

AOH President, VP meet with Irish leaders in Belfast, Dublin

TD Brendan Smith, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defense in Ireland, met with AOH President Jim McKay and V.P. Danny O'Connell last December in Washington D.C. on a variety of issues. Realizing many of the issues key to his committee are also key to the AOH, Chairman Smith invited McKay and O'Connell to come to Dublin and testify as witnesses before the full committee in March. This is the first time the AOH leadership was afforded an opportunity and a voice before the Dublin legislature.

The key issues on the table included Brexit and border issues, immigration issues in the U.S. and Ireland and a United Ireland. Due to the passing of Martin McGuinness, the formal meeting was canceled and replaced with a non-public meeting the following week. McKay and O'Connell then traveled to Derry, meeting up with Brother Vince Tyer to represent the AOH at the wake and funeral of Martin McGuinness.

President McKay said it was one of the largest events he ever attended, estimating the crowd to be at least 50,000 strong. Martin McGuinness contributed greatly to moving Ireland forward, establishing peace and the establishment of an eventual United Ireland. While there, McKay and O'Connell expanded upon the opportunity to meet with the foreign affairs committee and scheduled several meetings, including one with his Eminence, Seán Cardinal Brady, in Armagh. Additional meetings were held with AOH representatives in both Ireland and Scotland, groups who have received FFAI donations in the past, a pro-life leader in Dublin, political leaders from both the North of Ireland and the

Republic, as well as the Clare County Council in regard to the maintenance and upkeep of the AOH-LAOH Famine Memorial in Clare.

As you may know, the recent election is the first time in history that the North of Ireland elected a nationalist majority. The historic election has brought the leadership of Sinn Fein and the SDLP to the forefront

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Brexit Protest at Stormont. From left: Jesse Wilson, AOH President Judge Jim McKay, leader of Sinn Fein in the North of Ireland Michelle O'Neill, leader of the SDLP Colum Eastwood, and AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell.



The funeral procession of Martin McGuinness passing in front of the iconic Civil Rights Association mural.



Hibernians on parade

The New York State Board and Hibernians from around the region marched proudly in the Rockaway parade in March, one of the many "Green Season" events the Order participated in throughout the country. More photos of St. Patrick's parades and celebrations may be found on pages 18-19.



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The National HIBERNIAN Digest

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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AOH-LAOH National Board Mass

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AOH-LAOH Presidents Dinner and Banquet

InterContinental Hotel, St. Charles Ave.

All Hibernians and Guests are Welcome!

Saturday, October 14, 2017

New Orleans, Louisiana

Complete details to follow

Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!



president's message

by Jim McKay III

By the time you read this, Easter will have come and gone and spring will officially have sprung. I hope that you and your families had a meaningful Lenten experience and a Happy Easter. I recently traveled to Ireland and conducted a very busy itinerary, spreading the good news of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.

We were invited to speak in front of the Irish Foreign Affairs Committee at Leinster House. Both Danny O'Connell and I were well received and we had an in-depth discussion on American and Irish immigration policies and possible reforms. We also discussed the ramifications of the BREXIT and the problematic separation of Great Britain from the European Union.

We also spoke with Senator Mark Daly, who discussed a report that he was issuing that week on the unification of Ireland. I am sure this issue was revisited because of the recent BREXIT situation. The Senator told me it was a 15-year plan and while that seems like a long time, we waited over 800 years for a united and free Ireland. We offered him any support that he needs with the Irish in America.

Several days earlier, we had the opportunity to have lunch with Cardinal Sean Brady in Armagh in the Holy City. Although the Cardinal is retired from the position as Patriarch of All Ireland, he still is an active Cardinal and gets to Rome often with the Irish College in Rome.

We had numerous meetings with many of our AOH Brothers in Glasgow, Tyrone, Armagh and Derry. The Hibernians are alive and well in the North of Ireland and we were well received and delighted to hear from their Brothers across the Atlantic.

The trip afforded us the opportunity to meet with many of the donees of our Christmas Appeal and observed first hand how our donations were being spent and the good work that they do, especially Cross Community Programs in the North. We also were able to attend the wake and funeral of Martin McGuinness and were honored to be invited to carry his coffin for a short period of time from the church to the cemetery, however we were not able to since we had to leave Derry before the end of the service.

I think that our Brothers in America would be proud of how we were received both in the North as well as Dublin. They are all very interested in our thoughts and queries on BREXIT as well as our relationship with the new Trump administration. During all of our discussions and conversations with the nationalist hierarchy in Stormont as well as those in Dublin, we were acknowledged as the voice of the Irish in America. It was an extremely successful trip and you will be seeing pictures from time to time in this Digest and in future issues.

God Bless.



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

The state convention season is upon us and we encourage everyone to participate in your state convention and even in neighboring state conventions whenever possible. The opportunity to learn from each other and to enjoy the fellowship is invaluable. In most cases, this is an opportunity to obtain your degrees as well.

As you know, we have been asking every member to recruit and help retain at least one member during the Green Season. I am asking each of you to take it one step further and for you to recruit and retain one additional member through the summer festival season. If we all work together and promote the goals and objectives of the order this is a realistic goal. Father John Keener, our local chaplain in Youngstown, Ohio, took this task seriously. Through his efforts, The Most Reverend George V. Murray, Bishop of Youngstown, and Monsignor Siffrin, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of Youngstown, became our newest Hibernians. Bishop Murray celebrated Mahoning County's St. Patrick Day Mass and joined us for our luncheon. This was a great honor for Mahoning County Division 6.

As we move into the final quarter of year one in our current term, your national board is continuing to move forward improving communications and recruitment. I'm sure most of you have heard about our recent leadership and recruitment seminar led by Organizer Tim McSweeney. Our goal is to fine-tune the presentation and then place them online for everyone's use. We will also see some webinars tied into the package.

In order to enhance recruiting throughout the country we are investigating some online advertising designed to get Irish Catholics from around the country in touch with our local divisions. Although this is in the initial stages I believe it will be one of our greatest tools. In order to be successful we will need local Hibernians to follow up on the leads we receive. Please look for information about this down the line and be sure to follow up on any and all leads you receive through our national organizer or any other avenue you receive them through.

The other task President McKay has me focused on is job descriptions for our officers. Much of the descriptions will come directly from the constitution but we will also include expectations beyond the basics. This is an initial step in what will be an ongoing process continually evolving to fit the needs of the AOH as we move forward. I know when I first joined the National Board it was difficult to learn the basics. Our goal is to give each officer the basics so they are in a position to succeed.

Now that the Green Season is behind us I will refocus on the degrees and rituals portion of my responsibilities. We have asked Rituals Chairman JJ Kelly to always include an updated degree calendar with his article providing you the opportunity to make your degrees or observe a degree ceremony whenever possible. The information will include the date, time, location and a contact telephone number and e-mail for you to follow up as well as sign up.

I look forward to seeing many of you at various conventions throughout the summer and want to remind you that the fall National Board meeting and President's Dinner will be in New Orleans on October 14, 2017. Details will be out soon and everyone is encouraged to attend.



deputy chaplain's report

by Rev. Patrick Collam

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is a season of deepening our Faith and drawing closest to Our Lord. In my homilies at Mass, I talk to my parishioners about the Lenten opportunity to embrace our Faith and our relationship with Our Lord more in our lives and partake in all the activities in our parish. I call this an opportunity because we could make Lent a training session for the rest of the year.

During Lent I see more people coming to daily Mass, going to reconciliation or confession, doing the Stations of the Cross, saying the rosary, and getting involved in parish ministries and activities. Why can't we do this throughout the rest of the year?

Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert praying, fasting and resisting temptation. It was a period of self-sacrifice for Him.

As Hibernians, we are especially called to love and serve our Lord and one another. This is the example given to us by our great saint, Saint Patrick, the glorious apostle of Ireland.

Lent can be this great opportunity for us! Let us die to our needs, and sacrifice like our Lord in being the best Hibernian that we can be. Then we can celebrate Easter with our whole heart knowing we have become a truer disciple of our Lord.



Monsignor Siffrin, Father Keener, Bishop Murray and AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell following the St. Patrick's Mass.



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national secretary

by Jere Cole

State Conventions Coming!

The state conventions this summer are rapidly approaching. There are still some divisions who owe their 2016 national per capita which was due February 15, 2017. If your division has not paid, it will not be considered in good standing and you cannot participate in your convention.

To attend your convention you must present your 2017 membership card. As of this writing, 47 divisions have not been mailed their 2017 cards because we have not received an updated roster. **Please do so immediately as conventions begin next month!**

Remember, you were to pay for membership as of December 31, 2016 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. Some divisions have not submitted their form 11 and the recording of the payment was delayed. Remember too, 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. We emailed you requesting clarification. 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 if you are using it you must apply for a different number.

When I took office 4 years ago, one of the major objectives set for this position was to streamline the procedures and processes to reduce paperwork. To this end we will be instituting a new procedure next October.

Rather than printing out a hard copy of your roster, and mailing, we will be emailing you a PDF for you to edit. Your changes should then be emailed back to us rather than being mailed. This will substantially reduce postage and associated paper and print expenditures both for us and for you.

Likewise you are encouraged to submit all form 40s and form 9s via email. Do not wait until year end, but rather send in your form 40s as changes occur throughout the year.

With these changes coming all financial secretaries are encouraged to begin now to upgrade their computer capabilities so they will be able to comply, come this fall.



Director's Report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope all of you had a Blessed and Happy Easter. As we enter into the busy season of festivals and feiseanna, let us take these opportunities to enhance our recruitment drive. One of the ways to do this is to set up a recruiting/information table at your events. Recently, Brother Don Connolly of the Msgr. Thomas M. Wells Division that is part of the D.C. State Board set up an information table at their local feis. Brother Connolly stated that it was a great way to introduce the AOH to the fathers of the dancers. Thanks for your hard work Brother Connolly.

Another way to recruit is to get business cards printed up for your Division. Put all the pertinent information about your Division on the front and put a space on the back for your members to write in their name, telephone number and email address. This allows your members to give someone contact information when talking to a possible recruit. Thanks to New Jersey Brother Larry Prella for another great idea.

State Conventions will be starting in May. Brothers, if you haven't taken the Major Degrees of the Order, your State Convention is an opportune time. Remember, the AOH National Constitution, Article VIII, section 12, states that in order to hold some elective offices, you must have your Major Degrees.

I wish all of you a nice summer. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas or concerns that you have. dparks121@yahoo.com

The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives can now be found on our webpage, www.aoh.com.

**Deadline for June-July issue
All articles and photos are due no later than
JUNE 1, 2017**



treasurer's report

by Sean Pender

Our conversations with the IRS were recently completed and they will not offer any relief or adjustments to our divisions and boards that received revocation notices. The root cause of the revocation letters was that the division and boards did not file tax returns for three calendar years. Regrettably there is no dispute process, once three years of returns are not filed, the revocation process commences.

The following information has been reviewed in emails, mailings and Hibernian Digest articles:

The IRS told the AOH that every division and board must have their own EIN number and file a proper tax return (990). This goes back at least to the Cincinnati convention in 2010.

More recently, we promoted this in the Digest on a regular basis and even sent a letter to every division in the country in 2015. Unfortunately, many divisions did not take the time to file their taxes and now find themselves with an IRS notification they have lost their tax status.

With our conversations with the IRS complete you will now need to follow through with the process as defined at <http://aoh.com/treasurer>

There you will see the file Tax Reinstatement Options, which lists three possibilities based on annual receipts and assets of the division or board. The vast majority of our boards should be able to choose option one. Please note that when filing your reinstatement request, for consistency and uniformity purposes the name associated with your EIN should be: Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, and your division's state number, county abbreviation and division number. For example, my division is 28 ME 01; 28 for New Jersey; ME for Mercer County, and 01 for Division 1. County and State boards should use Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and their state or county name. For example, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, New Jersey State Board.

Once the paperwork is filed, and the fee paid, divisions and boards should receive notification of resumption of exempt status from the IRS. At that time, they can contact the National Secretary's office so that we can add the division or board back as a subordinate unit to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832. Brothers, your prompt attention to this matter will allow us to promote compliance and uniformity within our Order.

The steps that our divisions and boards need to follow for re-activation of exempt status are also defined at:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/automatic-revocation-how-to-have-your-tax-exempt-status-retroactively-reinstated>

This site is a good reference for questions pertaining to EIN status.

In our motto of friendship, unity and Christian charity.



Director's Report

by Tom O'Donnell

Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers, as we begin our annual Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, we encourage all of our members to participate and help support this great endeavor. By now you have received the Easter Appeal mailing. Please make sure to fill out the Diocese information form and return it immediately. This will allow us to update our list with the latest contact information.

The primary goal of PSP during the appeal and year round, is to raise funds for seminarians and religious. We are asking every State Board, County Board, Division and individual member, to participate with a donation to insure the ongoing success of the Project and to demonstrate our commitment to our Church. Remember that no donation is too large or too small. We ask that each Division try to set a goal of \$500, the equivalent of one scholarship grant. With the State/County convention season approaching, please make Project St. Patrick part of your focus. Last year's campaign was very successful; we were able to award a total of 64 grants totaling \$32,000. This program wouldn't exist without your cooperation and kindness. I would like to thank the LAOH PSP Chairwoman and Catholic Action officer, Colleen Bowers. Her help and involvement was a very important part of our mission. Hopefully the 2017 Appeal can improve on our support for these men and women who have answered the call to vocations.

Remember that the PSP prayer cards are also a terrific source of funding the program all year long. Again your faithful support is greatly appreciated. If additional PSP cards are needed please contact me at NLNOD@comcast.net, type "PSP Cards" in the subject line.





DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

Edna Kenny gave this stirring speech on St Patrick's Day at the White House...

"It's fitting that we gather here each year to celebrate St. Patrick and his legacy. He, too, of course, was an immigrant. And though he is of course the patron saint of Ireland, for many people around the globe, he's also the symbol of, indeed the patron of, immigrants.

"Here in America, in your great country, 35 million people claim Irish heritage, and the Irish have contributed to the economic, social, political and cultural life of this great country over the last 200 years.

"Ireland came to America because, deprived of liberty, deprived of opportunity, of safety, of even food itself, the Irish believed, and four decades before Lady Liberty lifted her lamp, we were the wretched refuse on the teeming shore.

"We believed in the shelter of America, in the compassion of America, in the opportunity of America. We came, and we became, Americans.

"We lived the words of John F. Kennedy, long before he uttered them. We asked not what America could do for us, but what we could do for America, and we still do..."

As Hibernians, we live the words of John F. Kennedy, "we asked not what America could do for us, but what we could do for America," and we still do. The Bay City, Michigan, St. Patrick's Day Parade Association and the Safe Harbor Soup Kitchen teamed up to collect canned foods, non-perishable items and money donations to help the less fortunate in the area at their St Patrick's Day Parade. At the St Joseph, Missouri, St Patrick's Day Parade marchers collected for the Second Harvest Food Pantry non-perishable food items.

As Hibernians, we give our time and proudly give back to the community. At the Redemptorist Church Cafeteria in Kansas City, Missouri, the Padraig Pearse Division give up their Friday nights in Lent to work the AOH All You Can Eat Shrimp Dinner to support their many charities. On March 12th, I had the privilege of attending the 147th consecutive year AOH Mass and Banquet in Indianapolis where they generously gave out scholarships and gave financial support to the seminarians.

When we give to those in need, the fleeting thought of, "What are they going to do with these dollars? Remember Jesus commanded, "Give to everyone who begs from you" (Matthew 5:42), he didn't add, "but first ask how they're going to spend it." What they do with your gift is their responsibility. Our responsibility is simply to give, to paint the world in more vibrant colors. When people of faith cross theological lines to help restore a Jewish cemetery, they are painting a world different from that of the warped views of those who tried to desecrate it in University City, Missouri. When people stand up for those who will be affected by state or federal budget cuts, they are doing it as well. When people raise money and supplies to aid tornado victims or children orphaned by violence, they are continuing the brush strokes.

This isn't to say that as Hibernians we shouldn't be prudent in our assistance of others. If we don't regulate our assistance on how much we give, then fewer with legitimate needs may be helped. I want to thank my fellow Hibernians for their generous work and support of our communities.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation..... Hibernian Leadership- "Be the Kind of Leader You Would Follow"

Your AOH National Board organized a Leadership and Organizing Seminar in late February in National Park, New Jersey. Through the leadership of National Organizer Tim McSweeney (NY), a very active and dedicated committee worked collectively to develop a comprehensive presentation.

Special thanks to Larry Prella (NJ State Vice President) and Jim O'Brien (Div. President) for serving as wonderful Division hosts for our event. We were also warmly welcomed by Sean Hughes, NJ State President, and Fr. Ken Hallahan, NJ State Chaplain, as our State hosts.

Seminar attendees represented nine states and were comprised of numerous Division Presidents, County Presidents and State Officers.

A few topics presented during the Leadership Seminar included:

- Defining and Exploring Characteristics of Leadership
- Fostering Future Leaders
- Understanding and Connecting with Millennials
- Mentoring
- Blue Book 101
- Continuity (Planning for the Future)

National Organizer Tim McSweeney, National Director Dan Dennehy (NY), Mike Glenn (NY) and I presented modules related to each of the topics.

The Leadership portion of the day concluded with a review and presentation of AOH documentation by National Secretary Jere Cole (NJ) and National Treasurer Sean Pender (NJ). This led to a productive discussion regarding the IRS and resources available through the National Board to assist Divisions with this process.

In the afternoon, the theme of the Organizer Seminar was "The Future is NOW" and was led by Tim McSweeney as he focused on recruitment and retention strategies.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Bill Sullivan

After a mild New England winter, the weather pattern changed in early March and it became bitterly cold with snow, causing blizzard conditions in some areas of New England. However, most Irish Heritage Month activities went off without a hitch, and events such as parades, corned beef and cabbage dinners, plays, concerts, lectures and Irish film festivals exhibiting Irish culture and Hibernian pride at its best, were on display throughout the region.

In early March, LAOH Connecticut State President Joan Berry passed after a brief illness. My sincere condolences to our Hibernian Brothers and Sisters in Connecticut on her passing, and in particular to the members of the Danbury Division where Joan was a member. Joan was highly regarded by her Brother and Sister Hibernians in her home state and will greatly be missed. On March 7, I traveled to Danbury to attend her wake and express my personal condolences and that of our National Board. May God grant her eternal rest.

In the last several Digest articles we spoke of recruiting and retaining members through various venues. If your Division has yet to coordinate a membership drive, it is certainly not too late to do so before summer. A perfect place to start would be at a Catholic parish in your area. Most pastors would be receptive in this endeavor. In your membership drive please utilize all types of technology that are available – the Web, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, UTUBE or some other form of media. Do what you need to do to be successful and by all means be creative! What works in one local may not in another.

One key component of any good organization is leadership. We need good, positive and effective leaders at all stages of our order – on the National, State, County and Division levels. But just what are some of the characteristics of an effective leader? Some of these characteristics are: dedication, a good communicator, intuitiveness, confidence, one who inspires others by example, one who is humble yet accommodating, creativity and an individual who charts a course of action for others to follow. And yes, there are other characteristics of leadership! Naturally one individual may not have all these characteristics. That is why an effective leader surrounds himself with those who can compliment his skills. We are indeed fortunate on all levels to have men who in many cases fit these criteria. In selecting your leaders in the future, please consider the facets noted above. Our organization will be the better for it!

Over the next four – five months many State and County Boards will be holding their county and state conventions. We want to thank those who have served over the past two years for their service and offer our best wishes to those who will be elected to serve the AOH over the next two-year period and beyond. The decisions made at these conventions and the officers elected will affect our order for years to come. Who knows – someone elected, one day just might be our National President!

On the local front, the Massachusetts State Boards will hold their State Convention from June 2 – 4 on Cape Cod and the Connecticut State Boards State Convention will take place in Danbury from June 9 – 11. The Rhode Island State Board Convention's date has not been set.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net Happy Spring!

Don Connolly (MD) presented "Project Lazarus" and shared his experience with approaching prospective members at festivals and community events. John Patrick "JP" Walsh (National Pro-Life Chair, MD) followed with specific techniques to recruit on college campuses and engaging younger members. Bill Young (Past NJ State President) shared his experience and offered recommendations to recruit members through military bases. Tim McSweeney closed the day by sharing effective ways to use technology to target members and prospective members.

Overall, the day and experience were a success and the intent is to replicate this presentation in other areas of the country in an effort to train and empower as many Hibernians as possible.

Tim McSweeney deserves full credit for spearheading this initiative which included recruiting a team of presenters as well as developing the presentation for both the Leadership and Organizer portions of the seminar. National Vice President Danny O'Connell (OH) played an integral role in this process as well and we hope to see you soon at a seminar near you or at your state convention.

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



Director's Report by Dan Dennehy Immigration Chairman

Since the election of President Trump, I have responded to many inquiries on Irish immigration and attended many informational meetings on the subject. The National Board also placed a full-page advertisement in all U.S. Irish American weekly newspapers on St Patrick's Day to show our long support for Irish Immigration Centers and Irish immigrants.

The AOH Preamble and our Motto requires each member to look beyond long-held misconceptions about the Irish immigrants and do what we can to help. We were founded to protect and defend Irish and Catholic immigrants and swore to uphold our AOH Constitution and Bylaws. I would like to explain why we say "undocumented" instead of "illegal" regarding the Irish immigrants.

The majority of Irish immigrants come here legally, through the Visa Waiver Program, work visas and other short-term visas. Those who overstay their visas, which in itself is not against the law, are what we refer to as undocumented. If they overstay the Visa Waiver, upon return to Ireland, they activate a "10-year bar from the USA" and also are not entitled to legal representation in deportation hearings.

Most of the number of undocumented Irish would qualify for visas that were proposed by Congress but never materialized. Many who overstayed missed out on 1990's-era visa programs or for the dismal amount of DV Lottery Visas, which Ireland gets about 150 out

of 50,000 each year. These once 20-somethings are now 50ish people with families of their own and productive, taxpaying members of our communities for decades.

It is worth noting, numbers of undocumented Irish for many years continue to decrease by educating the public in Ireland before they arrive and during their visit, and through legal adjustment of status assisted by the Irish Immigration Centers across the USA.

National AOH President Jim McKay visited the White House, Congress and Ireland with a focus on immigration and other AOH matters. The Irish immigration issues are clear to the legislators. The AOH supports legislation to end 52 years of disparity and restore a reasonable quota of immigrant visas for Irish people. The legislation proposed is "modular reform," as each country has a distinct relationship with the U.S. State Dept. and through U.S. trade agreements.

Ireland is uniquely eligible for a return of a long lost but justified and deserved quota of visas. When congress removed our quota, they promised the AOH that Ireland wouldn't be adversely affected.

LAOH members can also get involved through assistance, fundraising and volunteerism of their nearest Irish Immigration Center or Irish Apostolate. Visit www.ciic-usa.org to find a local Irish Center or visit www.irishundocumented.com

Irish Centers welcome help from LAOH and AOH members who may do so in a variety of mutually beneficial ways.

Everyone is encouraged to support The Celtic Cruise on June 14, AOH NY County Division 7 host this fun, annual cruise around Manhattan on the Spirit of New York to benefit the Emerald Isle Immigration Center Info (212) 717.9955 or at www.celticcharity.com



anti defamation by Neil Cosgrove Chairman

We are making progress against those who would defame or denigrate our proud heritage. We are seeing many retailers acting responsibly in their purchasing decisions and deciding not to sell bigoted, trope-ridden merchandise that perpetuates the stereotype of "drunken paddy" that for so many years was used as a means to justify injustice in colonial Ireland and prejudice in the United States.

When we do find offensive items we are finding that many retailers are much more willing to engage in constructive dialogue, appreciate our concerns and take appropriate action. We reached out over the course of the traditional "St. Patrick's Season" to several retailers, most notably out nation's largest, Walmart, on offensive items, and to their credit they removed them and for that they should have our appreciation.

We also achieved positive results in reaching out to McDonald's regarding their hopelessly flawed "Shamrock Shake" promotion, wherein an allegedly St. Patrick's Day-themed promotion showed a man in a Scots Tam O'Shanter standing in front of the English monument, Stonehenge, twiddling on his Shake Cup like a bagpipe to the pipe tune Caberfeidh, which is the regimental march of the Queen's Own Highlanders. Besides contributing to the international stereotype of Americans being geographically challenged, we noted in a letter to McDonald's that the lack of care in preparing this ad seemed at variance with a company that earlier in the year had won awards from the Association of National Advertisers for their ad campaigns targeting the African American and Asian communities for "encapsulated nuances that could only be developed through intensive research and adoption into the creative process." We asked why in preparing an ad centered on a day of great significance for the Irish American community similar "intensive research" and "encapsulation of nuances" was not employed?

We received an apology from McDonald's and hope that we may begin a dialogue to influence them to adopt marketing that promotes their product and the contributions of Irish Americans in a respectful way as they do during other heritage months.

However, Brothers, much still needs to be done, and a recent event shows why taking a stand against "anti-defamation" is so important. On April 6, newspapers and blogs across the country (Google states 38,800) reported the arrest of Elwood R Gutshall for DUI while wearing what was consistently described as a "green St. Patrick's Day Drunk Lives Matter" T-shirt. Many reporters expanded on this description with further defaming references that promoted Irish and drunk as synonymous.

Conspicuously, none of these reporters appeared to bother themselves to investigate Mr. Gutshall's actual ancestry or note the fact that any idiot, irrespective of ancestry, with \$14.99 could buy this offensive shirt. Instead, far too many reporters seemed to channel the spirit of Thomas Nast for the sake of a cute lead or quip about "Irish eyes were crying" or "The luck of the Irish ran out for one driver."

One wonders how the story would be spun (if it would even be reported) if Mr. Gutshall's was arrested for marijuana possession while wearing a Bob Marley shirt. Would reporters be so quick to immediately associate Mr. Gutshall's action with Jamaica and the character of the Caribbean Community?

This is prima facie evidence as to why we as Hibernians must refuse to accept the typical "it's a joke offense" used to defend these shirts because the consequences for the good name of the Irish are less than funny. It is far too easy and far too common that when some fool, irrespective of their own heritage, lives down to the messaging of these bigoted T-shirts that this automatically gets laid at the door of our heritage. That is why we have to reject these shirts and call them out for the shameless commercial promotion of bigoted stereotypes and aberrant behavior they are.



Irish American Heritage Month by Neil Cosgrove Chairman

Another Irish American Heritage Month has come to a close with the passing of this March. To say it was "interesting" would be an understatement. It would appear that many media outlets that were asleep to the fact that IAHM has been proclaimed for 27 years by American Presidents of both parties, now suddenly took notice of it and used it for partisan attacks regarding current U.S. policies. Shame on them for only paying attention to what should be the celebration of our heritage when it fits their agenda. As we pointed out in written response to several Op Eds who freely leveled charges of hypocrisy in the 2017 Irish American Heritage Month proclamation, they should perhaps look in the mirror. How different may our national debate be if the media and public institutions did their job in telling the story of Irish America, specifically in Irish American Heritage month, instead of continuing to ignore or deprecate it. The story of Irish Immigrants, who came here with nothing, overcame prejudice and yet were always first in the defense of its rights and laws is one that should be told. Shame on those who have ignored and yet now want to in narrow ways lecture us on the history of our ancestors that we as Hibernians already know.

We have and continue to engage our public institutions, specifically the Smithsonian and Library of Congress, both of whom are guardians of our nation's memory, to heed the president's call to honor Irish American Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities. Currently, these institutions maintain multiple websites for other heritages, providing educational materials, put on activities to, quite rightly, recognize the contributions those heritages have made. As Irish Americans we should expect parity of respect for our heritage and our part in America's story and will accept nothing less.

Inquires this year were met with the all too inconvenient excuse of the change of administration. We are beginning the campaign for Irish American Heritage Month 2018 now and shall keep you informed as to progress. If, as typical bureaucrats, they believe they can stall till we go away then they will learn a lesson in Irish Heritage, we don't give up.

Finally, we must remember that we as an Order have a duty ourselves to promote Irish American Heritage Month, for if we don't show an interest how can we ask others to acknowledge it. This year, the National Board undertook a special initiative to lead on Irish American Heritage Month. Twice weekly in March, with the help of our worthy National Historian, we published profiles of prominent Irish Americans as our own means of raising awareness of Irish American Heritage Month. Reviewing the statistics we note that one profile alone was seen by 15,400 people. Two others had over 10,000 views, four others over 5,000 views. All were introduced "In Recognition of Irish American Heritage Month, the Hibernians....." Thus the cause of Irish American Heritage Month and the name of the Order were both advanced, hopefully to new audiences. It is a small step, but one in the right direction and something we can take forward.

Irish American Heritage Month is vital to our Order as we fight to maintain and pass on our heritage to form the next generation of Hibernians in an age of increasing revisionism, defamation and crass commercialization of our history and culture. Please go back now to your Divisions and say "what can we do next March to celebrate the contributions of Irish Americans?" This is an effort that rewards creativity and sweat equity and does not need to be a financial burden. As Hibernians it is vital we be mindful of Edmund Burke's injunction, "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."



political education

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

On March 29, Prime Minister Theresa May invoked Article 50 and began the process of "Brexit," beginning the two-year countdown to the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union. In announcing her decision Ms. May stated:

"This is an historic moment from which there can be no turning back. Britain is leaving the European Union. We are going to make our own decisions and our own laws. We are going to take control of the things that matter most to us. And we are going to take this opportunity to build a stronger, fairer Britain – a country that our children and grandchildren are proud to call home."

At the same time, Ms. May stated, "We understand that there will be consequences for the UK of leaving the EU." It was no small inconsistency that Ms. May is cheering the Brexit advantages of "Britain" and then warning of the "consequences for the UK." While many may think that the terms "Britain," "Great Britain" and the "United Kingdom" are synonymous, they are not. "Britain," per the official mapping agency of the United Kingdom, is defined as "England and Wales," it is only "Great Britain" when you include Scotland, while the official name of the country Ms. May is Prime Minister of is "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland." "Brexit" is aptly named as the people of "Britain" voted for it, unfortunately Ms. May and her government are adamant in taking Northern Ireland and Scotland who voted against Brexit by sizable majorities with them and subject them to "the consequences."

Never has the 'and' in the name "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" held greater significance than with Ms. May's triggering of Article 50; it speaks volumes as to the secondary priority Britain gives on the security and prosperity of the people of Northern Ireland. Ms. May has continued to deflect and defer discussion on the well documented risks a hard Brexit will have for the Good Friday Agreement that has brought peace to Ireland for nearly two decades. Ms. May has met the legitimate concerns that the imposition of a Brexit border will pose to the peace process with Orwellian double speak, such as her January 17 statement: "Nobody wants to return to the borders of the past, so we will make it a priority to deliver a practical solution as soon as we can." Seriously? How much of a priority does "as soon as we can" have? With the invocation of Article 50, time has been called on "as soon as we can" and the people of the island of Ireland need more than a "priority," they need a plan that protects their basic human rights to peace and the pursuit of prosperity.

Ms. May's decision to trigger Brexit against the backdrop of the current political crisis in Northern Ireland where the recent election has failed to produce a government only shows Britain's continued tone-deafness as regards their oldest colony. As with Brexit, the crisis in Northern Ireland is a product of Britain and her supporters wishing to live in the status quo of the past rather than confront the necessary challenges of today so as to embrace the full potential of tomorrow for all communities of the North by failing to address legacy issues and foster a climate of mutual respect. To now further increase the risk to the peace process at this critical junction by formally introducing the vagaries and ambiguities of invoking Brexit without a defined plan for Northern Ireland is irresponsible and unconscionable.

Hibernians know Irish history all too well to not realize that the wellbeing of the people of Ireland has never been a priority until the U.S. becomes involved. It was only American outrage (and the need to secure them as allies in WW I) that stopped the executions of the patriots of 1916. It was American outrage again over the outrages of the Black and Tans the death of Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney that brought Britain to the bargaining table and achieved partial independence for Ireland. It was only through U.S. intervention that "the Troubles" gave way to the Good Friday Agreement and the promise of peace.

The U.S. brokered Good Friday Agreement is one of America's great diplomatic achievements; ending proportionately one of the bloodiest conflicts in history. That achievement is now in jeopardy of being squandered by the hypocrisy of a "United Kingdom" government that is entirely Britain centric and apparently willing to risk the collateral damage to the peace in Ireland and the diplomatic prestige of the United States for its own chauvinistic ends. As Hibernians, we need to press our elected leaders to make Northern Ireland a priority again and for the U.S. to lead the way to peace again. We must demand that the long overdue commitments enshrined in the Good Friday Agreement, progress on justice for the victims of state sponsored collusion, parity of respect for the Irish identity, a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and an island without borders be honored.

New Elections

On April 18, British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she is calling for a "snap election" in June. Under British law, an election would not be required until 2020. Ms. May previously stated publicly that she would not seek an early vote; adding to an already sad litany of statements that she has backtracked on. The reason for the election is pure political opportunism. Polls show Ms. May's Tories with a considerable lead, indicating a substantial victory in a June election. Having now (likely not coincidentally) triggered Brexit, Ms. May seeks to play on her and her party's perceived strength in negotiating a deal favorable to Britain. Together, these factors seem poised to deliver Ms. May and her party a victory in a June "snap election," and a substantial majority in parliament over the slim advantage they currently hold; allowing them to push through a Brexit shaped in their own image.

Sacrificed on the altar of this British political opportunism are the hopes and desires for peace and prosperity of the people of the North of Ireland. To call for an early United Kingdom general election at this time while there is still no government in the North of Ireland is as reprehensibly irresponsible as her invoking Brexit without a plan for Ireland. Ms. May is following in the infamous, cynical footsteps of Lord Randolph Churchill in being more than willing to destabilize the peace of Belfast and Derry if it will achieve political advantage in Westminster.



freedom for all Ireland

by Paul Gowdy
Chairman

Brothers, when you read this article, phase one of the 2016-17 Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal for monetary donations will have ended. Our AOH Boards and individual members from around the country have risen to the challenge and made it another successful project. On behalf of the AOH National Board, a hearty thank you for caring and your participation.

In past years, we would have welcomed many AOH and LAOH members to make the annual trip to Derry City to partake in the Bloody Sunday Commemoration March. They were also welcome to be present when our check donations were distributed to those needy organizations in Ireland. Today, there is no traditional Bloody Sunday March and no National AOH-organized trip.

The returning Hibernians would relay the highlights of their trip, sharing current news etc., with fellow members. It was a terrific vehicle for keeping interest peaked about Northern Ireland events. Going forward, myself and FFAI Deputy Mike Mellett are working on some initiatives to improve the sharing of Irish political news and updates on the progress of projects from the Irish organizations that FFAI supports.

Meanwhile, it is important that AOH and LAOH members keep up to date with and share appropriate news items of the unusual political situations pertinent to the island of Ireland.

Here is a recent report exhibiting the different attitudes on how volunteers from two war scenarios are treated in Ireland. In February I was in Belfast. On page 12 of the Irish News (a nationalist newspaper) there were two articles. The first headline read, "Torture of Hooded Men on scale of war crime court told." Surviving members of the group of republican ex-internees known as "The Hooded Men," were seeking an independent human-rights complaint investigation. There was overwhelming proof that these men were subjected to treatment that fell within a definition of "international atrocities," and thus had a valid case against British ministers who knew of their situation, yet turned a blind eye to their treatment. The Hooded Men are still searching, after many years, for recognition of the injustice against them by a perverted and responsible British government.

The second headline read, "Orangemen who fought in First World War honored." More than 300 Dublin Orangemen were commemorated on a roll of honor that is to go on public display in Belfast. They were members of Dublin and Wicklow Loyal Orange Lodge 1313. Thirty-two of the Orangemen died in the war. Ulster Unionist and Belfast councilor Chris McGimpsey is the worshipful master of the Dublin and Wicklow Orange Lodge. The roll of honor hung in a corner of the Dublin lodge for decades, and McGimpsey thought the Belfast Orange Museum was a more suitable environment to honor these fallen heroes.

The irony of these two news items, side by side, reflects the different importance attached to Irish wartime experiences, regardless of the cause.

Martin McGuinness 1950-2017

The first time I met Martin was in Derry 1997. At the Bloody Sunday march, I managed to get a Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams autographed T-shirt with the printed message, "An Unrepentant Fenian Bastard." Unworn, I keep it stored in a safe place to be passed on to future generations. I have attended various events where Martin was a guest speaker. My last encounter with him was in April 2015 in the Linenhall Library, Belfast, at the introduction of the Sinn Fein book, "Uncomfortable Conversations." I was in Belfast presenting the FFAI checks to local recipients and through the Relatives For Justice group, I was invited to the book opening session. The attendees were various political, religious and community leaders from all over Ireland. There were many speakers with Martin being the final presenter. Afterwards, I met with him and asked him to autograph my copy of the book. As he was writing I quipped, "Whatever you do, don't sign it, an unrepentant fenian bastard." He laughed, looked me in the eye and said, "Over the years I have been called a lot worse names." Before we parted, he thanked me, the AOH and the LAOH in America for caring so much and for our financial support.

God bless you, Martin. You will be missed but never forgotten.

Editor's Note

A few of the items submitted for this issue could not be used due to space constraints.

Other items were not used because they were sent in with poor-quality, out-of-focus, low-resolution photos. These were mere kilobytes in size and would not reproduce well in print, reflecting badly on the contributor and the Digest. Submitted photos must be at least 1 megabyte.

If you need guidance on how to take and submit better photos, I'd be happy to help. Contact John O'Connell at EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com



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pro-life by John Patrick Walsh Chairman

“Behold, I Am Sending You Like Sheep In The Midst Of Wolves”

After coming off the very successful Pro-Life Breakfast and March, you could say my humility was a bit lacking. I felt reinvigorated watching and reading about the great works done in the name of protecting life by our brothers and sisters. Uncharacteristically, I began relishing the opportunity to confront and engage others when the topic of abortion or pro-life/choice came up.

God has a way of bringing us back to the virtue of humility when our levels of self-righteousness creep too high. This proved true earlier this month when the topic of capital punishment dominated a recent work trip and I found myself decidedly in the minority. In that instance, a state attorney had been removed from a case after refusing to seek the death penalty in a double homicide involving a police officer and the suspect’s pregnant fiancé (so actually, a triple murder). Furthermore, the state attorney claimed that she morally could not seek the death penalty and stated her office would not do so in future cases.

Matthew 5:11

Public reaction to the announcement was swift and brutal, logic flew out the door as emotions ran wild and common ground was nowhere to be found. Enter my exaggerated sense of self-righteousness just as a group of colleagues began debating the case during a break in our conference. After stating my opposition to capital punishment, I found myself fending off accusations of supporting cop killers, baby murderers and anyone thinking it

acceptable to harm a pregnant woman.

To be honest, the heat of the accusations caught me off guard. At times like this, statistics and high ideals are easily swatted away by the raw emotions surrounding everyone (ask the state attorney), and so my logical justifications against seeking the death penalty were met with outright derision.

So in the nature of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and all Christian Apologetics, I began to sympathize with their feelings of revulsion at such a callous act. Yes, I condemn the killing of a police officer (or anyone for that matter). No, I am not encouraging others to commit violent crimes by taking the death penalty off the table. Yes, I agree three lives were taken when that unborn child perished in the womb. But the goal of our justice system should be rehabilitation, in whatever form it takes, not the execution of prisoners. We cannot allow raw emotion to harden our hearts to the possibility of forgiveness.

As Christians we believe in God’s infinite grace and the ability of the Holy Spirit to redeem anyone who opens their heart to that grace, but it must be done by free will. An execution ends the journey of repentance and may even preclude reconciliation through imperfect contrition. By prematurely ending a life, we not only ignore the commandment not to kill but cut short the journey that soul could have travelled on the path of atonement.

Are we so wise in the ways of the human soul that we can know for certain whether a murderer will reject God’s grace in the fullness of time? Do we, sinners all, dare to limit the Holy Spirit by deciding for them? It may seem like the punishment fits the crime, but take a moment and consider the Good Thief in Luke’s gospel, who found redemption and salvation on the cross. Justly condemned to death, I cannot help but wonder if he would have found redemption if not for our Lord hanging next to him; those sentenced today will not have that same luck. So pray for the condemned, pray that God may soften their heart so as to allow the Holy Spirit entrance.



RITUALS & DEGREES by JJ Kelly Chairman

Continuing with the descriptions of our Major Degree Team namesakes, we will focus this issue on our team from Staten Island, New York, namely The Cu Chulainn Celtic Warriors.

Cu Chulainn is one of the most famous Irish mythological heroes. He appears in the stories of the Ulster Cycle, and Scottish and Manx folklore. He was said to be the son of Deichtine and the god Lugh, and the nephew of Conchobar mac Nessa, the King of Ulster. His given name at birth was Setanta but he gained the name Cu Chulainn, meaning ‘Culann’s Hound’ after he killed a ferocious guard dog belonging to a smith named Culann. Cu Chulainn offered to take the place of the guard dog until a replacement could be reared.

The stories of Cu Chulainn’s childhood, which date back to the 9th century, are many. It is said that as a small child he had asked incessantly to be allowed to join the boy-troop at Emain Macha (today known as Navan Fort, in County Armagh, Northern Ireland). According to the legend, he sets out on his own, and eventually runs onto the playing field at Emain, unaware of the custom of asking for protection. The other boys see this as a challenge, and attack Setanta, but he beats them all single-handedly as he carries the trait of “ríastrad,” in which he undergoes a sort of distortion, becoming an unrecognizable

monster who knows neither friend nor foe. King Conchobar put a stop to the fight.

As Cu Chulainn gets older, he decides he would like to take Emer, daughter of Forgall Monach, as a wife. However, Forgall is opposed to this, and tells Cu Chulainn that he should train with Scottish warrior-woman Scáthach. Forgall’s true intent is that Cu Chulainn will be killed. While Cu Chulainn is gone, Forgall offers Emer to Lugaid mac Nóis, a king of Munster, but when the king learns that she loves Cu Chulainn, he refuses to take her hand.

Scáthach teaches Cu Chulainn all the arts of war. His fellow trainees include Ferdiad, who becomes Cú Chulainn’s best friend and foster-brother. During his training with Scáthach, Cu Chulainn comes to face Aife, Scáthach’s rival. Although the two are evenly matched, Cu Chulainn eventually seizes Aife, and demands that she bear him a son. While Aife is pregnant, Cu Chulainn leaves Scotland, and returns to his love Emer, but Forgall still refuses to allow the marriage. Enraged, Cu Chulainn storms Forgall’s fortress, kills 24 of his men, abducts Emer, and steals Forgall’s treasure. Forgall falls to his death.

The legends of Cu Chulainn are still told to this day. As a mythological hero, the stories of his strength and power have lived on, re-told throughout the years in many ways. Today, the image of Cú Chulainn is invoked by both Irish and Ulster (Northern Ireland) nationalists. Irish nationalists see him as the most important Celtic Irish hero, while unionists see him as an Ulsterman defending the province from enemies to the south.

Looking at the names of the degree teams, one gets a sense of the history of the land of our forefathers, and the importance of certain heroes, groups, fortresses, major symbols, etc. It is my hope that this little taste of the importance of our past will encourage you to get your Major Degrees, or if you already have the Major Degrees but it has been some time ago, that you will go back as an observer, and re-learn those lessons all over again.



IRISH WAY & STUDY ABROAD by Greg Sean Canning Chairman

The two AOH scholarship programs offered through the Irish Way Study Abroad Committee are offered to children and grandchildren of AOH members who travel to Ireland to participate in Irish studies.

The first program (Irish Way Study Program) is designed for American High School Students.

The second program (Study Abroad Scholarship Program) is designed for American College Students.

Objective of the Irish Way Study Program: The Irish Way Program is a unique cultural and educational program for American High School Students that began in 1976. During the summer, students participate in the Irish Way travel to Ireland for a three-week stay. The program, which is multifaceted, encompasses three components: Education, The Irish Experience, and Irish Touring.

This program was founded on the belief that fostering an appreciation of other cultures is an important part of an individual’s development, while providing an opportunity for young people to explore the rich heritage and tradition of Ireland while also experiencing the country’s distinct culture face-to-face.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the \$500 AOH Scholarship, you will need to submit the Irish Way Program Application. Program dates for 2017 are June 29th - July 23rd.

Irish Way Contact: Taryn Harrison, Coordinator for the Irish Way Program

E- Mail: tharrison@irishlifeexperience.com Phone: (781) 850-3322 [Ext. 122]

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: as has been the case for the past 25 plus years, the Irish American Cultural Institute will do the selection of all scholarship recipients.

Program dates for 2017 are June 29th - July 23rd.

Objective the Study Abroad Scholarship Program: This program encourages the children and grandchildren of AOH members to seriously consider pursuing courses of study in Ireland whether it be for a semester or a full year of study at colleges in Ireland, in 1995 the National Board established two (2) annual \$1000 Study Abroad Scholarships in Ireland for the sons and daughters and grandchildren of our members. The recipients of these scholarships must attend an accredited college or university in the United States, and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends. All scholarship applications are judged by an independent and impartial panel appointed by the chairman (Greg Seán Canning). The decision of this panel is final.

Contact Greg Sean at the email below and request an application.

Then SUBMIT the completed application and all required materials to:

Greg Seán Canning, Chairman

AOH National Study Abroad Scholarship

4530 Caladium Court

Kissimmee, Florida 34758-2156

Email: grioghar@mac.com

Phone: (407) 350-4205

Cell: (201) 787-6650

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Midnight, May 1, 2017

AOH PRESIDENT, VP MEET WITH IRISH LEADERS
continued from page 1

and they are working closely together on the many issues that affect the nationalist community. Brexit and the possibility of a hard border is a top concern for nationalists on both sides of the border as well as the AOH. The AOH national board established a Brexit committee, chaired by Past National President Seamus Boyle, which has been working to keep our membership updated on the many issues that have come to light and must be addressed.

With this in mind, President McKay and V.P. O'Connell joined the leadership of Sinn Fein, Michelle O'Neill, and the SDLP, Colum Eastwood, in participating in a border protest at Stormont organized by local farmers and business people from both sides of the border. It is clear that Ireland's peace process and economy will both suffer drastically should there be a return to a hard border. This issue is so important that the nationalist leaders took time away from critical negotiations to form a new government in order to participate in the protest march.

Both parties were pleased to hear the AOH in America reaffirm our support for a continued open border and a United Ireland.

When the pair returned to Dublin they met briefly with Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Niall Burgess, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs and Trade. They spent the next three hours with the Joint Committee for Foreign Affairs, Trade

and Defense. Much of this meeting was to address Brexit and immigration issues. The committee was very interested in the AOH goals for immigration between Ireland and the U.S., as well as what could be done to help the undocumented Irish. President McKay said: "We left the meeting with a better understanding of the immigration issues through the eyes of Ireland."

Committee chairman TD Brendan Smith, who first met McKay and O'Connell in Washington, D.C. last December, arranged the meeting, and is looking forward to working with the AOH on several issues moving forward. The meeting also included Senator Billy Lawless, representing the Irish Diaspora, who has worked tirelessly with the AOH on immigration issues long before he was appointed to the Senate; Senator Mark Daly, spokesman for the Irish Overseas & Diaspora, who was tasked to write the first-ever report on moving to a United Ireland; and TD Sean Crowe, who in addition to the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defense Committee, serves on the Implementation of the GFA Committee. The meeting would not have happened without the work of Noel Murphy, clerk to the Joint Committee. Noel not only organized the initial meeting but also made arrangements for and re-scheduled the meeting following the death of Martin McGuinness.

The day concluded with an impromptu meeting with Senator Mark Daley, who would be presenting Ireland's first documented blueprint for a United Ireland on Thursday, April 6. Senator Daley has a clear understanding of the AOH's goals for a United Ireland and was happy to provide his insight to the AOH.



With the members of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defense. From left: Senator Mark Daly, spokesman for the Irish Overseas & Diaspora; Senator Billy Lawless, Irish Diaspora; Brendan Smith TD, Chairman, Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defense; Danny O'Connell, AOH National Vice President; Judge Jim McKay, AOH National President; and Sean Crowe TD, Member of the Foreign Affairs & Trade Committee, European Affairs Committee, and the Implementation of the GFA Committee.



President McKay, Senator Mark Daly and Danny O'Connell with the first official path to a United Ireland document shortly before it became public on April 6, 2017.

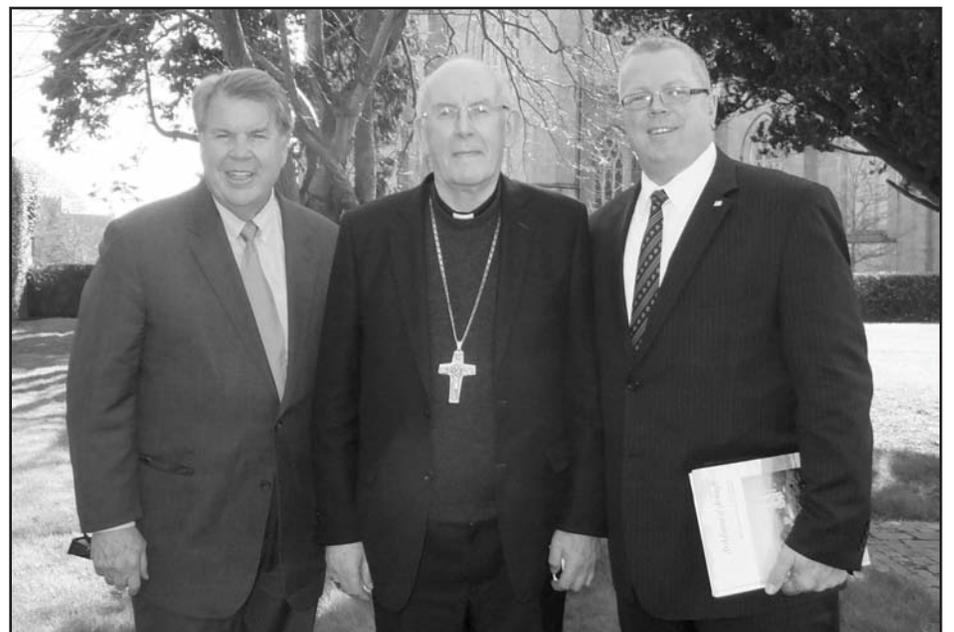
McKay, O'Connell in Tyrone

By J. Conlon, Tyrone AOH secretary

Tyrone Ancient Order of Hibernians had the privilege to meet AOH National President Judge Jim McKay and National Vice President Danny O'Connell in Kinturk Cultural Centre, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, on March 25. Tyrone AOH President Gerry McGeough started the night with officially welcoming them to County Tyrone and after a few photos with the Tyrone divisions, everyone enjoyed a great night with beautiful food and music.



Some members of Kinturk A.O.H. Division with the National President and National Vice President.



AOH President Jim McKay; his Eminence, Séan Cardinal Brady; and AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell.

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veterans affairs

by Jim Green
Chairman

I have been continually humbled and impressed by the number and outstanding quality of Hibernian Veterans Affairs chairmen and veteran advocates who have contacted me over the past months and provided me with reports about their pro-veteran activities and programs. They've set a very high standard for leadership and putting words into action.

That said, I have always been a big believer in effective communication and am trying to put together a plan to be able to share all of these projects, plans and ideas with all of you as well.

The Hibernian Digest seems to be the best way to reach all of our veterans, but it is maybe too infrequently published and limited in the size of articles for what I intend. Using the National Veterans Affairs website – I just recently contacted AOH webmaster Jeff Nisler about getting it updated – is a possibility for this, but it depends on brothers to actually reference it.

Past Veterans Affairs Chairman J.J. Kelly had the idea to build a database to include contact information of all of the Hibernian veterans, but my fear is that it is dependent on having a complete and robust response from the membership, so communicating with all of our veteran brothers might fall short of expectations. Stay tuned for more information as this evolves, and please reach out to me with your ideas.

News from the 2017 federal budget shows that it proposes spending \$78.7 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, including \$65 billion for VA medical care, which includes \$7.2 billion for veterans "Care in the Community" that provides medical procedures for veterans by non-VA providers. The budget proposal also appears to support a federal commitment to ending veteran homelessness by "emphasizing rescue for those who are homeless today, and prevention for those at risk of homelessness."

It was reported that between 2010 and 2015, the overall number of veterans experiencing homelessness on a single night has declined by 36 percent, and a nearly 50 percent decrease in unsheltered veteran homelessness. Continuing that effort, the budget requests \$1.6 billion for VA's homelessness-related programs.

The following websites are worth repeat publication. Please use them and share them with your veteran Division brothers. If you have others that you have found to be beneficial, please feel free to share them with me so that I can share them with others.

Military Benefits information - www.vets.gov

DD-214 - www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

And we received breaking news just as this was being written: "Washington, D.C. – 03/30/2017 - Bipartisan legislation authored by Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Senator Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) permanently designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day has been signed into law by President Trump."

Until next issue, I pray that God will help and protect you in your efforts to "help a vet."



New Jersey



National Secretary attends award breakfast

The Veteran Stakeholders Award Breakfast was held on March 4 in New Jersey, honoring those who have given exemplary service to our veteran community. Pictured are Jere E. Cole, Jr. AOH National Secretary; James Lagrasso Award Honoree George Hanley, Committeeman Member; Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.; John Lagrasso Award Honoree Joe Hetch, Committee Member; and Mike Steinberg, Committee Member.

Cork Doughboys

By Mike McCormack

On February 4, 1915, Germany warned in American newspapers that ships carrying arms for the British war effort, even though disguised as passenger vessels, would be targeted. On May 7, 1915, the ship Lusitania was torpedoed and sank 11 miles off the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork. She sank within minutes, taking 1,198 of its 1,918 passengers to a watery grave. Many of the victims recovered were buried in Old Church Graveyard near Cobh and a monument was erected at Casement Square.

Experts suggest that she sank so fast because a massive explosion occurred when the torpedo ignited several tons of ammunition. The loss of Lusitania led to America's entry into WWI and before American troops could launch an invasion a staging area had to be secured. Almost two years to the day after the sinking of Lusitania, on May 4, 1917, an advance guard of six destroyers of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, led by USS Wadsworth, entered Cork harbor.

Over the next two years, thousands of U.S. Navy personnel would be stationed in Cork harbor and Bantry Bay, patrolling the waters off Ireland to ensure the safety of maritime convoys. Up to that time, an average of 600,000 tons of shipping was being sunk monthly by German U-Boats. The American fleet soon cut that number dramatically. American infantry, called Doughboys, on their way to the western front were also housed in Cobh, Passage West, Ringaskiddy, Aghada, Bere Island, Berehaven and Whiddy Island.

No one really knows the origin of the term Doughboys, but it lasted up through WWII when in 1942, Dennis Day recorded the song Johnny Doughboy found a Rose in Ireland.

The local Irish lads took dough to mean money and assumed that the Yanks were well paid and resented the attention they paid to local girls who were charmed by the uniformed Yankees. In fact, about 100 of those local ladies ended up marrying American Doughboys and found a new life in America! That didn't stop the Cork lads from trying to dissuade the practice. In one incident, a number of girls boarded a train to Cobh to see for themselves what was so appealing about these Yanks, but upon arrival, local youths beat them back onto the train. Remarkably, a similar situation occurred in Northern Ireland prior to the D-Day invasion when American forces were accused of being overpaid, oversexed and over here!

However, despite occasional disputes, the American presence was a huge boost to the economy. At any one time, there were up to 10,000 American military based in Co Cork. They employed locals building bases, storage facilities, barracks, hospitals and hangars for the assembly of Curtis H-16 Flying Boats. They also bought local products and food as well as making the pubs and Holy Ground red light district profitable.

This year, on May 4, a special commemorative plaque will be unveiled at Admiralty House, Cobh, marking the centennial of the U.S. Navy's arrival in Cork. It will be attended by dignitaries from the U.S. Navy, the Royal Navy and the German Navy, as well as their respective ambassadors. That will initiate a host of related ceremonies, including the Sirius Arts Centre special exhibition entitled, Portraits: Women of Cobh and U.S. Sailors – Irish Wives 1917-1919; a WWI U.S. Navy weekend at Fort Meagher in Crosshaven; a special conference in University College Cork on U-Boats, Submarine Warfare and the U.S. Navy in Ireland, 1917-18; and the ports of Cork and Bantry Bay are running lessons for 5th class primary school children entitled, World War One - the US Navy in Cork Harbor.

Several events will also occur throughout the year commemorating the U.S. Navy's stay in Cork and its role defending the Atlantic shipping routes with exhibits, lectures by renowned historians, living history displays and music. The Cork Harbor Festival in June will also feature a number of themed events to mark the centenary commemoration.

Conor Nelligan, Cork County Council's Heritage officer said, *The strategic position of Cork harbor and Bere and Whiddy Islands played a most important role in the unfolding of events pertaining to World War One. Given Cork's strategic role in 1917 it is only fitting that a program of events be put together throughout Cork harbor and West Cork to shed light, nationally and internationally, on the story of the U.S. Navy in Cork during World War One.* He added that a World War One Harbour Trail is currently being developed by the Cobh Municipal Council and that the Council's Tourism Section and Heritage Unit is in discussion with Failte Ireland to promote events throughout the year in America. Be on the lookout for them if you're traveling to Ireland this year.

Montana



Anaconda AOH President Ray Ryan surprised fellow Brother Dr. Bill Callaghan with a 50-year membership pin at the Division breakfast on St. Patrick's Day. Dr. Callaghan is the oldest member of the division, joining the Order in 1960.



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

This St. Patrick's Day was the first in decades without the beautiful voice of Noel Kingston reminding us to celebrate the heritage that he was so proud to represent. Noel left us on March 3 to entertain in God's heavenly choir along with the countless great talents who preceded him into the house of the Lord, not the least of which was his own daughter, Mary. Having just returned from Joannie Madden's Folk'n Irish Cruise on February 11, he was feeling ill and went to doctors, who told him that he had an aggressive, incurable cancer. He was sent home in hospice and there he passed away less than three weeks later in his 78th year.

Though we shall miss him terribly, we have his recordings to keep him with us. Fortunately, his home town of Killorglin, County Kerry, recently interviewed him as a favorite son for their archives. You can hear the interview at soundcloud.com/killorglin-archives/interview-with-noel-kingston. And when you have finished with that happy memory, Google: jealous of the angels by donna taggart on You Tube. We shall miss this incredibly gentle man whose main talent, besides his voice, was making everyone his friend. I consider myself fortunate to have been one. He helped me to get my own radio program, encouraged me to publish my stories and taught me stage presence at many Irish Getaway weekends at top Catskill resorts. My favorite memory, however, is our time at Dan O'Brien's recording studio when he invited me to add my introductions to his singing of some of Ireland's historic ballads on our Musical Echoes of Irish History CDs. I lost a brother in this great and humble Kerryman, but it will only strengthen my faith to live a good life so that I may see him again when my race is run.

Winter was always the killing season for the Celts as, in primitive times, the elderly and infirm would rarely survive the season. While that is hardly the case today, we are reminded that the hand of God still selects the best of our race at this time of year as we say farewell, not only to Noel, but Martin McGuinness and Jimmy Reilly, whose obituary appears in this issue. We shall remember them all with prayerful reflection.

Congratulations to Erin Fitzgerald of Junior LAOH Division 7, Suffolk County, NY, on her paper: The Role of the Irish in WWI. After taking First in Suffolk and Honorable Mention in NY State, she went on to win First Place in the LAOH National Essay Competition. Congrats also to Karina Costello of NY on achieving Second place and Emily Ramirez of CA on her Third Place win; also to Honorable mentions, Mairead Mooney of TX and Maggie Guggenberger of MA. On the Senior level, First place went to Abigail Shaw of GA, Second went to Julian Sentillan of MI, and Third went to Brendan Patterson of OH with Honorable Mention going to Matt Kemenosh of NJ and Grace Hubbard of PA. Congrats also to our LAOH and their National Historian, Dee Wallace, for keeping the tradition alive in our younger generation. Now it's on the National History Day.

There was a marked decline in the PPG (plastic paddy garbage) this year thanks to the efforts of many Hibernian brothers and sisters spearheaded by the indefatigable Neil Cosgrove. However, it has not disappeared entirely and the never-ending battle continues. As far back as May 7, 1902, a NY Times article reported that the AOH started a crusade against publications which cartoon Irishmen. The AOH even targeted vaudeville performers who promoted the 'Stage Irish' image of the comical drunk and soon flying vegetables disrupted such performances. In 1927, charges were filed against movie-makers for films that insulted the Irish and picket lines before theaters showing those films demonstrated that anger. Our ancestors stood firm on the battlefield of degrading publications, theater and movies, but they never saw the Internet or printed T-shirts – that is our battlefield. Let's agree that their efforts were not vain and continue their struggle.

On St. Patrick's Day, the NY Times published an article calling Irish slavery a myth, to which Neil Cosgrove and I immediately responded denouncing their attempt at Paddy Bashing on our Saint's feast day. It is proof positive that denigration of our race not only takes place on T-shirts, but often in the media as well. I don't know if they will print our rebuttal, but if you wish to see it, go to NYAOH.COM and check Historical Happenings for April. Should you see any examples of similar items debasing our heritage, please let us know and we will attempt to enlighten them to historical truth and, at the very least, challenge their bigoted BS* before the public. Remember, it's your heritage, defend it!

**Blarney Swill*

Michigan



Brian Murphy, left, Mike Riley, Bob Yancey, Archbishop Vigneron, Cortland Book, Joe Bittner, Patrick Maguire and Tim Reade.

The AOH Hibernian Rifles, Company D, were present at the "Sharin' of the Green" Mass celebrated at Most Holy Trinity Church in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood on St. Patrick's Day. The Hibernian Rifles have been given the privilege of escorting the Archbishop of Detroit in and out of Mass each year. Pictured are the Hibernian Rifles posing with Archbishop Allen Vigneron before processing into the church. They not only do good work in the name of the Order, but they look good doing it.

Reflections

By Mike McCormack

Now that a year has passed since the Centennial Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising, it may be time to examine some of the little known details that surfaced during the search for facts associated with that milestone. When we were in Dublin during Easter week, an abundance of information assaulted us that was just too much to digest at the time. It included reprints of books, newspapers of the day, museum presentations at Collins' Barracks and a 1916 Experience in Dublin. There was also an updated database of interviews with participating personnel from that time and immediately afterward. After grabbing as much of it as possible, I settled down, upon my return home, to consume this hoard of data and found a greater understanding of the men and women who gave their all for independence.

I wondered what might have happened if the Rising had succeeded and the diverse personalities of the dreamer Pearse, the realist Clarke and the socialist Connolly were tasked with forming a government. What would it have looked like? I also found that the leaders were not the unblemished heroes they were portrayed to be by some, but simply human and subject to the same misunderstandings and indecisions as the rest of us, but having put their lives on the line for the Irish people made them truly admirable.

I also wondered what would have happened if the 20,000 rifles, intercepted by the British, had found their way into the hands of anxious Kerry Volunteers. However, it seems that mission was doomed from the start by poor intelligence and communication. The story told by Volunteer Captain Bob Monteith, who assisted Sir Roger Casement was eye opening. He reported that the Germans refused Casement's request to return to Ireland weeks before the arms shipment he had negotiated, on orders from Clan na Gael leader John Devoy, in New York. The Dublin Military Council had instructed Devoy that nothing was to happen until Easter Sunday after the Proclamation would be read. They felt that if the arms arrived earlier, then the rising would start earlier and the schedule had to be maintained.

But Casement knew that the Kerry Volunteers were mostly farmers and had to be trained on operating ship's winches and unloading procedures; farmers couldn't become dockworkers overnight. That was his reason for his wanting to arrive before the arms ship, AUD, – not to upstage the Military Council. But he was refused. Further, Kerry Volunteer leader Austin Stack was forbidden to permit any action before Sunday night and the Germans were told that the ship must arrive precisely on schedule on Easter Sunday night!

The Germans told the Council that ships were not railroad trains and didn't run on schedules. Their plan for delivery was to arrive in a time window between Thursday and Sunday, allowing for delays by stormy seas and British patrols. They requested that green lights be intermittently flashed on each of those nights and a pilot boat be ready to guide them in. The Council insisted on sticking to their schedule and the result was that when AUD and the weapons arrived in the dark of Holy Thursday night, there were no green lights and no pilot boat! Floating off shore, they were a target for British patrol boats who had been alerted by American intelligence that an arms shipment was due. Casement, Monteith and a Sgt. Beverly made it to shore, where Casement was captured and Monteith and Beverly went on the run into the hills of Kerry as AUD was scuttled to prevent capture of the arms.

Can the Military Council be faulted because they wanted the Rising to begin with the reading of the Proclamation? Monteith thought so, for he felt that 20,000 arms in Kerry hands would have panicked the British a good deal more than the reading of a proclamation, but then reading a proclamation, in his words, made 'great theater' and many of the leaders were poets and playwrights! Thus, a lack of understanding of the complicated unloading procedure doomed the arms delivery, the failure of which prompted Eoin MacNeill to cancel the Sunday Rising which, in turn, prompted the leaders to rise on Monday with less than total support and insufficient arms. When asking what might have happened if the arms had been landed and distributed, the words of John Greenleaf Whittier come to mind: Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, "It might have been." More reflections in the next issue.

New York



On Saturday, January 21, the Syracuse, N.Y., Commodore John Barry Division 2 and the Syracuse Ladies AOH participated in the Annual Right to Life March in downtown Syracuse. More than 300 people took part in a 30-minute procession that began at noon and ended at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Columbus Circle in downtown Syracuse. A short ceremony was held that included speakers from several Pro-Life organizations. Also present were New York State Hibernian President Tim McSweeney, Secretary Tom Lambert and District 3 Director Tim Kirwan. The National AOH was represented by Director Liam McNabb. After the parade a reception was held and President McSweeney inducted our 2017 officers. The Syracuse AOH expresses our thanks to our National and State officers for their support.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

There are more than a dozen St. Patrick's Day Parades held in Connecticut during the month of March. Many are sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in which you will find members of the AOH and LAOH proudly carrying their banners. In fact, Hibernians, have been marching in parades or procession, as they were called in the 19th Century, since shortly after the Order was founded in Connecticut 1869. For instance, the Hartford Courant reported that three Divisions of the AOH marched in the 1872 Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade led by Patrick Daley, the President of Division 1. One month later, in April, Patrick was elected the first President of the Connecticut State Board at a Convention held in Hartford.

In 1956 the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade was revived under the leadership of AOH State President William

B. Gallogly who had immigrated to New Haven from County Leitrim. According to Irish Historian, Neil Hogan, the revival of the New Haven Parade had been a longtime dream of brother Gallogly. The New Haven parade has grown to where it is now the largest, single day spectator event in the State of Connecticut!

Stamford Hibernians are proud of Brian O'Neill who researched the history of the AOH in New Haven. On March 26, Brian participated in a forum at the Stamford Historical Society which featured a discussion on the three oldest organizations still existing in Stamford. This elite group includes the AOH.

In partnership with the local Notre Dame Club of Southeastern CT, the New London Division will host a reception for a lecture on "God, Country, and Notre Dame" at Saint Bernard's High School in Montville, CT on April 27th. This humor filled, historical and engaging lecture tells

the history of the United States through the lens of Notre Dame's place in America.

Hartford AOH President Dan O'Leary reports that Division 2 will sponsor a Soldiers, Sailors and Marines benefit fundraiser on June 3, 2017 at the Old Well Tavern on Tariffville Road in Simsbury, CT. This promises to be a fun day for the whole family. More information can be obtained at www.hartfordaoh.com.

Finbarr Moynihan of New Haven insists the place to be on July 16, 2017 is the Branford Dock when the annual Thimble Island Cruise sponsored by Division 7 sets sail on the ship "Sea Mist". This event is always a sellout and those interested should contact Finbarr at 203-272-0118.

Tom Hennessy, Julie Tracy and the Danbury AOH and LAOH are going all out to make the Biennial State AOH Convention a memorable event. The Convention will begin Friday, June 9, 2017, with a Pub Night at the elegant Danbury

Irish Center. The general meetings will begin at 12 noon following registration. The convention Mass will be celebrated at the historic St. Peter's Church at 5 p.m. The Convention banquet takes place at Michael's At the Grove and will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include entertainment and dinner. The convention will conclude on Sunday following the installation of officers.

All Connecticut Hibernians have been stunned and saddened by the untimely death of LAOH State President Joan Berry who passed away in early March. Her passing leaves a gap in our ranks that is wide and deep. Joan did so much and wanted to do so much more. It is also with great sadness that we note the passing of longtime Stamford Hibernian and all around good guy, Daniel Murphy. May they rest in Peace!



Past National Director Phil Gallagher, State President Tom McDonough and Past National Director Frank Kearney await the start of the Meriden St. Patrick's Day Parade.



The John P. Holland Division of New London reinforced by Hibernians from Hartford march in the Mystic St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Financial Secretary Brian Conatser, President Tom Keane and Treasurer Steve Boyle lead the JFK Division on St. Patrick's Day in Bridgeport.

Delaware



Erin Marino, left, Laura Dietrick, Karen Young and Jennifer Angotti, of Christ The Teacher Catholic School in Newark, Delaware.

AOH treats Catholic schools staff

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, Corporal Bernard McCarren Division 2, in Newark, Delaware, sponsored a Chick-fil-A luncheon for teachers, administrators and staff at Holy Angels School, Christ The Teacher Catholic School and Aquinas Academy in Newark and Bear, Delaware. This is the third year the Division has sponsored these luncheons to honor the hard working ladies and gentlemen at area Catholic Schools.

Some Catholic School facts: The 10 dioceses with the highest Catholic school enrollment are Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Boston, St. Louis and New Orleans. Catholic High Schools have a 99 percent graduation rate. The total full-time equivalent teaching staff in Catholic elementary, middle and secondary schools is 151,101. Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$12,600, Catholic schools provide more than \$24 billion a year in savings for our nation. You're welcome! Please support your local Catholic Schools.

Florida



Charity Award Presented by Sean Denny

On March 18, 2017, I attended the resurrected St. O'Mary's Irish Night hosted by the Ministry of Joy. Prior to the dinner, I attended the 4 p.m. Mass. Fr. Damian Amantia was the celebrant with Deacon Michael Menchen. On behalf of the AOH, I presented St. Mary's Faith Formation a Charity Award received at the 2016 AOH National Convention in Atlantic City. Fr. Damian accepted the award on behalf of Claudia McIvor. Then Fr. Damian had his own announcement that the St. Francis Courtyard on the southeast side of the church was reopening today. After Mass, Fr. David greeted everyone as they took steps or a ramp to the Hall. The musician Mele performed Irish Songs while we waited for the dinner. Fr. David said the opening prayer before meals. I sat with Jim Prior and Jim Gillis and we tried on Irish hats and beads. Bill O'Hanlon sat nearby with his new wife and friends from New York. The dinner was corned beef, cabbage, boiled red potatoes, carrots, rye bread, and "green" velvet cake. Jim Kochen entertained us with jokes. The dancing continued after dinner.

Illinois



Members of the John F. Kennedy Division 59 with Albertine Sister Benji, are, left to right, Tim Noonan, Christ the King Parish; John Donovan, Queen of Martyrs Parish; Bob Szyman, St. Kilian Parish; Joe McGovern, St. Thomas More Parish; and Kevin Gill, St. Germaine Parish. The AOH members volunteered recently at a Wednesday evening supper event conducted by Catholic Charities at St. Blase Service Center in Summit.

Members of the John F. Kennedy Division 59 (Mount Greenwood, Chicago, Illinois) and students from Whitney Young High School, Hale Elementary School and St. Rita High School assisted Catholic Charities and the Albertine Sisters in serving more than 50 men, women and children during a Wednesday evening supper at St. Blase Service Center in Summit.

In addition to the Wednesday evening program, meals are served Monday evenings at St. Anne in Hazel Crest, and Tuesday evenings at St. Christopher in Midlothian. The suppers are a volunteer-supported and financed Catholic Charities program.

The AOH members who served food, washed pots and pans, swept and mopped floors were Division President and Illinois State VP John Donovan, Queen of Martyrs Parish; Recording Secretary Kevin Gill, St. Germaine Parish; Financial Secretary Joe McGovern, St. Thomas More Parish; Trustee Tim Noonan, Christ the King Parish; and Trustee Bob Szyman, St. Kilian Parish. Financial support was provided by the Division and AOH Brothers Tony Noonan, Tom Healy and Tom Kent.

Chicago's Division 32's annual golf outing will be held Friday, May 19, at The Edgebrook Course in Chicago. To sign up, check AOOH.ORG or Facebook AOH AOH. This is the main fundraiser for the year to replenish the charitable and scholarship accounts, and Division 32 is running it in conjunction with the Irish American Heritage Center. The golf chairs are Brothers Mike O'Malley, B.J. Mattingly and Jack Morrissey. Hole sponsorships begin at \$100, and door prizes are always welcome.

Ohio



Scholarship winner Henry Meese, left, and AOH Sean MacBride President Steven Clancy.

Scholarship awarded

The Sean MacBride Division in Trumbull County, Ohio, held their 17th Annual Scholarship Breakfast on March 11, in Warren. This scholarship competition was open to all high school seniors in Trumbull County. Students submitted an essay titled, "Why do so many people want to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day?" The winning student was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. This year's winning essay was from Henry Meese of Champion High School.

Missouri

Kansas City Irish Center Flag Pole Dedication

As the sun broke out of the clouds just prior to the 2017 Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade, members of the region's two Hibernian divisions, the Padraig Pearse Division – Kansas City, Missouri, and Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division – Johnson County, Kansas, joined for a formal dedication of two flagpoles. The divisions raised funds to buy and install the poles in front of the newly unveiled Kansas City Irish Center.

Remarks by Kansas City Mayor Sly James recognized the positive impact of the Irish and all immigrants in making America a great country. Next up was the region's Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell, who seconded the mayor's comments and expressed gratitude to the K.C. Irish community for always making him feel welcome.

The Star Spangled Banner was sung and the U.S. flag was raised following the dignitaries' remarks and recognition of the Hibernians' role in the purchase and installation of the poles. The photo shows next to the U.S. flagpole the Donnelly Division's Zach Kittle, an Iraq veteran and winner of the Bronze Star, and Pearse representative John McEvoy, the division's 2016 Hibernian of the Year.

The Amhrán na bhFiann was performed before the flag of Ireland was raised by each Division's 2017 Hibernian of the Year. In the photo the Irish flag has been raised by Joe Flanagan of the Pearse Division and, closest to the flag pole, Denny Dennihan of the Donnelly Division. Both are former Division presidents and greatly respected and active members of their respective division having played critical roles uniting the two groups.



Hibernians raise the flags prior to the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day parade.



Pictured with Bishop Johnston are Hibernians Dennis Murray and Mike Murphy with Don Burkett standing behind the Bishop. The Bishop's expression is fairly typical of most people when Murphy is talking to them. The three Hibernians are part of a large and committed crew assembled this year by this year's fish dinner chairman Kevin Clossick

KCMO fish dinners with the Bishop

With the beginning of Lent the Padraig Pearse Division 1 in Kansas City, Missouri, issued Bishop James V. Johnston his own personalized apron and put him to work on the fish serving line. The Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph proudly wore his new apron, which noted in Gaelic he was "The Bishop and Head Chef."

For decades, the Pearse Division has served all-you-can eat fish dinners every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday. The dinners are hosted in the all-purpose room at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Redemptorist) Church in mid-town Kansas City. The dinners now serve the grandchildren of those who first attended at a very young age. A good number of the patrons include those that will use the Lent season to experiment Fridays from parish to parish to find the "second-best" dinner in town.

The fundraiser requires a substantial amount of volunteer work and coordination and historically the hard work is awarded as the dinners' proceeds provide the largest share of the Division's fundraising. The money is raised for numerous Pearse projects including the annual essay scholarship contest (a highlight of the award ceremony is the attendance by the Bishop – not in his apron); support for seminarians; and funding project to keep the inner-city urban core Catholic schools operating.

Missouri

Hibernians Parade in South St. Louis

Weather forecasters in St. Louis for days had predicted a wet and soggy start to the annual Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade. But the storms rolled through early in the morning of March 17, and although the skies were overcast when the parade got underway at 12:30, nary drop fell on the huge crowd assembled to witness the 34th annual parade.

The Hibernian parade, a St. Louis tradition since 1984, is held every year on the saint's feast day, in one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods in city's south side. Sponsored by the St. Louis County Board, the event was created to promote Irish heritage, history and culture and to also highlight the many contributions of the Irish people to America. This year's parade featured over 90 floats and units. Like traditional parades held in the Emerald Isle on Saint Patrick's feast day, a good portion of St. Louis' Irish-American community marched as family clans.

Serving as Grand Marshals of the 2017 parade was the family of Judge James Dailey Wahl. Wahl, a long-time St. Louis Municipal Court judge, and one of the organizers of the parade, passed away in December after a battle with leukemia.

"Judge Wahl was one of the driving forces behind the parade and many Irish-themed events in St. Louis for many years," said parade chairman Joe Murphy. "So we thought it was fitting to recognize his family this year for all their support to him over those years."

Leading off the big Irish event was Wahl's wife Kathy, and their children Tommy, Kerry, Kristin, Kelly Wahl Chew and son-in-law Zach Chew. They were followed by numerous members of the Dailey Clan.

This year's parade was also dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement, public safety personnel and union members killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001. Among those recognized as distinguished honorees were firefighters and law enforcement officers from St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

Over the years the Hibernian Parade has grown to become one of the premiere events in the City of St. Louis. For many years the local media have named it one of the "top ten" events in the city. The people of St. Louis have also spoken, and for the past three years the readers of the daily newspaper, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, have named the Hibernian Parade as the "Best Parade" in the St. Louis.



Grand Marshals - St. Louis parade Grand Marshals were, (back row, from left) Tommy Wahl, Nick Gangloff, Zach Chew, (middle row, from left) Kristin Wahl, Kathy Wahl, Kelly Wahl-Chew, Kerry Wahl and their Irish wolfhound Darcy.

North Carolina

Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, based in the Irish Consulate in Atlanta, GA, met with members of the Governor Thomas Burke Division, Wake County Division 1, on his visit to Raleigh, North Carolina, on February 7.



The Governor Thomas Burke Division, Wake County Division 1, inducted 12 new members into the division at their membership meeting on February 8. The new members who received their Shamrock Degree were, front row, from left, Kevin Meagher, Tom McElligott, Fergus Walsh, Brian Nelan; and back row, from left, Paul Armstrong, Ed Kelly, Steve Moore, Bob Martin, Al Spor, Kevin Travers, Mike Scanlin and Tom Scanlin.

James Dailey Wahl honored by St. Louis Hibernians

The death of Judge James Dailey Wahl in December (In Memoriam, Hibernian Digest, Feb-Mar) hit the St. Louis Irish-American Community pretty hard. For decades Judge Wahl had been an integral part of numerous Hibernian and Irish-themed events. He had even spearheaded the effort to bring the 2014 AOH National Convention to the Gateway City. But the one event he was most recognized for was something he helped launch following the tragic events of 9-11. Wahl led the effort to honor New York City Police Officers and Firefighters by bring representatives of both groups to St. Louis to serve as Grand Marshals of the 2002 Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The parade is held annually in one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods. To help defray the costs of bringing the New York first responders to St. Louis, Wahl put together a fundraiser. The event was a great success, but Wahl decided that St. Louis also had first responder "heroes" that needed to be recognized so he proposed making the event an annual tradition, which he organized every year. Later Wahl expanded the group of honorees to include union members and civic leaders. The event eventually became known as "Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats."

Shortly after Wahl's death, a group of Hibernians decided that they wanted the 16-year tradition to continue to honor of Judge Wahl's memory. So on March 9, the local Hibernians held the newly renamed "Judge James Dailey Wahl Memorial Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats" fundraiser.

The event was an outstanding success. Receiving special honors that evening were St. Louis City Police Officer Ryan Murphy, St. Louis County Police Officer and Hibernian Dave Holmes, St. Louis County Firefighter John Reynolds and St. Louis City Firefighter Kenny King. Mike O'Mara was named Labor Leader, and the Civic Leader was Chief Ron Battelle, Executive Director of BackStoppers, which provides financial assistance and support to the spouses and dependent children of members of the first responder community.

Also receiving special recognition that evening was the family of Judge Wahl, his wife Kathy, and their children, Tommy, Kerry, Kristin, Kelly Wahl Chew and son-in-law Zach Chew. In addition to a standing ovation by the crowd, the family was presented with a special ceremonial axe from the St. Louis Fire Department. Missouri's Emerald Society announced that in Judge Wahl's honor they were renaming their annual Irish Heritage Award, the "Judge James Dailey Wahl Irish Heritage Award." Finally, members of the State and County Boards and local Hibernian Divisions presented a \$1,000 check in Judge Wahl's honor to the Backstopper organization.

Mrs. Wahl thanked everyone for the outpouring of affection for their family and the recognition of her husband. She said she hoped the event would continue because it was so special to her husband. Following the ceremonies, the crowd was entertained by dancers from Megan-Torno School of Irish Dance and the music from the St. Louis Irish Session Players.

New York

Communion Breakfast in Yonkers

By Kevin Ellis

The Myles Scully Division 1, of Yonkers, hosted its Annual Communion Breakfast at St. Joseph's Seminary on February 26. Over 175 people were in attendance to hear guest speaker Bishop John O'Hara, Vicar of Southern Manhattan and Staten Island.

The Hibernians were welcomed back to Dunwoodie by Seminary Rector Msgr. Peter Vaccari and Dean of Seminarians Fr. Nicholas Zientarski, who concelebrated the mass with Bishop O'Hara. As per custom, the seminary agreed to once again allow The McSweeney Chalice to be used in the celebration of the Mass.

Division 1 also presented Peter Van Slyck with the James G. McGinty Hibernian of the Year Award. Peter is a long time member of Division 1, and has played a vital role in helping the Division achieve success over the past decade. Peter is a Yonkers Police Officer and currently serves as the President of the Police Emerald Society of Westchester County.

Division 1 also was able to present the seminary with a \$1,000 pledge in support of vocations. Division 1 also presented Bishop O'Hara with a \$500 donation in support of Trinity House Retreat Center in Westchester.



Aidan O'Kelly Lynch, Charles Chip McLean, Kevin Ellis, Bishop John O'Hara, Mike Morley, Tom Bierre, and Brendan Murphy.

Massachusetts



Division 8 AOH in Lawrence, MA, honored three of their members at its 146 Annual Saint Patrick's Banquet and Dance on March 4. Pictured, from left, Charles Breen, 2017 Irishman of the Year; Mary Anne Proctor, 2017 Irish Women of the Year; and Michael Garrihy, 2017 Cardinal Cushing Award recipient.

Massachusetts Hibernian State Convention Chairs Jack Lahey and Mary Whidden have announced that the Convention will kick off on June 2 with a service at the JFK Memorial in Hyannis. A full schedule of events will follow for the entire weekend.

The Essex County Board will hold their Convention on April 22 in Newburyport. AOH Newburyport Division President Paul O'Brien is in charge of this year's Convention events.

News on the Division front:

Division 1 Holyoke: Division 1 held their Annual Daniel S. Curran Irish Night on February 25. This event benefits the Maurice a Donahue Scholarship Fund. The Division also participated in Holyoke's Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 18.

Division 8, Lawrence: Mayor Daniel Rivera issued a proclamation declaring March as Irish Heritage Month in the city. Charles Breen was selected as Division 8's Irishman of the Year and Michael Garrihy received the Cardinal Cushing Award.

Division 10, Lynn: Division 10 held their Annual Saint Patrick's Day Banquet on March 17. On March 19, the Division held their Annual 5K Road Race.

Division 18, Salem: Division 18 held their Annual Communion Breakfast on March 12 and on March 17 the Division held a Saint Patrick's Dinner with entertainment.

Division 14 Watertown: Division 14 held a family Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 17 and an open house on March 18. The Division's Communion Breakfast was held on April 2. The guest speaker was the Rev. Matthew Conley.

Division 36 Worcester: On March 4, the Division's Annual Irish Festival was held; on March 12 a delegation marched in Worcester's Saint Patrick's Day Parade and on March 17 a full day of activities took place at the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Center.

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

Kentucky



Hibernians feeding the homeless an Irish Lunch.

Kentucky celebrates St. Patrick

The Father Abram J. Ryan Division had a busy St. Patrick season. We kicked off the festivities with our annual Wearing of the Green Party. The Hibernians started a new tradition by awarding the first ever Hibernian Hero Award, given each year to a police officer, firefighter and a paramedic. We awarded Janice Morgan paramedic, Brian O'Neill, firefighter and Eric Velten police officer with the First Hibernian Hero Awards. The Hibernians were also honored to recognize Tori Murden McClure as Irish Person of the Year. Tori is the president of Spalding University. She is also the first woman and first American ever to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

On March 10th, the Hibernians gathered at St. Louis Bertrand Church to celebrate mass honoring St. Patrick. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz presided over mass. He made the point of telling everyone he is known as Archbishop Joseph O'Kurtz on St. Patrick's Day. Afterwards the countdown was on for The St. Patrick's Day Parade. On a cloudy, chilly but dry afternoon the parade began without any problems. The parade had over a hundred entries. The streets were once again crowded with both the young and the old and by seeing all the smiles on their faces it was easy to see that a little cold weather could not keep the Irish from enjoying themselves.

On St. Patrick's Day morning, The Hibernians, with help from the Franciscan Shelter House, served an Irish Lunch to over 500 homeless men and women in the Louisville area. This reminds all Hibernians how lucky we are and we are proud to serve our community in any way we can. Later that day the Hibernians and friends met at The Bloody Monday Historical Marker in downtown Louisville. To commemorate a dark day in Louisville immigrant history that directly impacted the Irish. On Election Day, August 8, 1855, at least 22 people were killed after Protestant mobs attacked and slaughtered mostly immigrant Catholics who they felt were growing in numbers. Irish and German immigrants, most of them Catholic, were among the dead. Among them, an elderly man who was tossed into flames of his burning home. At the time, the Daily Democrat newspaper wrote his only crime was "that he was an Irishman and a Catholic."

After remembering and honoring our past, the Hibernians and friends processed down Main Street to Patrick O'Shea's Pub and Restaurant for the Hooley on St. Patrick's Day proper. Toasts were made, old and new stories told and Irish music was played. All and all another good St. Patrick's Day had come and gone.

New York



READY FOR THE MARCH IN SCHENECTADY

The Schenectady AOH proudly displayed their banner in Schenectady on March 17 as they prepared to march from City Hall with Mayor Gary McCarthy, center. Also pictured are Bill Munro, piper; Owen Cole, Past Pres.; Tom Lawrence, Sch'dy VP; Kelley Hanaway; James Scott, Sch'dy Pres.; Kevin Flahive, Event Chair; John Juhren, Past Pres.; Michael Glenn, Past Pres.; and John Ericson, Schenectady Hall Corporate President. Submitted by Michael Glenn.



BRONX AIDE HONORED

Annually, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee holds a dinner at Antun's restaurant in Queens at which the city parade's Grand Marshal, who this year was Michael J. Dowling, President and CEO of Northwell Health, and Dan Donovan, Aide from Bronx County, were honored before a crowd of over 300 celebrants. From left, Bronx County AOH President Bob Nolan, Thomas Gleason, Dan's daughter Danielle, Dan, Dowling, Dan's daughter Laurie and her husband, Anthony Giacobbe. Photo by Nuala Purcell.

Carmel Reilly, Grand Marshal in Pearl River

Thousands of residents and visitors lined Middletown Road and Central Avenue in Pearl River to enjoy the Pearl River's 55th annual St. Patrick's Day parade and celebration.

The second largest parade in New York State included multiple bagpipe bands, Irish dancing schools, school bands, fire department, politicians and colleges, presented everyone an opportunity to celebrate the feast day of St. Patrick.

Like father, like daughter Pearl River grand marshals run in the family

By Peter D. Kramer, in *The Journal News* on March 2

Apparently grand marshals run in the Reilly family. Well, at least they march.

Carmel Reilly — the grand marshal of the 55th Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade, held March 19 in Pearl River — followed in the footsteps of her dad, Matt Reilly, who was grand marshal for the 12th parade, in 1974. It's the first time a father and daughter have been so honored.

The Reillys have been taking part in Rockland's annual tribute to Ireland's patron saint since they came to Blauvelt (NY) in 1968, a relocation Matt Reilly calls "the best move I ever made."

The Fermanagh native rattles off names of people who have contributed to building the parade's tradition, a tradition that has placed it second in New York and third in the nation for such gatherings. New York City's parade, up Fifth Avenue, is New York's largest; Savannah, Georgia, has the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade.

His highlight: March 19, 1995, when Gerry Adams, the president of the Irish political party Sinn Fein, marched down Middletown Road in Pearl River, thanks to the efforts of U.S. Rep. Ben Gilman and Suffern's Danny Withers, who was instrumental in the Ancient Order of Hibernians locally.

"There must have been 100,000 people here that day," Matt Reilly says wistfully. "That really put us on the map. There were people lined up 20 deep along the route that day."

For this year's grand marshal, there likely hasn't been a year she's missed the parade. It's how she marks her year.

"I'm sure I was there, in a stroller, before I could walk," says the 51-year-old Pearl River resident who is a font of parade history, recalling warm years and snowy years and years when remarkable things happened.

"People know it as the Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade, but it's really a county event, sponsored by the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians," Reilly said, in the Bergen Restaurant Supply store she manages on Route 304, a stone's throw from the Pearl River line. "For years, it moved to different towns, to New City and Haverstraw and Suffern."



Carmel Reilly voted as its 55th Rockland County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal. Carmel is the daughter of Matt and Moira Reilly of Blauvelt, NY. Carmel led the parade 43 years after her dad was grand marshal. Photo by Bob Reers.

When the parade was in Suffern, Carmel Reilly says, the route took it down Orange Avenue. As tradition holds that Protestants wear orange on St. Patrick's Day, while Catholics wear green, the name of the street didn't sit well with the Hibernians, who changed the thoroughfare's name for parade day to Ireland's Way.

Starting in 1974, when Matt Reilly was the parade's grand marshal — walking an Irish wolfhound all along the parade route — the march found a permanent home in Pearl River.

There have been 50 men and five women grand marshals in the parade's history, with family ties uniting four previous grand marshals. The 1970 grand marshal, Ray Sheridan Sr., was followed by his son, Ray Sheridan Jr., in 2012. The 1975 grand marshal, Niel O'Sullivan, was followed by his wife, Mary O'Sullivan, in 2007.

It was Mary O'Sullivan, Carmel Reilly recalls with a laugh, who was asked by the priest at the pre-parade Mass in 1998 if the march was still on, as heavy snow fell; she declared "We're marching."

This year's grand marshal was sure to know the way of this year's march. She's a marathoner who runs the two-mile parade route repeatedly as part of her training.

Her footwear for March 19 was less marathon-friendly: boots with a heel. "I've gotten them broken in," she says with a laugh.

(Reprinted with permission from the Journal News. Edited for the Digest by John O'Connell)

Pennsylvania

Terry Gallagher named Hibernian of the Year

Attorney Terrance V. Gallagher, right, of West Scranton, PA, was selected as the 2017 Hook O'Malley AOH Division 4 Hibernian of the Year recipient. He espouses the principles of the award through his service to a number of government, social service and youth organizations. He is also very active in area athletic associations, St. Patrick's Parish and Irish-related groups.



With Terry is Lackawanna County Commissioner and Hibernian member Patrick M. O'Malley.

The Sons of Erin Division, Mercer County, honored Roland Curry as the Hibernian of the Year, and Dr. John Scullin as Irishman of the Year, at a dinner held on March 8 at Muscarella's in Sharpsville, PA. In a nomination process opened to the public, Mr. Curry, a local businessman, and Dr. Scullin, an orthopedic surgeon from Greenville, PA, were chosen. In attendance, along with family, friends and associates, were local dignitaries, including Parke Wentling, State Representative; Matt McConnell, Scott Boyd and Tim McGonigle, Mercer County Commissioners; and Father David Foradori, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Greenville; and Mr. George Warren III, 2016 Irishman of the Year.



Hibernian of the Year Roland Curry, left, and District 7 Director Ted Miller, center, and Irishman of the Year Dr. John P. Scullin.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Fuair mé rudaí suimiúla ar an idirlíon le déanaí faoi shliocht na hIorua i Meiriceá, go háirithe sna stáit Minnesota, Wisconsin agus Iowa. *I found interesting things on the internet lately about Norwegians in America, especially in the states...* Bíonn feiseanna Ioruacha níos mó anseo ná a bhíonn san Iorua féin! *There are bigger Norwegian festivals here than in Norway itself!* Tá scoileanna a mhúineann an Ioruais anseo, agus músaem agus cultúrlanna freisin. *There are schools which teach Norwegian here, and museums and cultural centers too.* Conas a tharla seo? *How did this happen?* Ach amháin Éire féin, d'imigh an céatadán is mó den daonra ar imirce ón Iorua, an chuid is mó go dtí na Stáit Aontaithe. *Other than Ireland, the greatest percentge of population emigrated from Norway, mostly to the US.*

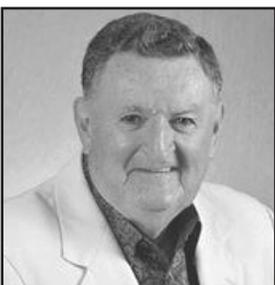
Tá bainteacha ag an Iorua le hÉirinn, dar ndóigh. *Norway has links to Ireland, of course.* Tháinig mórán de na Lochlannaigh ón Iorua. *Many of the Vikings came from Norway.* Bhunaigh siad na cathracha Baile Átha Cliath, Luimneach agus Port Láirge. *They founded the cities of Dublin, Limerick and Waterford.* Bhíodh seilbh ag an Iorua ar Mhanainn go 1266. *They owned Mann until...* Ní Lochlannaigh níos mó iad, ach tá

an ríocht céanna ann fós ó 872 AD. *They're not Vikings any more, but they still have the same kingdom since...*

Cosúil le hÉirinn, bhí a gcuid tubaistí acusan, freisin. *Like Ireland, they had their share of disasters.* Fuair breis is leath na ndaoine ansin bás sa cheathrú haois déag den phlá dubh. *More than half their population died of the black plague in the 14th century.* Bhí gorta acu sa hochtú haois déag. *They had a famine in the 18th century.* Tháinig an Protastúnachas i bhfeidhm sa séú haois déag agus rinneadh coilíneach de chuid na Danmhairge iad. *Protestantism came into effect in the 16th century and they were made into a Danish colony.* Brúdh teanga na Danmhairge orthu ansin freisin. *The language of Denmark was forced on them, too.*

Tá daonáireamh sa lá atá inniu ann atá breis is milliún níos lú ná atá in Éirinn. *Their population today is more than a million less than Ireland.* Ach tá an tír i bhfad níos mó. *But the country is way bigger.* Is iomaí canúint – agus fiú teanga – atá acu. *They have many dialects – and even languages.* Ach labhraíonn an chuid is mó acu Ioruais, mar gheall ar athbheochan na teanga sin sa naoú haois déag. *But most speak Norwegian, because of a language revival in the 19th century.* Is casta an scéal é, ach ghlac an móramh lena sean-teanga arís. *It's complicated, but the majority accepted their old language again.* Labhraíonn 90% Béarla freisin. *90% speak English too.* Mar sin, is féidir an dá theanga a choimeád – maraon le mion-teangacha eile (teanga a lucht siúil san áireamh - sea, tá a leithéid ann!). *Therefore, it's possible to keep the 2 languages – along with other minority languages (including the language of the Travelers – yep, they have 'em!).*

in memoriam



Noel Kingston

Noel Kingston, Killorglin, Co. Kerry-born icon of Irish entertainment, went to his eternal reward on March 3, 2017 in his 78th year, just three weeks after performing on a Cruise of Irish stars. By all accounts his showmanship was never better. Feeling ill after the cruise, he went to a doctor who told him he had an especially aggressive form of neuroendocrine cancer, went home to hospice and passed away less than a month later. Educated at Rockhill College and having performed with the Swingtime Aces Showband, Noel arrived

in America in 1964 and began performing almost immediately. He was part of the first City Center House Band while working for NBC as an account executive for the Tonight Show. In 1966, he recorded at the John Barleycorn restaurant and will long be remembered as the voice of the Paddy Noonan Band on that and subsequent recordings before launching his own popular trio with Paddy Farrell and Marty Supple. He played Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, the Kennedy Center and was the second ever to play the dining room at the United Nations; Count Basie was the first. He became the staple performer for Embassy parties, Cruise Ships, Irish Weekends and concerts when the very best was called for. His 27 years on the radio endeared him to millions of listeners who will miss this gentle and extremely talented man; thank God for recordings.

Daniel Murphy

Daniel J. Murphy, "Uncle Shorty," passed away at 90 years of age on March 17, 2017, in Venice, Florida, surrounded by his family.

He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus, Police Anchor Club, Fairfield Gaelic American Club and Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks. He recently transferred his membership in the VFW and American Legion to a post in Venice, FL.

Proud of his Irish heritage Dan and Frieda started the first Irish Feis in Stamford for the AOH, which they ran for many memorable years.

He was born in Stamford on March 13, 1927, to the late William J. & Anna (Boyle) Murphy. He left high school to join the Navy and served during World War II. After an honorable discharge he joined the plumbers union and was later reactivated into service during the Korean Conflict. While still in the service he was appointed to the Stamford Police Department rising to the rank of Detective and was a member of the Police Scuba Team. After retiring from the police force he returned to the plumbing trade.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Frieda Schreiber Murphy, a brother William Murphy and sister Ann "Sis" Flannery. He is survived by his children Sharon McGovern & husband Noel of Trumbull, Daniel J. Murphy, Jr. and Patricia L. Murphy of Nokomis, Florida, a grandson Terence D. McGovern of Trumbull and two sisters Jean Davis and Joan Potts both of Nokomis, Fl. and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. John's Basilica, Stamford, on April 1.

Judge Gerard O'Brien

The Honorable Judge Gerard O'Brien was Pinellas Division 2 (Florida) Chairman of Standing Committees since the division founding on December 10, 1995. He always had good things to say, full of wisdom and amazing stories. He served as a Judge in St. Petersburg, FL. Brother Gerard passed away on October 23, 2016.

James A. Whelan

James Anthony Whelan, Pinellas Division 2, FL, passed away on February 17. He was born in Elizabeth, NJ, and served in the Phillipines. He took his Major Degree in 1965. He joined AOH Pinellas 2 in 1999 and served as Division Recording Secretary and Vice President. Jim served the AOH FL State Board as Charities and Missions Chair from 2007 to 2011. Although his ashes are going back to New Jersey, a memorial Mass will be said at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in St. Petersburg on June 10, 2017, at 4 p.m.

David L. Prior

David L. Prior served as Treasurer and just recently re-elected Sentinel of Florida's Pinellas Division 2. He helped with pancake breakfasts and scholarship contests. He helped us get appointments at City Hall in St. Pete with recent mayors for the Irish American Heritage Month Project. He visited the sick, such as recently driving his father, Jim, to visit the Judge Gerard O'Brien, who just passed away himself three months ago. He told us the story as former military helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in the summer of 1992 near Miami. David was locally involved with leading the Boy Scouts. His own son, Patrick, just got accepted into West Point. Brother David passed away January 18, 2017.

Jimmy Reilly

The Tara Court Major Degree Team, Bronx and Suffolk County Hibernians are in mourning for the loss of one of their favorite members who went home to God on March 17. Jimmy Reilly of Drumlish, Co Longford was not only a valued member of all three, but also a man who people enjoyed just being near. He was always smiling and ready to entertain with his favorite ditty "There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza." Sadly there is now a hole in many Irish hearts. As a member of the Tara Court Major Degree Team, Jimmy conferred the Degrees from Long Island to Florida, Texas, Colorado, Montana and all over the east coast leaving a legacy of laughter and smiles wherever he went. He arrived in New York in 1960, returned to Ireland in 1962 for four months and returned to make his home in America. That summer, as a chef in the Shamrock House in East Durham, he met Tessie Flanagan and they wed in 1964. The rest is the history of a happy family of three married daughters and five grandchildren. A man of many talents, Jimmy worked in a glass factory, taught dancing at a Fred Astaire Studio, worked as a chef in several major restaurants, drove a bus in New York City and after retiring from that job, became a librarian at the West Islip Public Library. His greatest job however, was making friends, who are all better for having met this happy man whose memory will surely keep him alive.



New Jersey

Man of the Year: Msgr. Ken

The Fr. Duffy Div. 2 in Ocean County held their 21 st Annual Irish Heritage Dinner Dance on March 4 at St. Mary's of the Pines, Manahawkin, New Jersey. This year's honoree was Msgr. Ken, the division's Chaplin and Pastor of St. Mary's. An Irish Mass was held at 4 p.m. prior to the dinner, which was attended by more than 240 guests. Division President Bob Goodwin presented Msgr. Ken with the Man of the Year award.

Honoring Saint Patrick



Three past Nassau County Aides to the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade joined in this year's march. From left, Joe McDonald, Division 20; Sean O'Rourke, Division 3; and Jim Henry, Division 14.



2017 Grand Marshal Tom O'Donnell of the Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, Saint Patrick's Parade at the Grand Marshal's Ball with the Coyle School of Irish Dance. Submitted by Pete Hand, Notre Dame Div. 1, Montgomery County.



Hibernians from Bergen Division 32 at Bergenfield parade on March 12, in which the division marches with their children. This is a picture of the Boland Boys, Aides to the Grand Marshal in memory of their Dad, Dan Boland, who passed away before the parade.



Fr. Solanus Casey, Bergen Division 32, River Edge, NJ, marched in the Yonkers parade on March 18. Division 32 members Leo McGuire and Rec. Secretary Steve Baxter with his Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan.



Indianapolis, Indiana, Kevin Barry Division flags flew as we led our group on a brisk, windy and somewhat wet March 17th in the 37th annual Indianapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade consists of high school bands, floats, Catholic schools, Irish dancers, bagpipe & drum bands, Irish organizations and dignitaries. It's a festive time Kevin Barry Division AOH looks forward to every year. Submitted by Jim Lynch, Secretary, Kevin Barry Division.



Braving the same 40-mile-per-hour gusts and sub-zero wind chills, which forced postponement of the Utica St Patrick's parade, undaunted Central New York worshipers gathered at St Joseph and St Patrick's Church in Utica Friday to celebrate the heritage and Catholic inspiration given the world by the man born Maewyn Succat, now revered as St. Patrick of Ireland. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr., who submitted this item.



Danny O'Connell, National Vice President; Denny Parks, National Director; Ed Halligan, Pennsylvania State Board President; and Ed Moss, Mahoning County, Ohio Division marched proudly in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11.



Hibernian Brothers marched and supported Kings County, NY, and Division 12 of Bay Ridge. Kevin and Mike carried the county banner down a windy 3rd Avenue. Submitted by Steve Kiernan, President, AOH Kings County Board.



Orange County, NY, Div. 1 Past President George Anderson was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Mid Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade in Goshen on March 19. From left, John Manning, NYS AOH Treasurer; Keith Reynolds, NYS Organizer; Tom Flynn, Orange County Div. 1 President; George Anderson, Grand Marshal; Tim McSweeney NYS President; Art Fitzgerald, Hudson Valley Police Emerald Society Board Chairman.

Honoring Saint Patrick



Hibernians were on parade in Louisville, Kentucky. Submitted by John O'Dwyer, President, Father Abram J Ryan Division 1 Louisville.



At the Rockaway, NY, parade breakfast were, from left, State VP Vic Vogel, State Treasurer and Deputy Grand Marshal John Manning, LAOH Queens County Treasurer and Deputy Grand Marshal Mary Forde, Deputy Grand Marshal Jimmy McGovern and State President Tim McSweeney.



LAOH John F. Kennedy Div 2, Pottsville (Schuylkill County) PA get ready to step off. Carrying the banner, Sandy Horsfield and Katie Horsfield. Members, front, from left: Lydia Laughlin, PA State Publicity /County President /Division Vice-President; Maryann Horsfield, Kathleen Valibus, Recording Secretary. Back row: Rose Ann Petrusky, Treasurer; Patricia Denmon; Maria Dalton; Kathryn Clews (with Amber and Jacob Clews); Mary Melincavage, Nanette Purcell; Jill Slis; Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Missions & Charities Officer/PA Past State President/Division President.



Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Parade on March 11 drew 23,000 marchers! Temperature at the start of the parade was 15 degrees. There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Pittsburgh as early as 1869. Several Hibernian divisions proudly participated. Ray Feather was our photographer. National Officers Danny O'Connell, Denny Parks and Jim Green were in the parade.



In Minnesota, the Shamrock Division marched with Archbishop John Ireland Division in St. Paul Parade. Continuing what has been a long tradition in the city of St. Paul, the 2017 St. Patrick's Day's events started off with mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul celebrated by Archbishop Hebda. This mass has annually been sponsored by the Archbishop John Ireland, Division 4. Following the mass, the St. Paul St. Patrick's Parade wound its way through historic downtown St. Paul. In the parade were the two Minnesota divisions marching together. The Shamrock Division 1 and the Archbishop John Ireland Division 4 have marched together before. The combined AOH members, easily recognized by their multicolored Irish sashes and AOH Division banners, added an air of dignity and history to the festive occasion. Pictured are Hibernian Brothers Brent Shaughnessy, Bill Collins and Bruce Kelly awaiting the beginning of the St. Patrick's Parade.



After a good day's march at the St. Pat's parade in Savannah, Georgia, on the 17th with, from left, Joe Morton, State of Georgia AOH President; John O'Donnell, of Division 32, Chicago; Ken Adams, Treasurer, AOH Div. 1 Savannah (former resident of IL); and Dan Bendig, AOH VP Division 1 Savannah. We were standing outside the famous Savannah bar Pinky Masters, where Jimmy Carter hopped up on the bar and announced he was running for president in the last century. Gawking along the parade route were Chicago AOHers John, Tim, Jim Moriarty and their cousin Bill, who cheered on the hundreds of floats from the sidelines. It was a little warmer here at 70 degrees than the temps for the Chicago parades.

Ladies Hibernian News

National Secretary

by Karen Keane

Thank you to everyone who submitted their reports timely. By far, the membership reports are easier than the financial reports. It is truly amazing to see the way our membership is growing in some areas. The goal of each Division across the country should be to see it grow in their area.

This is the season that everyone knows about being Irish, which makes it the perfect time for recruitment. Are you, as a member of Our Noble Order, doing something to bring just one member into the fold? Whether we are at Church, work, bowling, or with family, are we talking a woman into joining? If we don't take an active role in recruitment, no one else will.

Another thing we can do is to help retain members that have fallen off the radar. If you haven't seen someone at a meeting or an event, give her a call or drop a line or card to say hello. Retaining members is as important as getting new members.

Finally, think about how welcoming your Division is to new members. Many Sisters join and don't return because they feel unwelcomed, or an outsider in a secret club. Once a Sister takes the Oath, she is a Sister. Is your Division welcoming new members to help out at events right away? Another comment made is "my help is never wanted." Remember, God created all of us with talents and abilities. Are we including our Sisters in the events, or are we saying, "this is the way I've been doing it for years?" Are we surrendering our power after we leave office or are we holding on to it? These items speak to whether we will be able to bring in new members and let the new members become the present and future of Our Order.

There are many young Catholic women, Irish born or of Irish decent, that want to be part of the world's largest Irish Catholic Woman's organization. Let's make recruitment and retention important and if each of us brought in one new member, we would double our size and power.

President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



As we begin to enjoy this Spring Season, may each of us take time to thank the Lord for the blessings He has given to each of us. Let me take this opportunity to thank our State Presidents for your work in ensuring that your entities completed their 2016 Annual Membership and Annual Financial Reports according to the calendar dates set in our National Constitution. Your efforts and those of your leadership teams at the various levels within your state are also recognized.

At this time, most of the LAOH State Boards are engaged in the planning of their 2017 State Conventions. I encourage all LAOH members to commit their time to participate in their State Convention. Through participating in the business sessions of the State Convention, members have the opportunity not only to learn more about the workings of the LAOH in their State, but the members also have the opportunity to share their ideas and make recommendations for consideration for the common good of the organization. If your State Convention is not listed on the State Convention Calendar on the National Website: www.ladiesaoh.com, I ask the State President to send your State Convention dates and contact information to National Secretary Karen Keane so that each State Convention may be listed on the 2017 State Convention Calendar.

In rereading the Preamble of our National Constitution which states: "We will continue to work with our brothers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc in the spirit of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity," I asked the members of the National Board to renew their commitment to work in a collaborative manner with the AOH in the following joint programs: Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) Program, St. Patrick (PSP) Program, the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award. For the two (2) Award joint programs, the purpose, process/procedures, and timelines are stated in both the LAOH and AOH Constitutions. As the purpose, process/procedures, and timelines for the FFAI and PSP programs are not stated in the LAOH Constitution, I recently appointed two (2) Ad Hoc Committees.

Past National President Mary T. Leatham, who also serves as the FFAI Appointee for the 2016-2018 Term, is the Chair of the FFAI Ad Hoc Committee. The FFAI Committee members are Dolores Desch (NY), Carolyn Killion (PA), Catherine Reinholdt (MD) and Kathleen Savage (MA). Catholic Action Officer Colleen Bowers is the Chair of the PSP Ad Hoc Committee. The PSP Committee members are Cheryl Daniels (SC), Mary Ann Kelly Klein (IN), Kathie Linton (OH), and Bernadette Sullivan (NJ). Each Committee has been directed to review current practices, make recommendations for revisions, if any are determined to be needed, and to clearly define the purpose, process/procedures and timelines to be followed at each level within the Order. Once the findings and recommendations of each Committee are reviewed by the LAOH National Board, these recommendations will be provided to the AOH National Board and designated AOH Committee for their review and recommendations. The end result of this Committee work for each program is to have a clearly established collaborative purpose, processes/procedures and timelines that guide, support, and direct the work of the LAOH and the AOH in the joint FFAI Program and the PSP Program.

I pray that our Patron Saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, continue to bless our membership, the works of the Order and our families.

National Irish Historian

by Dee Wallace

2016-2017 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Winners

As National Irish Historian, I am honored to announce the Winners of the 2016-2017 National Irish History Writing Contest. The theme for the writing contest this year was "The Role of the Irish in World War I". I had four history professors judge the essays and The Head History Judge said, "We have never seen such well written and researched essays yet the student's demonstrated understanding of the historical, political, religious and cultural forces influencing the role of the Irish in WWI. Excellent work from all.

Winners:

- Level 1 – Grades 6-7-and 8
- 1st Place Abigail Shaw, GA
- 2nd Place Julian Santillan, MI
- 3rd Place – Brendan Patterson, Ohio
- Honorable Mention: Matthew Kemenosh, NJ
- Honorable Mention: Grace Hubbard, PA

Winners:

- Level 11 – Grades 9-10-11-12
- 1st Erin Fitzgerald, NY
- 2nd Karina Costello, NY
- 3rd Emily Ramirez, CA
- Honorable Mention: Mairead Mooney, Texas
- Honorable Mention: Maggie Guggenberger, MASS

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Mary Ryan		Marlboro, MA
Dorothy Weldon		Monongahela, PA
Mary T. Leatham		Troy, NY
Mary B. Dolan		North Brookfield, MA
Peggy Cooney		Pittsburgh, PA
Mary Paglione		St. Lucie West, FL
Kathie Linton		Uniontown, Ohio

New York

The Broome County LAOH Board installed new officers on January 8th. Karen Keane, President NYS LAOH, installed the Officers. We were honored to have Karen and Jacqueline Clute NYS Vice President join us for the installation.

The annual Hibernian Dinner Dance was held on February 18th at Traditions at the Glen. The parade officials for the 50th St. Patrick's Day parade in Binghamton were announced and past Grand Marshals were recognized.

Division 1 and Division 2 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians hosted Boscov's Irish Days on February 25th. We celebrated with the community our Irish heritage with a day of Irish music, dancing, vendors, food and drink. The Maloney Memorial Pipe Band, BallyClare Irish dancers, Johnson School of Irish Dance and The Shambles provided entertainment throughout the day.

On March 4th, Binghamton celebrated the 50th anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day parade. The day began with a beautiful mass at St. Mary's Church to honor St. Patrick and our deceased members. The celebration continued at Seton Catholic High with musical entertainment by Pipe and Mummer bands and Old Friends. The day came to a close at the AOH with music by Pat Kane. The theme of this year's parade was "50 years of Irish pride", a reminder of our many Irish blessings.

On St. Patrick's Day, our officers and members attended the flag raisings in Johnson City and Binghamton. Members also attended mass and a party at St. Patrick's Church. Our AOH hall opened its doors to celebrate and enjoyed music by The Shambles in the evening.

Rockland County

The LAOH County Board and LAOH Division 3, were well represented in our local St. Patrick's Day Parades. LAOH Division 3 was especially proud to support two of their own.

Carmel Reilly, Financial Secretary, LAOH Division 3, was the Grand Marshal in the 55th Annual Rockland County St. Patrick's Parade. She is just the 5th woman to hold that position. Her father, Matthias (a/k/a Matt) Reilly was the Grand Marshal in 1974, thus making them the 1st Father/Daughter Grand Marshals! The parade was held on March 19th and God was good. The men and women of the Rockland County AOH had perfect marching conditions. It is the 2nd largest parade in New York, after New York City.

Carmel's aides included: Moira Reilly, LAOH Division 3 (her mother); Mary O'Donoghue, LAOH Division 2; Susan D'Adamo, LAOH Division 4 and Patricia Brady, LAOH County Board.

Helen Kilgallen Murphy, Recording Secretary, LAOH Division 3, was the Rockland County Aide to the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. Helen represented Rockland in true Irish fashion. After suffering the loss of her father on the morning of the Emerald Ball, Helen did what any real daughter of Erin would do. She honored her father's memory and his legacy (Tom Kilgallen was a part of the first few parade committees) by attending the Emerald Ball with her husband and danced the night away, with her parents never far from her thoughts. Tom and Bridie must have been beaming. On March 17th, 2017, Helen proudly marched up Fifth Avenue.



Grand Marshal Roy Mulcahy, Maid of Erin Anna Gilroy and Official Starter Becky Sutliff.



Members of Rockland County LAOH.

South Carolina



The LAOH, St. Ciara Division, Bluffton, SC President, Maureen Binder (L) and Vice-President, Barbara Smith (R) presented a check to St. Gregory the Great School Principal, Christopher Trott for their Scholarship Fund. The donation was from the Kennedy family in honor of Eldora Kennedy who was the 1st President of the St. Ciara Division.

Ohio



National Treasurer, Marilyn Madigan and Fr. Ryan Duns SJ with Cleveland's Hibernian of the Year Maire Kilbane Leffel.



**Deadline for the June-July issue
is NO LATER than
June 1**

New Jersey

St. Bridget's Division

With the start of the new year, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - St. Bridget's Division 4, located in Monmouth County in NJ, voted in a new slate of officers. The new slate hopes to schedule multiple new outings and fund raisers as well as improve the lines of communications within the division. The outgoing president is Alberta Brogan who is ready to assist the new slate of officers and continue to participate in the future as she always had in the past. A big thank you goes out to Alberta for her impressive leadership throughout these past years!!

The new officer are: President, Maureen Winski; Vice-President, Mary Ellen O'Halloran; Recording Secretary, Cathy Kelly; Treasurer, Betty Scanlon; Financial Secretary, Blanche Redfern; Irish Historian, Debra Daly; Missions & Charities, Kathy Borchert; Catholic Action, Mary Dick, Mistress At Arms, Janice Geiler; Sentinel, Patty O'Malley; Immediate Past President, Alberta Brogan; Immigration & Legislation, Teresa Ann Lennon; Freedom For All Ireland, Teresa Ann Lennon; Pub Rel/Press & Publicity, Maria Dunn; Sunshine, Eileen Morgan-Lavin.

Massachusetts

A Super Seisiun was held at the AOH/LAOH Division 36's Fiddlers' Green Pub last month. A truly grand time was had by all; but especially by Helen Foley who was the honoree of the seisiun in thanks for all her hard work in booking such fine entertainment and working diligently for the Irish community over the years. It was time to show Helen our gratitude.

The capacity size crowd was entertained by the likes of Steve Brown, former All Ireland Bones player, singer/songwriter Robbie O'Connell, Cait Sargent Lubelczyk of Fergus, composer George Arata, flute player Jimmy Noonan accompanied by his talented son, Seamus, Mike Ladd of Blackstone Cuil, the multi-talented Mike Murphy, Eamonn Marshall of Comhaltas Coeltori Eireann and many more.

This event was secretly planned by Helen's son, Paul C. Foley and Bud Sargent. Bud, along with his friend Desi Mcloughlin, hosts Worcester's favorite Irish music program, Four Green Fields, on station WCWU 91.3, www.wcuw.org, every Saturday morning from 10 - Noon. He has worked many an event with Helen Foley. Helen has hosted the twice monthly Seisiun in Worcester for over 13 years, and works tirelessly for many committees and Irish groups throughout the city.

Helen was born in County Offaly, Ireland. She is the youngest of six siblings, and she gets back to visit Ireland as much as she can. Helen has been married to Paul V. Foley for 48 years. They have six children and eight grandchildren. They are truly pillars of the community. Helen has experienced some health issues over the past few years, but no one would ever know it. She always has a smile on her face and welcomes all with sincerity unique to the Irish. Those of you who have been fortunate enough to visit the Motherland know exactly what I am talking about. We here in the Worcester area are truly blessed to have Helen in our midst and are so very grateful for all who turned out for such a wonderfully momentous event in her life. Thank you for everything you've done, Helen!

North Carolina

St. Brendan the Navigator, Division 1, Wilmington, NC Division Remembers Sister Marion McGillicuddy

It is with deep sadness that the St. Brendan Navigator LAOH Division 1 of Wilmington, NC, announces the passing of our Dear LAOH Chaplain, Sister Marion McGillicuddy.. She fought a brave and courageous battle with colon cancer. She was a beautiful and holy person to everyone and never complained about anything. Sister almost celebrated her 91st Birthday. She planned her own funeral and at the end of mass she made sure that "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" was part of the ceremony of her life, along with a bag piper. May God hold her close to His heart. We will miss her Irish smile and twinkling eyes along with her words of wisdom and love.

The Wilmington Division will be celebrating St. Bridget's birthday at Porters Neck Country Club in Wilmington, NC with a luncheon, Lady Hibernians, guests, students, and parents attending. Students who were the winners in the local and state LAOH Irish Essay Contest for 2017 will join in the festivities. The student essays about the "The Role of the Irish in World War I" will be read out loud by the Irish Historian Hope Cusick to the audience. It will definitely be a fine tribute and an excellent history of the events of that World War.

LAOH President Pat Dagon says, "This luncheon is one of our most important events of the year, celebrating the importance of St. Bridget and the Irish essay winners. We are so proud to have the students enter this contest each year. They carry on the Irish heritage and history for the future."

The Ladies will have their Irish bake sale to collect moneys for the unfortunate. The tables will be filled with Irish soda breads, cookies, cakes, brownies, cup cakes, and muffins.

Once again the LAOH joined in the partnering of the AOH Division in assisting the men with the parade. They marched through the city of Wilmington and then attend the St Patrick's Day luncheon with a luncheon tribute to the Marines in a corned beef and cabbage meal, held at the Hilton Hotel.

The Ladies have also sent off numerous premie baby knitted hats and baby blankets to the Neo-natal center in Atlanta, Georgia. This is continuing project for the Division for the last ten years. They are sent two times a year to the center.

Kentucky



Board member Mary Ann Fages was awarded the St. Brigid's award for her generous and extraordinary humanitarian works within the Order and her local community. She received her award and rode in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Pennsylvania



Bottom Row left to right: Maggie Cloonan, Peggy Cooney, Marge Visokey, Jean O'Malley, Lifetime Member Recipients. Top Row left to right: Kathleen Diulus, LAOH Allegheny County President, Shirley Murphy, Lifetime Member Recipient.

Washington, DC

The very cold weather did not dampen our spirits as we marched in two St. Patrick's parades: Gaithersburg, Maryland and Washington, DC. Our DC parade had us marching down wind-swept, historic Constitution Avenue. We proudly marched behind our banner in front of an Old Town trolley. We had an enjoyable evening at the dinner dance sponsored by the American Club. In addition to a scrumptious corn beef and cabbage dinner, we were entertained by the fabulous Sean Fleming band. An array of champion step dancers in gorgeous costumes, entertained us during the intermission. Many of us attended the annual feast day Mass at the downtown St. Patrick's Church. Additional Irish step dancers and bag pipers greeted those entering the church. This church dates back to the 1700's, when it was constructed to serve the Irish workmen who were here constructing the White House. The Daughters of Erin, Division 9, celebrated its 31st anniversary at the beautiful Lahinge Restaurant, which was recently opened by two brothers who hail from County Longford: Christy and Frank Hughes. Many items detailing the full history of Division 9 were on display. We are in hopes that the LAOH in Washington, DC will continue to grow, as we are involved in many recruitment drives.



The Washington D.C. Div 9 Ladies, participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Virginia

Virginia Celebrates Irish-American Heritage Month with masses, parades, festivals and hooleys



Virginia State Board led Hibernians in Alexandria Parade, from left, Bill Halpin, Gene Bransfield and Jay McCarthy, assisted by future Hibernians Sean and Aedan Kiesner.



The Manassas Parade



St Patrick (Jim McLaughlin) led the Alexandria Parade.



St Patrick (Prince William County President, Vince Fitzpatrick) with Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish and Vice Mayor Mark Aveni.



Windblown St Patrick (Bill Howard) Roanoke Parade.



Herbert Cady Div. brothers at St Mary hooley.



Gen Thomas F. Meagher Div. (SP01) Fredericksburg VA.



Virginia State Board, Brothers of Herbert-Cady (AL01), Col Cunningham (L001) and Gen Meagher Divisions after Mass at St Mary Church, Alexandria.



Herbert Cady Div. (AL01) at Alexandria Parade.

Hibernians at the White House



Donald Cardinal Wuerl of the Washington Archdiocese showed off his personal Hibernian jacket after the St. Patrick's Day Mass ushered by fellow Hibernians, background from left, Kevin Dillon, Jim Keenan, Keith Carney and Ralph Day.

The fountain on the south lawn flowed green on this sunny day in March in Washington, D.C., as seven AOH Brothers, including National President Jim McKay, joined the most exclusive gathering of Irish America in the East Wing of the White House. Military pipers, Irish dancers and musicians ushered in guests to an expansive reception, where Irish Taoiseach and Mrs. Kenny presented a Waterford crystal bowl of shamrocks to President Trump in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Joining the trio on the stage was Vice President Mike Pence, a man of great Irish heritage.

An annual ceremony dating back to 1950, the President and Taoiseach broke tradition this year by stepping off the stage to shake hands with those attendees standing close by. Among the small crowd of several hundred were Irish VIPs Ambassador Anne Anderson, TD Gerry Adams and Irish Senator Billy Lawless for Irish Diaspora and numerous members of the U.S. Congress and White House staff all sharing Irish descent.



Hibernians attended the White House St. Patrick's Day Reception for the Irish Prime Minister. From left, National Ritual & Degrees Chairman JJ Kelly; Chairman of the Standing Committee Division 1 New York County John Downing; New York State Deputy Finance Chairman A. Warren Scullin; National President Jim McKay III; Past National Director Pat Troy; District of Columbia Chaplin Rev. John Hurley; and Past National Director Keith Carney.



Indiana

Kevin Barry Division 3 AOH and Our Lady of Knock Division 1 LAOH, both from Indianapolis, Indiana, gathered on the altar steps of Saint John the Evangelist Church for the largest group photo of the two groups ever taken. This photo traditionally began Kevin Barry Division's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, which is always held on the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. The magnificent St. John's, dedicated in 1871, was the first Irish Catholic church in Indianapolis.

The celebration continued with a wreath laying before the Celtic cross in Saint John's courtyard, followed by Mass, said by AOH Chaplain Fr. Glenn O'Connor and assisted by Fr. Joseph Moriarty. After Mass there was a short parade, led by the Cathedral High School Band from St. John's to the Indiana Roof Ballroom, one of the grandest entertainment and reception halls in downtown Indianapolis.

The Saint Patrick's Day Rogues Pipes and Drum Band performed as everyone was being seated and a catered luncheon was served. As we ate, Emily Ann Thompson, a classically trained violinist, performed traditional Irish music with her Celtic fiddle.

Next was the presentation of the President's Award. Each year our current AOH president selects an Irish Catholic of high character and achievement to receive this award. This year President Matt Davis presented the award to Sister Shelia Hackett, OP, a Dominican sister born and raised in Ireland, who has devoted a lifetime to Irish causes and Catholic education in the U. S.

Each year, through our "Map of Ireland" program, AOH makes a donation to St.

Meinrad's Seminary for the education of a priest. This year, \$2,200 was collected from members in recognition and/or memory of family names. AOH made an additional donation of \$500. Vice-President Bob McCurdy presented a check for \$2,700 to St. Meinrad's. These names are published in the St. Patrick's Day AOH Printed Program.

Pat Miles edits our AOH Printed Program. It is a source of information for the celebration and a high quality informational source of our AOH life and Irish heritage. Last year, the Indiana Historical Society for their records of Indiana Irish History accepted 14 issues. This year they accepted 37 additional issues.

Once again we presented \$1,500 scholarships at the celebration.

In addition to our more recent Hibernian Kehoe and Katie White scholarships, this year additional donations by the Denis Moriarty and the Jerry McLeish families provided a total of \$6,000 in scholarships. Winners were Becky Cahill from Roncalli H. S., Kevin Fulp from Westfield H. S., William Ferree from Scecina H.S. and Tim Brogan from Chatard H. S.

The day concluded with our two tickets to Ireland AOH raffle won by J.J. O'Brien. Tickets to Las Vegas and Waterford Crystal were also presented.

This year's program was ably coordinated by Jeremy Hambrick. Once again a great day!

— Jim Lynch, Secretary, Kevin Barry Division

