of violence by recounting the personal stories of some of the lives lost during the Easter Rising. As he drew parallels with present day issues, he urged us to seize the power of the Resurrection to change our world and to see all our brothers and sisters as being in the image of God. It was a very poignant moment when, as part of the Offertory, children came forward to offer white roses in memory of the children who were killed during the Rising. The meditative hymn "There is a Place" (cited above) by Liam Lawton, was a perfect selection and was sung beautifully by Zack Stachowski. Irene Hopkins-Dunphy,

of LAOH shared her talent as a gifted flautist.

A brunch in St. Patrick's Hall followed the Mass. Kevin Nolty, once again favored us by filling the air with the music of his bagpipes as we walked from church to hall. We spent the afternoon enjoying delicious food and fellowship, more historical displays and relevant crafts and activities for the children.

The events were well attended with many divisions of LAOH and AOH present. We were honored to have Joseph and Martina Gavin, of the Irish Embassy with us as well as other dignitaries and special guests. Our successful Centennial Commemoration was the result of the Easter Rising planning committee and their dedicated hard work. We are indebted to them, our sponsors and to all who helped to make this a respectful, educational and memorable commemoration.

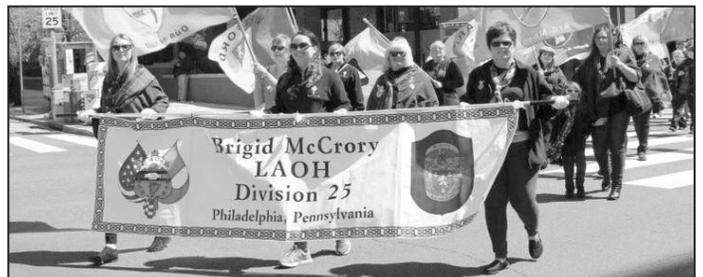
New Jersey endorses

Theresa O'Connell for National Pres.

Theresa has previously served on the National Board in many capacities, including Freedom for All Ireland, Irish Historian, and Treasurer. She was appointed to serve as National Secretary by then National President Dorothy Weldon. Currently Theresa is serving as the State LAOH Chair for the National Convention in Atlantic City.

Theresa attended Jersey City State College where she majored in Fine Arts and Communications. She is employed by McCall Pattern Company in New York City as a Production Coordinator.

Pennsylvania



1916 EASTER RISING COMMEMORATION, PHILADELPHIA, PA
Pictured above: Three Generations of LAOH Sisters holding our Banner. Nicole Clark Rosario, her daughter Marissa Rosario, and Mom and Grandmom, Jeannie Miller The Ladies of Division 25, showed our Irish Pride in Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising with all of the Irish Communities in Philadelphia, PA on April 24, 2016. What a very moving ceremony, and what a proud day to be Irish.

EASTER RISING CENTENARY
continued from page 1

leading the groups of dignitaries, Hibernians and guests through NYC's towering canyons, safely past lines of Midtown traffic, across the majestic Park Avenue to the waiting Plaza and all ahead of schedule! The Pipe-bands played a number of significant tunes, while the massive audience filled the Plaza in wonderful order and the Hibernian Festival Singers, dignitaries and speakers prepared for the Commemoration.

The Consulate General of Ireland is located at 345 Park and the Plaza in front of the building was a breathtaking sight that day. Two large flagpoles stand out in the Plaza's center, atop each a giant flag, the Stars & Stripes and Irish Tricolor, respectfully raised earlier in the day by Irish Defense Force and the 69th Regiment of the US Army. The massive yet attentive audience was greeted by remarks by Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland NY and Ann Anderson, Ambassador of Ireland to the USA, and Irish Government Representative Alan Kelly T.D. and Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government. Each recognized the significant role of Irish America and the AOH in America leading up to, during and following the Easter Rising of 1916 and Ireland's gratitude for our continued efforts.

The April 23, 2016, Official Irish Government of Ireland Ceremony in the Plaza, with participation off the Irish Defense Forces was based the Official Government of Ireland Commemoration in front of the Dublin GPO on Easter Sunday March 27, 2016. It began with the Tricolor being solemnly lowered to half-mast by Flag NCO Sgt. Brian Kelly, followed by a poignant Prayer of Remembrance from Fr. Gary Donegan, Rector of Holy Cross Monastery, Ardoyne, Belfast. A lament played solo by Sgt. John McGuinn, Pipe-Major was the followed by a stunning rendition of Danny Boy, sung by Irish American singer Heather Bixler. All of preceding were a fitting preamble to the Reading of the Proclamation by Cork born, 27th Infantry Battalion Captain Peter Kelleher. The Captain's strikingly clear and commanding voice transported us to front of the Dublin GPO and his March 27th recreation of Pdraig Pearse's original reading. Our Hibernian Pipe bands then played Minstrel Boy and a Laurel Wreath was laid by Minister Alan Kelly, which was accompanied by a Minute of Silence, where not even a car horn was heard in the center of New York City. The Last Post was played by Bugler Bandswoman Jane Hillard and Drummer Corporal Robert Mathews, the Tricolor was raised to Full-mast and the two played Reveille. The Ceremony concluded with the glorious singing of our National Anthems by the Hibernian Festival Singers and the assembled audience.

The Post Ceremony Reception was held in the grand lobby of 345 Park Ave and the spacious Consulate General of Ireland. The lobby was alive with terrific Irish

traditional music and song of the period provided by the great Cork guitarist/singer Donie Carroll and his quartet, the walls alight with excerpts of the Proclamation created by sound and vision wizard, Cathal Moore and lined with our National historical display of the key figures of the Rising. One the walls of the Consulate upstairs, a display of Irish artist David Rooney's 1916 Portraits and Lives, intricate black and white drawings of Rising figures. A special surprise contribution was the presentation of original copies of the Easter Proclamation and an equally rare half-copy of the Proclamation, provided by Strokestown/ Quinnipiac.

Invited guests were treated to culinary delights of Consular caterer Kieran Greene and staff from his excellent establishment Gossip, a must visit restaurant located at 50th St & 9th Ave. Kieran and staff also manned an open Irish draught bar. Hibernian's Claire Hulton of Olde Towne Bar NYC and Cathal McGreal of Quiet Man Public House, Peekskill each donated fine Irish whiskey to compliment the generosity of Consul General Barbara Jones to the excellent Judge Jim McKay Irish Whiskey Bar!

The Proclamation was demonstrated in fitting fashion by NYS AOH Guard members during the closing remarks. Chairman Jim McKay thanked his entire committee with special recognition to Tom Beirne and Dan Dennehy, NYC AOH National Commemoration Co-chairs. President Brendan Moore reminded all that on March 23, Hibernian Centenary Commemorations were simultaneously occurring across the US. By asking a quick show of hands of non-NYers in attendance, President Moore surprisingly demonstrated the truly national nature of the gathering. The brief speaking portion was closed with Benediction by Father Gary Donegan. In his emotional closing remarks, Fr. Gary shared of his gratitude to the support his strife and bigotry besieged parish has long received from the AOH LAOH in America and told the assembled that Holy Cross has dedicated a new creche and kindergarten to America's Hibernians. The lively music and reception resumed and often that evening was described by attendees and organizers alike as one of the greatest ever Hibernian events, and thats saying something!

We would like to thank President Moore and Hogan, Chairman Jim McKay and his Committee, DFA Secretary General Niall Burgess, Ambassador Anne Anderson and Embassy staff, Consul General NY Barbara Jones, Deputy Anna McGillicuddy & Consulate staffers particularly Ger Shivan, Mary Deady, Paula Browne and Margaret Corrigan who all responded to each addition and change with grace and ease, and our AOH - LAOH members, donors, volunteers and entertainers.

— Dan Dennehy, CoChair NYC National Hibernian Easter Rising Centenary Committee on behalf of Tom Beirne, NYC CoChair.



Ready for the procession from St. Patrick's Cathedral to Park Avenue were, from left, National Director Mike Delaney, National Secretary Jere Cole, National Treasurer Dan O'Connell, National President Brendan Moore, Eileen Moore, National LAOH V.P. Pat O'Connell and National AOH V.P. James McKay.



Thousands filled St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in New York City for the Mass of Commemoration.



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AOH and LAOH National Board members were proud to walk in the procession along 51st Street from Fifth Avenue to Park Avenue. From left, Fr. O'Donnell, Eileen Moore, Brendan Moore, Mary Hogan, Jere Cole (in second row), Pat O'Connell, James McKay (second row), Daniel O'Connell, Sean Pender (second row) Karen Keene and Mike McCormack.

Photos by National Digest Editor John O'Connell

Welcome to



Atlantic City!

Registration

For convention events only; does not include hotel reservations.

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Address _____ City _____ State, Zip Code _____

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

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

Full Package includes:

Icebreaker Reception "Sounds of the Jersey Shore" buffet & complimentary draft beer at Harrah's famous "Pool". *Casual Attire.*

"Irish Night" includes a Duet of Chicken and Shrimp. Entertainment provided by the Willie Lynch Band. *Business Casual Attire.*

Installation Banquet - Choice of (circle one): Chicken Beef Salmon.

Entertainment provided by the Eamon Ryan Band. *Black Tie Optional.*

Ala Carte Options:

- Icebreaker (Monday): \$65*
- Irish Night (Wednesday): \$90*
- Installation Banquet (Thursday): \$95*
- Registration only: \$10

Registration with secure on line credit card payment available at www.aoh.com/ac2016 or send completed registration form with check made payable to: AOH/LAOH National Convention. If mailing, please remit one form per person.

Amount of check being sent: _____
AOH/LAOH National Convention
c/o Denise McInerney
949 Bonita Lane
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

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AOH/LAOH 2016 National Convention

July 11th - 14th

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

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Arrangements for shuttle service from the Philadelphia Airport to Harrah's have been made with "Super Trans - Philly Shuttle Transportation".

To make online reservations, please use the link on the Convention website or call 800-309-2000 (or 215-333-1441).

The rate is \$21 one way or \$35 round trip per person. Please make your reservation in advance and provide any details required to help us make your trip as smooth as possible.

Once at the airport, please call Super Trans after arrival or proceed to Zone # 7 (an assigned shuttle pick up area near the taxi and train area) to meet the shuttles. The shuttle vehicles will be going around every 30 to 40 minutes for pick up.

Please feel free to call "Super Trans" with any questions.

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