

## Niall Burgess to Receive Prestigious MacBride Award in New Orleans

Niall Burgess, Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dublin, Ireland, will receive the prestigious MacBride award during the National AOH-LAOH Presidents' dinner in New Orleans this October 14. The award was established to memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who made similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well being of the Irish people. Niall Burgess, who was appointed Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs in April 2014, exemplifies everything this award stands for.

Niall is a descendant of 1916 Rising hero Cathal Brugha (Burgess in Gaelic). He served as a diplomat on the front line in the historic run-up to the Good Friday Agreement and the shared government in Northern Ireland Executive. He lives in Dublin with his wife, Marie Morgan, and children, Hugh, 20, and Amy, 17. He shares with his son a great fondness for the U.S., American sports and food that he acquired at age 13 visiting Upstate N.Y. cousins during the summer.

Burgess was born in Dublin and studied archaeology at University College, Dublin. Receiving a university scholarship in Germany, he learned the German language, which catapulted his career at the Department of Foreign Affairs. In the 1990's, he came to the U.S. as Deputy Consul General in Chicago, learning the intricacies of Irish America and the Irish undocumented. Returning to Ireland, he worked closely with former Irish President Mary Robinson in Geneva at the United Nations and served as personal secretary to then Foreign Minister Dick Spring from 1993 to 1997. He was joint director of the International Fund for Ireland, the cross-border institution established and funded by the U.S., British and Irish governments, which provides a range of reconciliation and job creation programs in Northern Ireland and

the border counties.

As a director in the Anglo Irish Department, a large part of his task was dealing with politicians such as the Reverend Ian Paisley on behalf of the Irish government, and ensuring that lines of communication were kept open. In May 2007 Burgess was appointed Consul General in New York with a broad range of responsibilities, including business, cultural and community relations and consular assistance in a 10-state area comprising Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



Niall Burgess

Niall Burgess suits the criteria of the Sean MacBride Award as a leader with an active role in the peace process in Ireland, having participated in the Good Friday Agreement and the on-going work toward peace, justice, reconciliation and Irish unity. His work with the Irish Immigration Reform Movement leading up to the Morrison Visa Program assured prosperity for a generation of Irish immigrants and helped renew Irish and Irish American culture and relations.

As Consul General of New York, Burgess promoted Irish culture, trade and support for the Irish economy on an all-island basis, working closely with the Northern Ireland Bureau. He also continued to support the Irish immigration groups, Irish American organizations and worked closely with the AOH. He was

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## Promoting Membership in the Order

There is nothing more Irish in America than membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest and oldest Irish Catholic organization in the United States. However, like many fraternal organizations, we are battling waning membership around the country. Most millennials aren't interested in joining an organization that seems geared toward their grandparents. Organizations who believe they should continue to do things the way they always have are fooling themselves into extinction. We, the AOH, need young members and we must understand that the needs of the young Irish American are different today than they were a generation ago.

The AOH must focus on the advantages we have in order to bring in new generations of Hibernians who will continue the great work that began long before any of us sought membership in the AOH. Our number one advantage is that we are an Irish heritage organization. We are an organization that ties us to our Catholic faith in a number of unique ways beyond Sunday Mass with a number of unique programs. Our organizational goal is to demonstrate that the AOH is the organization that ties all generations of Irish America together in our common purpose.

With this in mind, President McKay created a new committee charged with the task of Marketing, Promotion and Advertising. This is not simply a membership committee but rather a campaign committee directed at increasing the awareness of the AOH, our goals and our successes around the United States and Ireland. It is a committee designed to promote all our activities from festivals to communion breakfasts, from Project St. Patrick to our FFAI Christmas Appeal. It is a committee that will advertise



the AOH and look for new potential members from around the United States so we may continue our success that began in 1836.

The first phase of work for the committee is "Branding" and updating our electronic communications. We are creating a consistent image of the AOH that will be identifiable over all electronic platforms as well as print media. We need to communicate a consistent message to Irish America that attracts membership from every generation and increases awareness of our programs effectively increasing public knowledge of the AOH. There is now a subcommittee working to update our electronic media so we are prepared to kick off a major online campaign this summer.

Simultaneously, we have a subcommittee to compile content that we can use to market and promote Hibernian membership. The first collection of content will focus on "Why I'm a Hibernian." Initially we will be looking for feedback from young members and then expanding to our entire membership. We need your assistance in identifying the young Hibernians with the membership story that will open the eyes of Irish America and be inviting to the next generation of AOH members.

Once these two committees are prepared we will begin our first national advertising campaign. This will be designed to market the AOH, recruit new Hibernians, and inform and promote the role of the AOH in Irish America. The charge of the committee is not a sprint but rather a marathon that will last years into the future. Immediately following each campaign we will evaluate the effectiveness and regroup and recreate our plan for

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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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# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

September 21-24  
 1992 North Wildwood 2017

## 26th Annual Irish Fall Festival

Thursday, September 21st

A.O.H. Golf Tournament – 12:30 PM  
 \$90.00 fee before 9/10 and \$100.00 on or after 9/10  
 Cape May National Golf Course, Route 9 and Fairway Drive, CMCH

Friday September 22nd

**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue  
**FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday September 23rd

**5K Run**- 8 AM SIGN-UP-\$15.00 fee Olde New Jersey Avenue (prizes awarded)  
**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION** - 10 AM - Bill Henfey Park  
 Featuring some of the best pipe bands on the East Coast  
**IRISH DANCE LESSONS-FREE** - 10 AM till 12 PM - Anglesea Fire House  
**LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue  
**FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

Sunday September 24th

**MASS** - 10:30 AM Saint Ann's R.C. Church Glenwood & Atlantic Avenue  
**PARADE** - 12:30 PM - 20th & Surf to Spruce & Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**GRAND MARSHALL** - Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Diocese of Camden  
**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

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## president's message

by Jim McKay III

My Brothers and Sisters,

Time flies. It's already summer and we're in the midst of State conventions. I had the opportunity to attend the Michigan convention and will be attending the Massachusetts convention. I wish I could clone myself so I could make them all. The ones I cannot make, other members of the National Board will attend.

Before you know it, "Fall will be upon us." We are looking forward to the President's Dinner weekend set in New Orleans on October 13 and 14. This year our National LAOH President Patricia O'Connell has decided to join her President's Dinner with ours in New Orleans. On Friday evening at the St. Charles Hotel, we will have a "Taste of New Orleans" for all of our out of town guests. On Saturday we will have our National Board meetings, followed by a Mass at 5:00pm at St. Patrick's Church before our banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel directly across the street from the St. Charles Hilton. Notices have been sent out to our website as well as this Digest issue. We look forward to seeing many of our Brothers this weekend. **See the back page of this issue for the forms you need.**

Brother Sean Pender, our National Treasurer, is fighting the "good fight" in the IRS dilemma on the Division level. He has been sending out notices to State Presidents as well as Divisions that are in compliance as well as those that are not. Please try to work with our Brother Pender.

Hope to see some of you at the State conventions and in New Orleans in the fall.  
God Bless.



## treasurer's report

by Sean Pender

As we continue to work toward the compliance of all divisions and boards regarding valid EIN assignment and tax exemption status, I have worked with our National Secretary's office to send a division/board-specific letter to each division and board to let them know of their status. The letter will be sent to the President and Financial Secretary of every division.

There are five possible categories that a division or board can be in:

- You have a valid EIN that is linked to the National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832. As a valid tax-exempt organization (501c8) your responsibilities are to file the appropriate tax forms on a yearly basis to maintain such status.
- Your tax-exempt status was revoked by the IRS for failing to file taxes for three years. Please follow the steps as described at [www.aoh.com/treasurer](http://www.aoh.com/treasurer) in order to regain status as a valid tax-exempt organization and to be linked to National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832.
- There is no EIN number that we have on file for your division or board. The IRS told the AOH that every division and board must have its own EIN number and file a proper tax return (990). So please immediately request an EIN, contact the IRS by calling 1-800-829-4933 or visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and search on-line EIN application. Once you receive your EIN number please contact the National Secretary's office via email to confirm and give us the EIN that is now assigned to your division/board. We will then add you as a subordinate to the National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832. Once added, you will be a valid tax-exempt organization (501c8) and your responsibilities are to file the appropriate tax forms on a yearly basis to maintain such status.
- Your EIN number is not currently linked to National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832, nor is it considered as a tax-exempt classified 501c8. To rectify, please contact the National Secretary's office via email to confirm the EIN we have on file is active and is assigned to your division/board. We will then add you as a subordinate to the National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832. As a valid tax-exempt organization (501c8) your responsibilities will be to file the appropriate tax forms on a yearly basis to maintain such status.
- Because of a discrepancy in the recording of your EIN number you are not currently linked to National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832, nor is it considered as a tax-exempt classified 501c8. To rectify, please contact the National Secretary's office via email to confirm the EIN we have on file is active and is assigned to your division/board. We will then add you as a subordinate to the National Board - Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832. As a valid tax-exempt organization (501c8) your responsibilities will be to file the appropriate tax forms on a yearly basis to maintain such status.

Please continue to visit [www.aoh.com/treasurer](http://www.aoh.com/treasurer) for most up to date information; I will also use that site to list FAQ (frequently asked questions).



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Brothers,

President McKay has formed a committee for Marketing, Promotion and Advertising and they have hit the ground running. We have a great variety of people who bring diverse talents as well as a positive mix of youth and experience. We will soon kick off our first advertising campaign designed to recruit around the country as well as market and promote the tremendous work each of you do. If you have the talent we need, you can volunteer to assist our advertising team. The team will also handle our MailChimp e-mail blasts, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, AOH.Com and anything else that comes along. Contact me today: [Daniel.oconnell@aoh.com](mailto:Daniel.oconnell@aoh.com) or 330-518-4450.

The Marketing team will be looking for content. Today's Digest has our first request for content, "Why I'm a Hibernian." Beyond the print, we hope to begin posting videos on a regular basis as well.

On behalf of our entire Order, I congratulate Brother Eric Moss, who was promoted to Lieutenant Commander on June 1st. Lieutenant Commander Moss is a member of my local division, Mahoning County 6. He is currently stationed in Monterey California where he resides with his wife, Stephanie, and their two children. We could not be more proud of Brother Moss and his commitment to our country. Well done.

Many of us have completed our conventions and others will be soon. Remember, you will get out of the conventions what you put into it. Your personal effort to attend and participate enables the AOH to succeed. This is also a great time to make or observe the Major Degrees. Please encourage all of your members to participate in our Major Degree program whenever they are available. Rituals Chairman JJ Kelly will continue to include upcoming degrees in his Digest article as well as in our monthly e-mail blasts. Degree team members are reminded to keep Brother Kelly up to date on your schedule along with specific contact information for all upcoming ceremonies.

In addition to conferring degrees we are working on updating the Blue Book. Degree team chairmen or their designee are each part of our rituals committee charged with this task. The updates will be presented to the national board once complete for approval. Target date for completion is the Louisville Convention.

Speaking of Louisville, the 2018 convention preparation is now in full swing. The local committee has been hard at work laying the groundwork for another successful convention. The national convention committee will be in Louisville on August 14 to fine tune the convention package and we will begin registration shortly. The Galt house is one of the famed hotels of past AOH-LAOH national conventions. With your help we can have another brilliant convention.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### Convention Season

We are now fully into the summer state convention season, and you should know that if you have not paid your per capita, you are not eligible to take part in this convention. Please remember that after the convention, you are to re-submit a Form 9 with all officers listed. This should be done even if there are no changes.

In order to stay ahead of the paperwork, we encourage you to submit Form 40s as you encounter the changes and not wait until the annual update.

To review what I mentioned in the last issue, we are going to significantly change the procedure for updating our records come this fall. Rather than printing out a hard copy of your roster, and mailing, we will be emailing you a PDF for you to edit. This PDF will list the division members in numerical order. If you would like them in alpha order please advise before the end of September.

Your changes should be made directly on the PDF, saved and then emailed back to us rather than being mailed. If you cannot make the changes electronically we would ask that you print the PDF, mark changes, then scan and email back. 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, as the changes occur, throughout the year.

Again, 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. One last thought with regard to our communication (emails, voice mails, forms, etc.) that will greatly streamline our efforts to help you. Please always identify your division by its numerical designation, e.g., 28ES09, rather than the division name and state only.



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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the next Generation...

Does your Division have a Leadership Team? Is there a team approach to creating the mission and strategy for the Division? Who will help carry out the planning and implementation of the strategy?

Like the President, Division Officers are duly elected by the membership to serve and represent the Order. Our National Constitution defines the duties of each office and these functions are critical to the overall operations of our Divisions. However, there are additional ways to involve Division Officers in developing and achieving short-term and long-term goals for the Division.

"Consensus Leadership" is when elected (and appointed) Officers have an opportunity to contribute and discuss ideas. This is an opportunity for Officers, including the President, to learn from each other. Without a "seat at the table," the Recording Secretary may feel that his only job is to document meeting minutes. Though elected to assist with the Shamrock Degree process, the Division Marshal more than likely has skills and interests to serve the Division in other ways.

Healthy Divisions are very active and fully engaged in community projects, fundraising, education programs, etc. These projects are ideal for Officers and strong Brothers to Chair or coordinate. If all of our work falls on the President alone, the AOH presence in your community will be short-lived.

Divisions are stronger when there is a larger team of "thinkers" and "doers." Engaging Division Officers to perform the work of the Order is not only an effective way to involve more Brothers but also as a way to invest in your Leadership team. Every Brother brings skills and talents to the Division and should have an opportunity to, in turn, invest in the Order by sharing of himself. All of this, of course, is with the focus on the "Good of the Order" and not satisfying one person's need for recognition.

Elected and Appointed Division Offices are posts to which Brothers should aspire to serve. In addition to solid leadership, strong Divisions demonstrate teamwork at monthly meetings and functions. Setting and achieving goals in a collaborative way increases the likelihood of success. Success is attractive and contagious in many ways and others will be more interested in serving the Division. In addition, with effective marketing and promoting of Division success to the community at large, others will be interested in joining the Order.

With increased interest among Brothers to serve in elected and appointed office is the opportunity to grow the next wave of leaders and Officers. Having a team of Brothers seeking office and to serve is critical to the stability and future of the Division. A good problem to have is when there is significant interest in Brothers serving in leadership positions. With appropriate facilitation, a strong "Farm Team" or future crew of leaders can be included in the short-term and long-term planning of the Division.

As stated earlier in this column, the focus of our work as Brothers needs to be on the "Good of the Order" and not ourselves. By working together we can be successful together.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers, as we close out our official Easter Appeal I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to Project St. Patrick. Remember that not only can you donate during the Annual Appeal but also you are encouraged to make PSP part of your ongoing agenda throughout the year. Whether in the form of honoring someone with a name recognition scholarship (\$500), flat out donation or your continued support of the Project St. Patrick prayer cards.

Through the joint effort of the AOH and LAOH we were able to issue 64 grants, totaling \$32,000, to religious and seminarians from throughout the country. It is a tremendous feeling when hearing back from these young men and women expressing their gratitude for our financial assistance, and our support of their devotion to Christ. Remember that it is part of our obligation to promote vocations and to be proud defenders of our Faith.

I have just attended the New Jersey State Convention and received very good feedback concerning PSP. The convention was very well run and very informative; it is great to share different ideas and strategies concerning our Order and its growth. I would also like to thank the New Jersey State officers and their members for making me feel welcome. I will be attending Pennsylvania's convention in the middle of July.

Again, as always, your faithful support is greatly appreciated. If information or additional PSP cards are needed please contact me at NLNOD@comcast.net. Please type "PSP" in the memo line.

**The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives can now be found on our webpage, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).**

## 'Why I'm a Hibernian' Help us recruit new members



Why are you a Hibernian? What are the benefits of being a Hibernian? What's your favorite thing about the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and what's the best activity your division does and the Order does?

As part of our new Marketing, Promotion and Advertising Committee, we are gathering content to help attract and recruit new Irish Catholics to join our Order. We'd like you to join in that effort by thinking about these questions and send your responses

in writing to the National Board.

So we'd like you, in less than 100 words, respond to the statement: "Why I'm a Hibernian," and send it to committee member John O'Connell at his Digest editor email: EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com.

We intend to use the best responses in various social media campaigns, on our national and state websites, and in other media.

We're also planning to encourage Hibernians to make brief, informal videos that will enable brothers to tell potential membership candidates "in person" why they are Hibernians and why other Irish-American Catholics should join, and how.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

Please pray one rosary for vocations to our Heavenly Father to bless our church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve our church as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons and lay ministers. Inspire more men and women to grow to know Him, and open their hearts to His call.

At our Division Meeting in May we celebrated Division Chaplain Father Edward A. Doyle's 81st birthday. We gave him a gas card and made a donation to Project St Patrick in his name to help a future Priest. Father Ed drives 60 miles each way to attend our monthly meeting as well as continuing to serve all the rural parishes throughout Missouri. He celebrated his 50th Anniversary in 2014, and at our monthly meeting he announced that we should probably start looking for his replacement, but where are we going to find someone like him?

Fr. Doyle, from Highfield Park, Dundrum, Dublin, served with the men of "B" Coy, 21st Battalion FCA Dun Lanoghaire, and after he was ordained he went back to his troops and gave them his first blessing. He joined the unit as a private in 1952 and was commissioned as a lieutenant three years later. In 1957 he left to study for the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Carlow, and said his first Mass at the Church of the Assumption, Milltown.

He and several classmates signed up to do Missionary work after they were ordained into the Sacred Priesthood for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, back in June of 1964. After spending a year in Jefferson City, he left to do mission work in Peru for four years. When he came back he was Pastor of many parishes as well as ministering to the prisoners at our state prisons, anointing the sick throughout the state, and ran a no-kill animal shelter.

In my own parish of 1,800 families, our Pastor informed us that his only Associate Pastor, now 75, will be retiring in June after 49 years as a Priest. We have three Deacons, who have picked up a lot of the work, but our Pastor can only spread himself so far.

Project St Patrick Director Tom O'Donnell reminded us in our previous issue of the Hibernian Digest that every Hibernian needs to be unwavering in their support of vocations by showing their support spiritually and financially to seminarians and religious who are in need. Through the support of Project St Patrick, the AOH/LAOH are able to provide Vocation Grants through an application and selection process to help cover personal expenses of the men and women who are studying. For a donation of \$500 (or more), you may submit a name of a beloved chaplain, layperson or member, living or deceased, and a PSP Vocation Grant will be named and issued in his or her honor or memory. Any donation — large or small — goes a long way in helping with this project. Project St. Patrick prayer cards are also a tremendous way to donate.

A sergeant of Ireland's Forsa Cosanta Aitiul local defense force once spoke to a Catholic professional group in Dublin about faith and work. In full uniform, he presented his standard issue Lee-Enfield Mark III rifle in one hand and a rosary in the other. "Which weapon will you choose?" the future priest proposed to his brothers and sisters in faith. "I'm fully convinced, as Pope Pius XI used to say, that 'if I had an army to pray the Rosary, I could conquer the world,'" said Father Edward A. Doyle.

## Remember the AOH in your will

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



## Director's Report

by Dan Dennehy  
Immigration Chairman

On May 4-5, the 2nd Global Irish Forum was held in Dublin Castle, Ireland, and 250 distinguished organizations committed to Irish culture, heritage, arts and emigrant support were represented. Hibernians in America participated for the first time and I proudly served as your representative. Our Order's good works were introduced to the assembled at the beginning of the forum by Senator Billy Lawless, Minister of the Diaspora Joe McHugh and Caitriona Ingoldsby, the Director of the Irish Abroad Unit.

In communicating our efforts, I also learned about other groups' missions and strategies. My home division, Westchester County Division 18 Peekskill, benefits from an Irish government grant to support cultural programs at our Hall and Fest. I encourage Hibernian Halls in NYS to consider participating in Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Program (ESP) by applying for Heritage Grants. To find out more on ESP Grants and the Global Irish Forum: Link to Global Irish Hub: <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/>

I worked under NYS Director Tom Beirne's coordination of two very special Masses in NYC: the Month's Mind Mass for Martin McGuinness at NYC St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Re-Interment Mass for Knock Visionary John Curry, the youngest Knock Visionary at Basilica of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral. Both Masses received international attention. Brothers from far and wide supported these efforts with selflessness and expertise that only Hibernians in America can demonstrate.

Do you qualify for an Irish passport of citizenship or are you a U.S. "green card" holder who wants U.S. Citizenship? Please contact the Emerald Isle Immigration Center at (718) 478-5502 or [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)

Thank you to AOH NY County Division 7's for hosting the Celtic Cruise on June 14, a fun, annual Cruise around Manhattan on the Spirit Of New York to benefit the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. [www.celticcharity.com](http://www.celticcharity.com)

While working on fair reform for future flow and rectification of the tragic story of Irish people here in America long wait for visas, we're grateful the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers [www.cic-usa.org](http://www.cic-usa.org) Irish Apostolate and Chicago Celts are our partners in this effort, please support your local Irish immigration Center.

Thanks to Hibernian Charity Board member, Irish Senator Billy Lawless, and the Chicago Celts, I joined National VP Danny O'Connell in Chicago at events and immigration meetings surrounding a visit and thank you for Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Ambassador Anne Anderson. Chicago is a great city; we met great local Hibernians and others who are now very interested in joining us. I attended the 2017 NJ State Convention as well as many Divisions & Counties and remain grateful for your hospitality at each event. Looking forward to the NYS Convention in Buffalo and the 9th Hudson Valley Irish Fest on September 30 in Peekskill!



## Director's Report

by Dennis Parks

As we continue to recruit new members to the AOH, we also need to focus on the engagement and retention of new members. We can all attest to the fact that attending your first division meeting may be overwhelming. So many issues are being discussed; it may leave a new member feeling bewildered.

One of the things that my Division does is to give new members a list of functions and definitions of what we are talking about. During our meetings, we discuss not only our local events, but National and State events as well. By giving a new member the definitions of these things, it gives them a little more insight into what is going on.

We also need to get the new members involved as soon as possible. Take the time to ask the new member what their interests are and point them into that direction. Getting a new member to take the Major Degrees of the Order is also imperative to retention. Talking with members in different areas, everyone agrees that once a person takes the Major Degrees, they are more likely to remain a committed member of the Order. Far too many times has someone joined the AOH never to be seen again. Retention of new members needs to be a priority as well.

Congratulations to Brother Ron Hagan of Ohio and Brother Kevin Burke of Michigan as they each start their second two-year terms as State Board Presidents of their respective states. Job well done gentlemen!

Thank you to Brother Ralph Day of the Washington D.C. State Board for being a representative of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, the American Legion and the Naval Order of the United States in the unveiling of a historical marker in Cobh, Ireland, recognizing the centennial arrival of the United States Navy in Europe during WWI. We thank you for your service to our country!

## Make Name and Address Corrections Today!

Brothers, please review your name and address on today's Hibernian Digest and on your membership cards. As we prepare for the 2017 label campaign to support our Hibernian Charity we want you to receive labels with the correct information.

If you need any adjustments, contact your financial secretary today and have an updated Form 40 sent in. Thank you.



## Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

It has been a cold and rainy spring season here in New England and many are looking forward to a sunny and warm summer season. It is during the late spring and summer that many State Boards hold their Biennial State Conventions and the New England area is no exception to this usual course of events.

The Massachusetts AOH /LAOH State Convention will be held over the weekend of June 2-4 in Hyannis on Cape Cod. A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the JFK Memorial in downtown Hyannis to mark the 100th birthday of the only AOH member to serve as a President of the United States. A full slate of social events and meetings will take place over the next several days.

The Connecticut AOH and LAOH State Convention will take place in Danbury at the Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Center hosted by the John A Gildea Division 3 AOH and the Mary McWhorter Division 58 LAOH on the weekend of June 7-9. As in the Bay State, a well rounded list of meetings and social activities are planned.

Planning for the AOH and LAOH Rhode Island State Convention is still ongoing, but is expected to be held at the home of the Dennis E. Collins Division 1 in Newport. On August 6, the Tara Court Degree Team is expected to conduct the Major Degree of our Order at the home of Division 1 in Newport and hopes that AOH members from the New England area will join them in this undertaking.

On March 30, Edward T. Duckworth, longtime President of Division 1 in Warwick, RI, passed away. My sincere condolences to our Hibernian Brothers in Rhode Island on his passing, and in particular to the members of the Warwick Division where Ed was the mainstay of his Division. May God grant him eternal rest. In late May, Wick Rudd, AOH Rhode Island State President, installed the new officers of the Warwick Division. We wish the newly elected officers of Division 1 much success.

### A Good Season to Recruit!

Many Divisions do not meet during the months of July and August. However, it is prime season for recruiting possible new members and even establishing new Divisions. Many fairs, Irish festivals and other such outdoor events are held in the summer months. These types of events are usually attended by a different audience of people than typically attend traditional Hibernian activities. Therefore, you have an opportunity to publicize and promote the AOH to this group, possibly even for the first time. I strongly encourage State and County Boards and Divisions to take advantage of these events and to set up membership recruiting booths or tables. At your booth please show a host of activities of photos that demonstrate the multifaceted activities that your Divisions and members are involved in. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words! Make those pictures count!

Should any State, County or Division need recruiting materials for the above activities or any of your events, please contact our National Organizer, Tim McSweeney, of New York. Tim's email address is: [Newjack12007@yahoo.com](mailto:Newjack12007@yahoo.com)

In closing, I want to thank those officers who have served over the past two years for their service and offer my sincere best wishes to those who will be elected to serve our Order for the next two years. Your time, talents and efforts are greatly appreciated!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net) Enjoy the Summer of 2017!



## veterans affairs

by Jim Green  
Chairman

I recently spoke with AOH National Vice President Danny O'Connell at an AOH PA State Board meeting, and he informed me that the National Board will soon be including a "checkbox" on the Division rosters that are sent to Financial Secretaries for member validation each year. The checkbox should be updated to indicate if a brother is a military veteran. If the member's email address is also in our records, contact information can be extracted and used by me to be able to more effectively communicate ideas and information to all of our Hibernian veterans. The "new member" application will also be updated to include this checkbox so that a veteran can be identified as soon as they join the Order. Thank you, brother O'Connell! This is exactly what I have been hoping for.

The VA's new "pre-need eligibility determination program" allows Veterans and their families to find out in advance if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. This change gives families peace of mind and helps to ease the planning process. It seems to be a benefit that very few people realize is out there. A common piece of advice is that you have to spend the time to look up your benefits to see what they are and utilize them. Visit [explore.va.gov](http://explore.va.gov) to explore VA benefits and learn how to apply.

Aspen Dental is offering free dental care for veterans on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, as part of the company's "Healthy Mouth Movement." This is the fourth year that the company has participated in the program to assist the more than 1.2 million veterans nationwide who do not have health insurance. Since its inception, the 400 Aspen Dental locations nationwide that participated in the program have provided \$7.6 million in free dental care to some 12,000 patients. Please go to their website to find an office located near you. <https://www.aspendental.com/>

Other websites that you may find useful:

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals: <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

Directory of Veterans Service

Organizations <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>

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

[seamus.green317@gmail.com](mailto:seamus.green317@gmail.com)



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, it should always be stressed that as Irish Americans committed to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity we do not denigrate or dismiss other heritages. What we do seek, and should never settle for anything less than, is parity of respect and equal treatment of our heritage as accorded to others. For institutions to claim to represent "diversity" and then cherry pick which heritages they will spotlight and honor is more than hypocrisy, it is discrimination in another form.

An example of such policy is the Library of Congress. Currently, the Library of Congress does a laudable job celebrating and educating on many other heritages: African American History Month, American Indian Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. We specifically note the informative websites the Library maintains for these heritages under the ".gov" domain. Conspicuous by its absence is Irish American Heritage Month and we should ask why. Creation of a website is a comparatively minimal cost/minimal overhead activity; certainly the largest library in America in conjunction with its sister organizations the Smithsonian and Parks Service has plenty of material to draw on. We are not talking about constructing a building or occupying costly physical space, merely a place on a computer server and a few lines of code. What then is the hesitancy of the Library of Congress to recognize and honor the achievements of Irish Americans on an equal basis to the heritages it does maintain on HeritageMonth.gov websites?

It was Brother John Schell who recently brought this injustice to our attention. With Brother Schell we have written the Library of Congress to ask that they honor the heritage of Irish Americans on an equal basis with the heritages they already support. To date, the Library of Congress has been as silent in reply to our enquires as they are yearly on Irish American Heritage Month. That is simply unacceptable; not only as Irish Americans but as American taxpayers who fund this institution we are at minimum entitled to the courtesy of a reply. We therefore ask you Brothers to increase the volume on this injustice by adding your voice to ours. Please consider emailing Mr. John Sayers, Public Affairs Specialist, the Library of Congress at jsay@loc.gov and ask why the heritage of millions of Irish Americans is not accorded the same dignity that other heritages are afforded at the library. On your mail please cc Chief Librarian Carla Hayden and the Library's public affairs office (CHayden@loc.gov, pao@loc.gov). You may also wish to cc your local congressional representative alerting them to this disparity of respect going on in their Library.

I know that some will sadly read this and say, "What is the big deal? Isn't this petty?" To them I say, "No, nothing can be more important and worth a comparatively minor effort of an email." If we don't take active measures to promote our heritage, to rightfully remember our heroes and heroines, then we as a community shall fade away. Other heritages know this. The founders of the Order knew this, and that is why the promotion and defense of our heritage is mentioned twice in the preamble to our Constitution. When knowledge of heritage and culture are lost, a people are lost; that was the nefarious purpose of the Penal Laws. Our forebears' risked life and liberty to preserve their faith and heritage, can we not invest an email?

"The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity." — George Bernard Shaw



## 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 South Carolina, Carraig Phadraig, which is Irish for The Rock of Cashel. The team is currently reorganizing, and should be fully active soon. Regardless, the history and current significance of the Rock of Cashel, to me, are quite fascinating, having been there several times.

According to local mythology, the Rock of Cashel came from the Devil's Bit, a mountain 20 miles (30 km) north of Cashel when St. Patrick banished Satan from a cave and threw a piece of the mountain after him, resulting in the Rock's landing in Cashel. Cashel is reputed to be the site of the conversion of the King of Munster by Saint Patrick in the 5th century.

The Rock of Cashel was the traditional seat of the kings of Munster for several hundred years prior to the Norman Invasion. In 1101, the King of Munster donated his fortress on the Rock to the Church. The picturesque complex has a character of its own and is one of the most remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture to be found anywhere in Europe. Few remnants of the early structures survive; the majority of buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries.

The oldest and tallest of the buildings is the well-preserved round tower (28 meters, or 90 feet), dating from c.1100. Its entrance is 12 feet (3.7 m) from the ground, necessitated by a shallow foundation (about 3 feet) typical of round towers. The tower was built using the dry stone method. Modern conservationists have filled in some of the tower with mortar for safety reasons. And, of course, we learn the significance of the round tower in one of the lessons of the Major Degrees. Other major buildings on the site include Cormac's Chapel, the chapel of King Cormac and the Cathedral, an aisle-less building of cruciform plan, having a central tower and terminating westwards in a massive residential castle.

The entire plateau on which the buildings and graveyard lie is walled. In the grounds around the buildings an extensive graveyard includes a number of high crosses. Scully's Cross, one of the largest and most famous high crosses here, originally constructed in 1867 to commemorate the Scully family, was destroyed in 1976 when lightning struck a metal rod that ran the length of the cross. The remains of the top of the cross now lie at the base of the cross adjacent to the rock wall.

Looking at the names of the 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.

As I have in the past, I cannot stress enough the importance of fulfilling the commitment we all made as we joined the order to take the Major Degrees and The Test of the Order.



## Freedom for all Ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Chairman

Brothers, the AOH/LAOH Annual Christmas Appeal for 2016-17 was a resounding success. I do not have access to all previous 'Appeal' totals since the inception of the project, but I am going to stick my neck out and say that this year netted a record total of cash donated. After the LAOH circulated checks to organizations that were earmarked by their members for assistance, they forwarded the remainder of their FFAI donations to the AOH FFAI fund. This year's deadline for accepting donations was April 15th. Some checks were received a few days late but were deposited in time to be included in this year's total.

I would like to give a hearty Thank You, and recognize the following individuals and AOH/LAOH Boards for their generous donations to the 2016-17 FFAI \$1,000 + CLUB:

State	Individual/AOH Board \$1,000+ Donors	Amount
CA	AOH California State Board	\$1,000
CA	Michael O'Keefe	\$1,000
IL	Richard H. Parsons Div. Peoria Co. 1	\$1,000
IL	Div. 32, Chicago, Illinois/Cook, IL	\$1,000
MA	Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Div. 8	\$1,000
MD	St. Patrick Div. 5, Baltimore, MD	\$1,000
MD	Maryland State Board	\$1,000
NJ	N.J. State Board	\$1,000
NY	William F. Fennelly, Div. 1. Albany	\$1,000
NY	Div. 8, Troy, Rensselaer, NY	\$1,000
NY	Myles Scully, Div. 1, Yonkers, NY	\$1,000
NY	Queens County, New York	\$1,000
NY	Joseph & Mary Thompson Div. 5 Suffolk Co. NY	\$1,000
NY	AOH Div. 11, Suffolk. NY	\$1,000

NY	John Cardinal D'Alton, AOH Div. 3	\$1,000
NY	Oswego Div. 1, NY	\$1,000
NY	New York State Board AOH	\$3,000
NY	AOH Suffolk County Board, NY	\$1,000
NY	Fr. Henry Tansey, Div. 5 Albany, NY	\$3,800
PA	Msgr. Charles Owen Rice Div. 1	\$1,500
PA	AOH Philadelphia Co. Board	\$2,221
PA	AOH Pennsylvania State Board	\$1,000
VA	Msgr. Bradican Div. Virginia	\$1,000
VA	Virginia State Board, Alexandria, VA	\$1,000
NY	LAOH Div. 1, Albany, NY	\$1,000
		<b>\$31,521</b>

On June 13, I will be travelling to the North of Ireland to present checks on behalf of the AOH and LAOH to the following 11 eligible organizations:

Belfast National Graves	Cairde - Strabane
Down Patriot Graves	Holy Cross Trust - Ardoyne
Green Cross - Belfast	Omagh Community Youth Choir
Omagh Thunder Basketball Club	Pat Finucane Centre
Relatives For Justice - Belfast	St. Patrick's Centre - Downpatrick
New Lodge Republican Commemoration Committee - Belfast	

\*\* We also mailed a check to - Belfast Conway Mill Trust Inc. PA. \*\*

NOTE: More detailed reports about this year's completed Annual Christmas Appeal will be forthcoming as we prepare for the 2017-18 Christmas Appeal.

### Special FFAI News

The National Board kicked off this year's 2017 Annual Project St. Patrick Appeal prior to this year's Easter period. The FFAI Christmas Appeal is usually climaxing around the same time. I have been directed by our National Board that starting this year, I will kick-off the 2017-18 FFAI Christmas Appeal around the month of August and initiate a new completion date of February 15th, 2018. To avoid a clash of support for these two important AOH/LAOH programs, this project alteration will assist the membership and boards to spread out their donations and fund-raising efforts for both programs.



# political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

As I write this article there are two matters that need our Hibernian voice to be heard by our elected officials.

The first includes speaking out against provisions of the financial CHOICE act of 2017 (H.R.10). The stated purpose of this bill is "To create hope and opportunity for investors, consumers, and entrepreneurs by ending bailouts and Too Big to Fail, holding Washington and Wall Street accountable, eliminating red tape to increase access to capital and credit, and repealing the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that make America less prosperous, less stable, and less free, and for other purposes."

However, tucked away in this bill is a provision that contradicts the sentiment of "holding Wall Street accountable" and removes a proven voice for change: shareholder proposals. Under law that has been in place for 70 years (i.e., long before Dodd Frank, which this bill claims to address), anyone who owns a minimum of \$2,000 in stock in a company for over a year is permitted to introduce a resolution for consideration at a corporation's annual meeting. Shareholder proposals were a major force in holding U.S. multinationals accountable to the MacBride Principles, which highlighted and curtailed institutionalized discrimination in Northern Ireland and were instrumental in bringing about the Good Friday Agreement and the current peace.

Under the CHOICE act of 2017, the \$2,000 of stock for one year requirement would be replaced by an unreasonable requirement to own a minimum of one percent of the issuer's voting securities for over three years. As one example of how extreme a change this is, to qualify to submit a shareholder proposal to Apple under this proposed legislation a shareholder would have to own stock worth \$7.5 Billion for three years. Even many of the largest retirement funds would not qualify to submit a proposal, let alone the average investor. Far from holding companies accountable, this provision of the CHOICE Act silences the voice of the ordinary citizen to influence the direction of the companies in which they have invested their hard-earned money. It is a threat to the hard-won achievements of the MacBride Principles and effectively silences further advocacy for corporate responsibility in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. The effective elimination of the voice of ordinary citizens by the imposition of the extreme requirements envisioned by the CHOICE act goes against our core American principles of democracy. Please consider contacting your Congressional representative and urge them to vote "No" on the CHOICE act in its current form.

The second matter where I wish to ask your support is to write your Senator and Congressional representative and request their advocacy for the immediate appointment of a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. It was only through U.S. leadership as expressed through Senator George Mitchell that brought about the Good Friday Agreement that ended nearly three decades of deadly conflict. The peace secured by the Good Friday Agreement is currently under assault on multiple fronts. Brexit threatens a second partitioning of the island of Ireland behind borders both physical and psychological. The devolved parliament of Northern Ireland is currently in collapse; raising the specter of a return of direct rule from Westminster and elimination of the voice of Northern Ireland in matters pertaining to Northern Ireland. Little progress has been made in the nearly two decades since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement on the stated goals of bringing justice to the victims of legacy issues or development of a Bill of Rights.

History shows that progress to peace and freedom in Ireland has only been made when Ireland's exiled children in America have demanded that their U.S. government take an active leadership role. American disinterest and apathy toward Northern Ireland at this crucial time could undo a generation of work to the cause of peace; a prospect too horrible to contemplate. America must reassert its leadership role and hold all parties to the Good Friday Agreement it brokered accountable. Contact your Senators and Congressional representative and ask them to work toward the appointment of a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland to finish the work of peace that the U.S. started through Good Friday.



# pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh  
Chairman

## The Stone That The Builders Rejected

How many times a day are we bombarded with messages aimed at making our lives more convenient? The concept permeates our advertising, consumer trends and, sadly, our ethics. We are told to make our lives easier, to avoid struggle when possible, and to place a high value on convenience. Our modern culture tells us, "Your life is valuable, your time is valuable, your convenience is valuable."

Yet how easily we forget the intrinsic value of a life when it inconveniences us. Justifications in the name of convenience, often masked in the familiar term "quality of life," provide excuses from struggle or sacrifice. Truly unfortunate is that the human victims of such thought are usually the defenseless: the unborn, poor, elderly, handicapped and incarcerated. These souls are terminated or placed beyond the eye's view so as not to prick our conscience and move our heart to action. Can there be any wonder at the meaning of Jesus' words to His disciples when questioned about the Last Judgement? (Matthew 25:31-46)

## A Stone That Will Make People Stumble

St. Peter reminds us (Peter 2:4-8) that Jesus was once rejected too. Then, as now, it was easier to dismiss the messenger with an inconvenient message than to listen and accept a difficult truth. I confess that I, too, turn my gaze from the daily messengers God sends us; silently criticizing myself as a hypocrite when I fail to find Jesus in the homeless on my way to work, the immigrant/refugee struggling to build a home in a new place, the elderly fraught with dementia, or the expecting parents who just discovered their child will be born with a life-changing condition.

The last example might be the easiest for society to justify away in the name of convenience. This unborn child hasn't yet lived or contributed to society; in 'fact', a child with a terminal or life-changing medical condition will only inconvenience others as 'it' impacts their time, finances and way of life. Surely it's permissible to ask what's the point of such a life, or if it's even worth living? So the world says.

## 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

It's been four years since the nephew of a friend passed away from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a progressive and terminal disease that is the number one killer of children under the age of 2. This messenger of God only lived 442 days. Diagnosed in-utero, many would question the worth of such a life, but his parents chose to trust in God through costly surgeries and 24/7 care. When considering a feeding tube, doctors discouraged the procedure due to the poor prognosis of SMA patients. The mother asked them how they planned to feed the child, certainly he would otherwise starve. "Well, starvation is a hard word..." was the response.

While others weighed his suffering and the usefulness of his life, this child could do only one thing, love: unconditionally and unerringly. Perhaps it was his very vulnerability, his impending mortality, which bound family and friends around him with each smile. Even when he lost the ability to move, this tiny messenger unceasingly taught others the intrinsic value of life; reminding them of the wondrous joy they felt when he smiled and filling them with gratitude for the gift of life. In 442 days this child did more to exemplify the commandments of Christ than I have done in my three decades, and our modern world asks if the inconvenience of his life was worthwhile. The funeral homily put it best, "You saw so clearly that his life possessed a dignity that was radically equal to that of everybody else."



# Virginia



Father Edwin Kelley Division (PW01) President Richard Ring and Division Brother Doug Morrison presented a check to the staff of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), which offers compassionate care to all those grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving in our Armed Forces or as a result of his or her service. Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones.



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# 2016 Project St. Patrick Grant Awardees

It is a great Honor for the National AOH/LAOH Committee to announce that there were 37 recipients of the 2016 PSP Grants. Pictured here are just 17 of the 37. Without your generous donations we would not be able to assist these Seminarians and Religious in their needs and to fulfill the vocations of our faith. DO NOT Forget that the next applications will be opening up the end of August for the 2017 PSP Grants.

Colleen Bowers  
2016-2018 National Catholic Action Officer  
412-498-3392 colleen.bowers@ladiesaoh.com



Aaron Kelly



Alex Boucher



Brendon Harfman



Br. Joseph



Christine Zabel



Colm Mitchell



Elizabeth Bartholomew



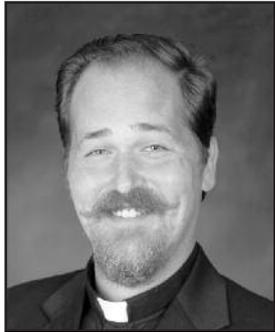
Emily TeKolste



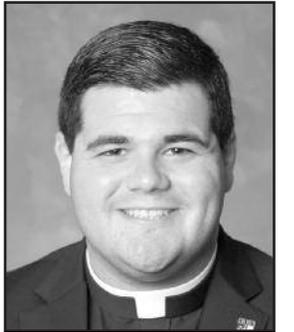
Eric Tamney



Jacob Bearer



Joseph Connelly



Matthew Browne



Sr. Fina Whitmore



Sr. Nancy Shitambasi



Peter Crowe

*The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives can now be found on our webpage, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).*

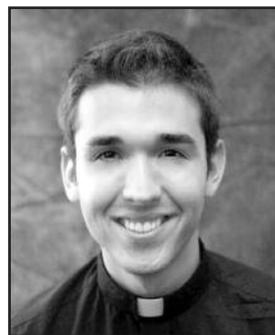
## Virginia



**AOH Home Run!** Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division (AL01) provided an Honor Guard for Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson on Irish Heritage Night at the Washington Nationals Ball Park. Ambassador Anderson threw the first pitch. Honor Guard, from left, were Tim Donnelly, Pres. Terry Riley, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Brendan Cooney, Jim Courtney and John O'Donnell.



Father Edwin Kelley Division presented a check to Skip Rogers, executive director of Able Forces, a charitable organization that addresses the employment and training needs of combat injured veterans of OEF/OIF, Wounded Warriors, and all disabled veterans. They emphasize continuity of support and focus on providing employment opportunities and community-based job preparation training to our Nation's heroes suffering from Severe Physical Disabilities, Post-Traumatic Stress and minor to profound Traumatic Brain Injury. Funds came from the Division's annual beer tasting fundraiser event at Old Town Sports Pub in Manassas, VA



Michael Quillen



William Fox



John Cardinal O'Connor Division (JC01) Frank Gleason and Patrick Golden present a check to Msgr. Timothy Keeney, pastor of Saint Bede Catholic Church, in support of The Williamsburg House of Mercy. The Williamsburg House of Mercy (formerly Saint Bede Social Ministry Outreach) partners with 22 local non-profit organizations that minister to the poor and homeless in Williamsburg.



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

With the long-awaited coming of summer, many Hibernian Divisions proudly took part in the various Memorial Day celebrations that were held around this country. While much of our organizational attention is focused on Ireland, Irish freedom, our heritage and culture, we must never forget that the AOH is an Irish-AMERICAN organization, founded right here in America.

Throughout our existence our immigrant kin have supported the land that gave them opportunity not found at home even though they had to endure difficulties to earn them. They and their sons and daughters have protected her since the days of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. Even today Hibernians wear America's uniforms in the Middle East, while those here at home try to remind our elected representatives of all that our race has done for America and ask that her doors be opened to allow more of those good, courageous and talented children of Erin to legally support her once more.

The list of Medal of Honor recipients contains the names of more Irish immigrants than those of all other foreign nations combined from the very first one to be awarded to Bernard J.D. Irwin (Feb 13, 1861), during the Apache wars, to Seal Lt. Michael Murphy in Afghanistan. Even when The Baghdad Airport Road (a 7.5 mile stretch of highway in Iraq linking the heavily-fortified Green Zone in the center of Baghdad to Baghdad International Airport) was called the most dangerous road on earth, protection was needed to allow important personnel to get from the airport to the Green Zone. It was the Fighting 69th who successfully provided that cover and the road was thereafter known as Route Irish! As County Cork is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the arrival of American military to Ireland for WWI, American Irish and Irish Americans are celebrating the contributions of their kin and others to the country they call home. God bless them all. Now let's get ready to commemorate D-Day and the Fourth of July!

I don't like to share personal opinions in this column, but I think it is a shame that we have gone so far into the 'politically correct' arena that we are now taking down statues of historical figures who once fought on the losing side in our Civil War. General Robert E. Lee was the son of Revolutionary War officer 'Light Horse Harry' Lee, he was a top graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and an exceptional officer in the U.S. Army for 32

## Reflections II

by Mike McCormack

In our last issue, we wrote of a greater understanding of 1916 and those who gave their all for independence, but what of those behind the post-1916 drive to complete the revolution. We learned that the sudden rise in Republican sentiment by a seemingly unsympathetic public was not due to just the executions of the leaders, as many have written. Before 1916, a good deal of self-restraint existed among the Irish who endured years of subservience just to survive. Certainly executions behind stone walls after secret trials of men they had known as musicians, merchants and teachers shocked them, but it was more than that. They were unhappy with the British betrayal of Home Rule by removing six Ulster's counties from the rest of Ireland. Further, it was the destructions of their city by indiscriminate British shelling; it was the deaths of 254 innocent civilians and wounding of 2,217 more and it was the arrest of 3,430 men when no more than 1,600 had been involved in the Rising.

### The 'call to freedom'

Yet the most significant factor in turning the population into rebel supporters was the post-Rising Martial Law enforced by vengeful British troops who treated the innocent as if they had all been involved. This combination of factors incited a renewal of nationalist sentiment that complimented the years of cultural stimulation provided by the Gaelic Revival, and it turned many into supporters of militant action. Dubliner Maire Comerford later wrote, "Most historians seem to accept that we reacted to the Rising in the way we did because of the executions. But it wasn't death; it was the call to freedom which captivated us. We could see the flag of the Republic flying over the GPO, we could read the Proclamation and see the sacrifice the men were prepared to make. Those things counted more than anything else. People realized that self-respect of our nation depended on an action such as this! Afterward there was no longer any such thing as practical politics."

Public unrest, resulting from the above factors, finally forced the British to release those incarcerated – some at Christmas 1916 and the rest in June 1917 – just 100 years ago. After more than a year in a POW camp, they formed a force that would later emerge as a new Republican Army. Those interred without cause were now as militant as those who had fostered the Rising in the first place. It was that force that Michael Collins organized to continue the fight, but he never could have done it without the support of the Irish people – the men and women who hid those on the run, who bought the Republican bonds with pennies they had saved and who gave the full co-operation to the Volunteers that they denied to the Royal Irish Constabulary; and they suffered the brutality of the British for their patriotism.

### A rallying cry

Before their deaths, Tom Clarke said "My Comrades and I believe we have struck the first successful blow for freedom," and Pádraic Pearse added, "If our deed has not been sufficient to win freedom, then our children will win it by a better deed." Such bravado was being hailed as the rallying cry for the next generation. Back when the decision to abandon the GPO had been made, Pearse told the women therein that their presence had inspired the men whose heroism, wonderful though it was, paled before the devotion and duty of the women of Cumann na mBan, and one of his last strategic decisions was to tell them that

years, distinguishing himself during the war with Mexico and serving as Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Because he refused to take arms against his home state of Virginia, his memorials are now being discarded. What's next – the replica British colony at Williamsburg? After all, we fought them in the Revolution, the War of 1812 and they backed the Confederate States against the Union. Win, lose or draw, History should never be erased or the lessons they teach us will never be learned!

From June 12 through the 15th, we attended the National History Day competitions at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. I say it every year and I'll say it again – the thousands of youngsters that I saw at this competition are the future of America and she is in good hands. The competition includes students from grades 6 through 12 presenting historical papers, performances, lectures, videos, web sites and dioramas too professional to believe that they ever came from young minds, that is, until you speak to the students themselves and are blown away by their intense dedication and intelligence. This year's theme was Revolutions in History and 3,040 youngsters entered 1,700 entries making it next to impossible to get seating in the Cafeteria at lunch and so many walking around in costume that you would think you were on a Hollywood back lot. The entries were brilliant. We saw entries on Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni Celts; several on Know-Nothing attacks on the Irish; Bobby Sands; Irish Immigration; Thomas Francis Meagher; the Northern Irish Civil Rights Struggle; and more than a few on the Easter Rising. The LAOH Award went to four young ladies with their impressive performance of 'Petticoat Rebels – the Women of 1916'. The AOH Award went to a young lady who submitted a documentary on a little-known, but significant part of our history entitled, 'More than a Game – the GAA and Irish Independence. We were honored to have Ireland's Deputy Ambassador, Michael Lonergan, join us at the Award Ceremony which was arranged by former National Director Keith Carney. He spoke to the students, congratulated them on their interest in history and when he mention that there were many in America of Irish descent, there was roaring applause from the 3,000-plus in the audience. He graciously placed the gold and silver Order of the Bard medallions on tri-color ribbons around the necks of the winners who were impressed that they had received it from an official of the Irish government. Afterward, Mr. Lonergan spoke with the winners and promised them an official welcome when they visited Ireland. All in all, the AOH and LAOH have performed another remarkable deed in the promotion of our culture. LAOH Treasurer Marilyn Madigan and I were ably assisted in judging by Don Connolly, Jack O'Brien, Ann and Matt Fisher and Maria Humphries. There were so many entries at conflicting times that we couldn't have done it without them. Next year's theme is CONFLICT AND COMPROMISE, get ready for that one!

## A Look Back

In 1906, Irish immigrants continued to arrive in America and the AOH grew. One of the roles of the organization was to insure that new arrivals to this prosperous land would not be tempted away from traditional values. Therefore, reminders of past struggles for the faith were published in the Hibernian Digest for inspiration. This one, from January 15, 1906, recalls how Hibernian sentries protected the faithful and the sacrifices they endured just to celebrate the forbidden Mass by an outlawed priest.



THE FAITH WAS PRESERVED – MASS IN IRELAND IN THE PENAL DAYS

his prayer was for God to give them the strength to carry on the fight. He knew their organizational ability and he was setting the foundation for future action. He also knew that all the assets of the IRB had been given to Tom Clarke's wife, Kathleen, to protect until she could find a suitable leader to carry on the struggle. After the Rising, Kathleen told the women of Cumann na mBan, "our men are nearly all in prison, some are dead, and it is up to us to carry on their work. Let us show our enemy what Irish women can do!"

Kathleen and Cumann na mBan built a nationwide network of offices for a Prisoners Dependents Fund to care for the families of those killed and incarcerated. When the prisoners were released in 1917, she selected Michael Collins to receive all the IRB assets entrusted to her. He turned her Fund offices into recruiting offices for a new Republican army and the War of Independence was on with the total support of the unnamed Irish people who deserve a great deal more praise for their suffering, perseverance and commitment to an independent Ireland than history has ever accorded them.

## To the editor...

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of the Hibernian Digest the political education column discussed the consequences of the U.K. exit from the European Union and "the secondary priority Britain gives on the security and prosperity of the people of Northern Ireland." The related quotes given by P.M. May expose her "Orwellian double speak" in her concerns about preventing a renewed hard border.

As also stated in the column, the "U.K. government ... is entirely Britain centric and apparently willing to risk the collateral damage to the peace in Ireland...."

Thus the need for "the U.S. to lead the way to peace again." However, a lasting peace needs to be based on justice. While Ireland is unfree that "peace" will always be fragile because of the injustice of suppressing the 1918 election results and the undemocratic British occupation.

In news on May 31, the N.I. Secretary of State, trivializing the recent increase in the nationalist voter turnout and also defending partition, said: "I think in terms of the way people vote, that people may vote for one party but that doesn't necessarily mean they want to see a change to the institutions." And making clear what little effect that increased voter turnout would have, he said the conditions for calling a border poll on unification were "not remotely satisfied."

Rather than continue in the British partitionist mindset, America should be true to its founding principles and the AOH true to its pledge, "to aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence."

Rather than ask the Brits to be better landlords in Northern Ireland, America and the AOH should make it clear that Britain needs to undo the injustice done by denying the Irish the right to self-determination as embodied in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations.

What better way for that injustice to be righted than with a new all-Ireland referendum on Irish unity. There is a great opportunity at hand now for the AOH in America to take the lead and show the way. The two communities (nationalist and unionist) have basic differences that prevent them from identifying as one people. In line with internationally recognized principles, true democracy is the only way for people in civilized countries to co-exist in peace.

A New Ireland based on true democratic principles can be the basis for reconciliation and a system of government in which all citizens, creeds and traditions would be represented equally with political power distributed at provincial, county, city and district levels in a federal democratic republic.

Let the British have no doubt that America and the AOH support their Brexit from Ireland.

Respectfully,

Vic Sackett, Chairman Pol. Ed., Nassau County, NY



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

*The following is about how important it is that even those with little or no Irish support the language, since Irish speakers are a minority. But it is also about how the idea of doing this "for the sake of the cause" used to be taken seriously, but this has come to have an ironic meaning, if the support is just for show, and not respectful and seriously helpful. Hopefully, none of us fall into the latter category!*

(Interlinear translation can be found at [tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com](http://tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com))

Tuigtear go mbíonn lucht labhartha na Gaeilge rí-thábhachtach do chaomhnú na teanga. Ach tá lucht a dtacaíochta, lucht an "cúpla focal" agus fiú iadsan gan ach Béarla acu, tábhachtach chomh maith.

Chloistí an frása "ar son na cúise" go minic. Bhítear ag glacadh le síntiúis do hirisi Gaeilge nó a leithéid sin chun tacú leo, fiú mura mbítí ábalta iad a léamh, "ar son na cúise," mar shampla, agus le taispeáint go raibh tábhacht leis an teanga, agus an chúis. Cúis a bhain ní hamháin le teanga na hÉireann, ach le Gaelachas agus neamhspleáchas na hÉireann le chéile, sin le rá. Agus ba mhaith an tacaíocht seo, chun misneach a thabhairt dóibh a mbíodh ag obair ar son athbheochan na teanga.

Bhítear dáiríre faoi seo, ach le fada an lá, úsáidtear an frása seo mar mhagadh, le taispeáint go ndearnadh rud éigin go leathleamh, gan a bheith lán-dáiríre faoi - mar íoróin, sin le rá. Bíonn frustrachas ar lucht labhartha na Gaeilge go ndéantar mórán rudaí gan aird gan chúram - droch-aistriúcháin agus comharthaí mílitrithe, mar shampla. Níltear i ndáiríre - níltear ach ag cur i gcéill. Tá sé ar nós cuma liom acu más Gaeilge intuigthe atá ann, mar ní dhéantar an stuif seo dóibh siúd a bhfuil Gaeilge acu, le fírinne. Déantar an méid is lú agus a thaispeánadh gur "ar son na cúise" iad. Ar son a n-íomhá féin, sin le rá.

Ní shíltear in Éirinn go minic gur féidir mórán a dhéanamh gan an rialtas a bheith bainteach leis, de réir dealraimh. Agus níl gach éinne sásta go gcaitheann an rialtas airgead ar an nGaeilge. Conspóid leanúnach a bhíonn ann. Sílim féin gurb é seo an chúis is mó go mbíonn gráin ag daoine áirithe ar an teanga, agus litreacha agus ailt go rialta sna nuachtáin le naimhde na teanga. Chun an dá thaobh a shásamh, ní dhéantar go leor chun ceachtar taobh a shásamh, de ghnáth.

Mar sin, tá dhá thaobh don scéal maidir le lucht tacaíochta na Gaeilge. Bíonn gá leo, agus bíonn siad an-tábhachtach. Is mionlach sinne a bhfuil Gaeilge againn. Ach mura mbíonn siad lán-dáiríre, is féidir leo dochar a dhéanamh chomh maith. Ní mór meas a thabhairt don teanga agus do lucht a labhartha, seachas í a úsáid mar mheán le taispeáint gur "ar son na cúise" thú. Chun a bheith cinnte, cuir an cheist seo ort féin - an bhfuilim ar son dul chun cinn na teanga le fírinne, nó an maith liom íomhá na teanga amháin, mar chomhartha fúm féin?

## In Memoriam

### Robert J. Fastow

Robert J. Fastow of Burlington, NJ, passed away in a traffic accident on Easter Sunday, April 16, at the age of 92.

Rob and his late wife, Marge, were active in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Rob served as Past State President and was a Past National Director of the Order in Burlington. They were active in the community and belonged to St Paul's RC Church, where they sang in the choir and belonged to the Young of Heart.

Robert served his country proudly during World War II in the U.S. Army. He was born in Newark, NJ, and belonged to the Knights Of Columbus in Newark and was part of the St. Patrick's Day parade committee for 35 years. He was a charter member of the Carteret Elks, past Grand Knight of the Carteret Knights of Columbus, and a member of the American Legion Post in Newark.

### Bill Fleming

Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) William "Bill" T. Fleming, former president and long-time member of AOH Dauphin County, Division 1 "Bobby Sands," Harrisburg, PA, passed away in November 2016.

Bill was the advocate of the Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council #869 and president of its Holy Rosary Association. He was a past recipient of the AOH Dauphin County, Division 1 "Bobby Sands" prestigious Hibernian of the Year Award.

Bill is survived by his wife of 33 years, Susan.

Born and raised in Somerville, MA, Bill was a 43-year veteran of the United States Army and Army Reserve components, retiring in 1999. Active in numerous military organizations, Bill served as Commander of VFW Post 1213, Rutherford, PA; officer on the Home Association Board of American Legion Post #998, Lawnton, PA; and president and founding member of the Keystone Chapter of the Warrant Officers' Association, Ft. Indiantown Gap.



### Thomas R. King

Thomas R. King, 86, passed away on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, surrounded by his loving family.

Tom was a very active member of the John P. Kelly Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Lucas County, Ohio. He received two awards from the Lucas County AOH: (1) the Commodore John Barry Medal, in 2008. The award recognizes long time outstanding service promoting Irish culture, and the goals of the Hibernians, namely Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity. Tom also received (2) the Hibernian of the Year award in 2012 for outstanding service to the Lucas County Hibernians.

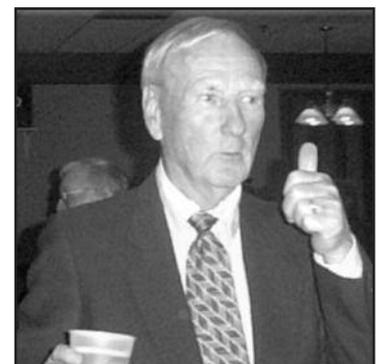
On April 20th, the Lucas County AOH, by unanimous vote, funded the Thomas R. King Scholarship, through Project St. Patrick. The scholarship will be presented to a Toledo Diocesan seminarian.

Tom was born on September 17, 1930, in Toledo, to Thomas M. and Jessie (Sorenson) King. He dearly loved his wife, Marion L. (Navarre) and often said the smartest thing he ever did was marry her, which he did on May 12, 1956. Tom is survived by his wife, Marion; children, Joni (Lon) King, Juli King, Thomas M. (Teri) King and Mary Pat King.

Tom graduated from Good Shepherd Grade School and Central Catholic High School (Toledo), the home of the Fighting Irish, in 1948. He went on to become an honor graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the Notre Dame Law School (1955). He also played baseball at Notre Dame until an injury ended his playing days. He was awarded the Golden Shamrock award by Central in 1988. This award is presented to graduates who live the ideals of Catholicism and Christianity in their personal and professional lives, have attained extraordinary success in their chosen careers, and have had a significant impact on the Central Catholic community. Tom was a very devoted Catholic and was very active in the various parishes and religious organizations that he belonged. His leadership qualities were well recognized as he was awarded the Catholic Big Brother of the Year and the University of Notre Dame Man of the Year. Tom was very proud of his Irish heritage.

Tom King's leadership, enthusiasm and genuine goodness will long be remembered with love. Let me end as Tom would: "GO IRISH."

— Maury Collins, President, John P. Kelly Division



# 'How To Diffuse a Bomb'

Photo and story by Tom Loughlin Jr.

With azure skies and a brilliant sun glittering off the snows of the past week's blizzard, Syracuse's Jesuit LeMoyné College campus outside the theater was its peaceful self on March 19. Inside the theater, "How to Diffuse a Bomb" film goers were witnessing bomb blasts, rattling machine gun fire and wailing mothers mourning children killed in blasts and wounded by rubber bullets in the Irish "Troubles." Happily, not only for viewers but also for the world itself, the movie's gruesome violence gives way to an uplifting and heartwarming ending.

New York Hibernians from Syracuse and the Oneida County divisions joined with LeMoyné's Irish Studies Program, headed by Kathleen Costello Sullivan, in sponsoring and presenting the new documentary about the American/Irish humanitarian charity "Project Children" during the violent era of the Irish "Troubles." Oscar-nominated, Northern Ireland-born actor Liam Neeson narrated the production.

Headed by NYPD bomb squad member Denis Mulcahy and a small group of Irish Americans alarmed by the dangers faced by children in Northern Ireland, "Project Children" first brought six children from terror-torn Belfast to a camp in Greenwood Lake, New York, for their immediate safety, and to sample six weeks of childhood normalcy and recreation. In following years, nearly 23,000 followed in an operation many felt helped to lay the groundwork for peace in Ireland.

Founder Denis Mulcahy honored long-time Syracuse Project Children coordinator Kathleen Kelly, lauding her decades of service. Kelly attributed her inspiration to the Holy Spirit, encouraging everyone to pray for guidance in their daily lives.

Mulcahy also praised former Syracuse Congressional Representative James T Walsh for his dynamic presence in the peace process in Northern Ireland. Walsh championed



AOH Oneida County member and CNY Labor Council executive Pat Costello, left and Project Children chief and founder Denis Mulcahy. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.

The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program, an exchange program for Irish adults to spend up to two years in the U.S. to gain cultural enrichment, gainful employment and conflict resolution skills. The program was named "The Walsh Visa" in his honor.

## California

Hibernian named to Irish Technology Leadership Group's 'Silicon Valley Top 50'



Jim Hart is a Past President of Orange County, California, Division 1, the Past President of AOH Orange County Board and Past Vice President of AOH California.

"Mirror Image®, the leading provider of content delivery, streaming media and edge computing solutions, announced that Jim, who is Global Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Mirror Image, has been named to the Irish Technology

Leadership Group's "Silicon Valley Top 50" list for the second consecutive year.

The ITLG compiles the list annually to identify the top 50 Irish and Irish American leaders shaping technology in the world today. Jim received his recognition at the March 16th Silicon Valley Global Awards at Stanford University from presenters Craig Barrett, former CEO and Chairman of Intel, and John Hartnett, CEO at SVG Partners and Founder of the ITLG. Frances Fitzgerald, Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland, provided the ministerial greeting, and Shane Wall, Chief Technology Officer at Hewlett Packard, provided the evening's keynote address.

"I'm honored by this recognition and very excited to be able to present emerging technologies into the Irish marketplace as well as other key international markets around the globe," said Hart, who has been with Mirror Image since 2001. "On a personal note and as a proud Irish American, it's been a true highlight being able to successfully develop key partnerships with many of the leading broadcasters and media organizations throughout Ireland."

Former United States Ambassador to Ireland Michael J. Sullivan said, "Jim represents some of the finest qualities that Irish America has to offer and I find it appropriate to see him playing a leading role in the technology collaboration between the United States and Ireland."

TLG's Hartnett added, "Jim remains a steadfast technology leader as he continues to introduce the latest streaming media technologies to organizations all throughout Ireland. It's a well-deserved honor to recognize him as part of this year's Silicon Valley Top 50."

Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/mirror-image-executive-jim-hart-120000179.html>

— Submitted by Ronald M. Knowles, President, Orange County Division 1.

## North Carolina



Members of the Sons of Erin Division 1, Charlotte, NC, and Ladies of the Lough Division 2, Huntersville, NC, as they gathered to remember deceased members of both Divisions. Mass was celebrated by Chaplain Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Pearce, CO, at the Oratory in Rock Hill, SC. It was the 4th Annual Mass For Deceased Members, a luncheon followed at a local restaurant. — Submitted by Dan Callaghan, Past President, Div. 1.

## Pennsylvania

Scranton AOH honors Eagles QB Matt McGloin

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 honored Matt McGloin for his new contract as quarterback with the Philadelphia Eagles. Matt is a member of the Hook O'Malley Division and former Man of the Year. He was presented with a proclamation from Lackawanna County Commissioner Patrick O'Malley in honor of his new leadership role with the Eagles. Mr. O'Malley is also the charter President of the Division.



At the ceremony were, from left, Attorney Sean Gallagher, Robert Noone, Rob Noone, Patrick O'Malley, Matt McGloin, Joe Walsh, Judge Thomas Munley and District Magistrate Terrence Gallagher.

## Georgia



Savannah's parade: Grand Marshal and Savannah AOH member Dennis Cunihan marched with wife, Linda, in Savannah's 193rd St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. Dennis has a long history with the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. His father was Grand Marshal in 1988.

# Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The 2017 AOH Connecticut Softball Tournament will be hosted by the JFK Division of Bridgeport this year in Milford at Foote Field, which is the same place it was held when Bridgeport hosted the event two years ago. The date will be Saturday, August 26 (rain date Sunday, August 27). The festivities will start at 10 a.m. and conclude around 2 p.m. All Hibernians, spouses and children are invited to attend. The tournament has become a major event for the Danbury and Bridgeport Divisions and they are hoping that this might be the year that other Divisions will field a team or some players and participate. It's a great time, with food and drink for all. The fee will be \$25 and for that you can share in all the refreshments as well as get a commemorative T-shirt. If you want a T-shirt, please send size requirements to Brother Jim Murray by July 15. Jim's email is [jmurraytn@aol.com](mailto:jmurraytn@aol.com).

The annual Commodore Barry Memorial Commemoration will be held in September at South Port Harbor. This is an event that Fairfield County Hibernians take great pride in.

Another annual event is the trip from Waterbury to Yonkers by Rory's Raiders to gather supplies for Waterbury's annual Easter Commemoration breakfast. Danbury Hibernians are always pleased to welcome the brothers from Waterbury for a pit stop on the last leg of their journey home!

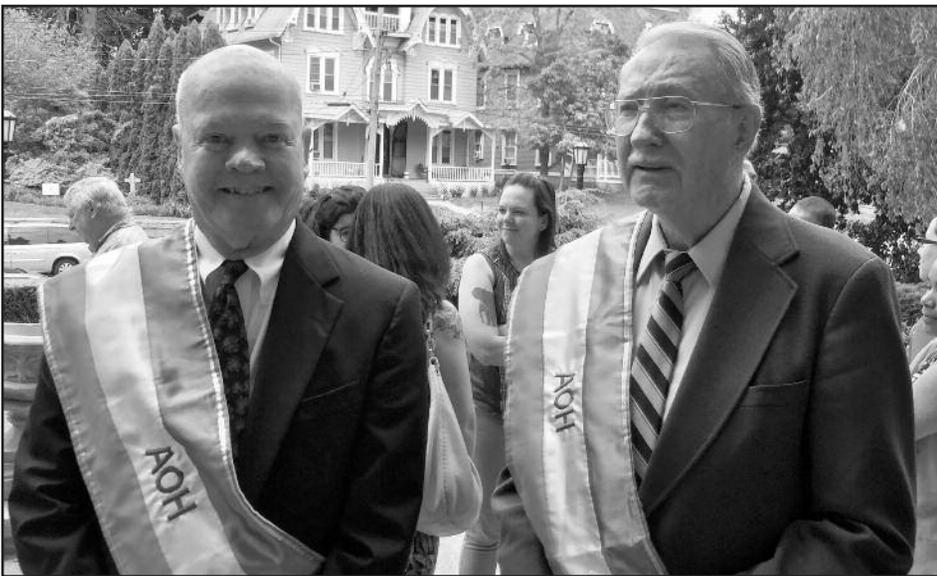
State Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Joe Flaherty of Waterbury reports that the annual commemoration for the Hunger Strikers who gave their lives for Irish freedom will be remembered with pride on September 16 at Bobby Sands Circle (the corner of Freeman Street and Maple Avenue) in Hartford CT at 11 a.m.

The New Haven Father McKeon Division 7, and its Freedom for All Ireland Committee, commemorating the Easter Rising of 1916, sponsored a lecture on April 25, at the Knights of St. Patrick in New Haven. Mary Ward, of Cumann na mBan and Republican Sinn Féin, Ireland, spoke of the role of women in the cause of Irish Freedom and of current issues. Her lecture highlighted the courageous role of Irish women, stationed at various garrisons around Dublin, during the Easter Rising week of April, 1916.

On May 21, the John Holland Division of New London hosted a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New London to commemorate the victims of the Irish Hunger. This was a very impressive event at which the New London AOH presented the gifts in their AOH sashes.

New London Hibernians have also started a book exchange for members interested in reading about Irish Culture and History, while, in Danbury, an Irish book library has been established at the Great Danbury Irish Cultural Center.

As we go to press the AOH and LAOH of Danbury are hard at work preparing for the Biennial State Convention. The results of which will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Hibernian Digest*.



**New London Hibernians Joe Kelly and Past National Director Jim Gallagher wait to attend the Mass in commemoration of the Great Hunger at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich.**

## Niall Burgess continued from page 1

responsible for a government grant to support AOH historical activities. Returning to Ireland, his invitation to a Hibernian delegation on the 2010 Bloody Sunday FFAI tour led to a historic and memorable meeting at Department of Foreign Affairs Headquarters, Iveagh House in Dublin. That delegation saw the respect for Dr. MacBride as his bust featured prominently in Burgess' office.

In 2015 and 2016, Burgess made sure that the AOH & LAOH were major participants in all aspects of the Irish Global Commemorations and Irish Commemorations of the Easter Rising Centenary. As a descendant of Cathal Brugha, a peer of Sean MacBride's in the fight for Irish independence, Niall Burgess continues their good work to bring about peace, justice, prosperity for all Irish people.

Niall has been a tremendous friend of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America throughout his career. Most recently he hosted President McKay in Dublin and helped established a series of meetings with the visiting AOH President throughout Ireland, including the joint committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence.

All Hibernians are encouraged to join the AOH and LAOH national boards as we recognize the tremendous contributions Niall Burgess to the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people. Information on the October 14th event in New Orleans can be found on [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) and in the *Hibernian Digest*. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

# Illinois

## Spirits were not dampened

The Division 32 AOH/IAHC Annual Golf Outing on May 19 at Edgebrook Golf Course in Chicago provides for the Div. 32 charity account replenishment thru hole sponsorships and ads, and it was a success despite the brutal conditions. The golf chairs were Michael S. O'Malley, B J Mattingly and Jack Morrissey, who were helped by numerous brothers with the BBQ prep, procuring sponsors, manning the beverage cart, working the betting hole, hiring the musician Fast Eddy, renting the hall, gathering prizes, etc.

Jim Moriarty and Bill Ristau serenaded the 100+ in the crowd after supper before the limericks were crooned. Special thanks to LAOH Divisions 1 and 8 for helping out as well as both these divisions always do when asked.

The next social event for Division 32 will be a summer BBQ for the less fortunate at Our Lady of Lourdes on June 21 prior to the monthly executive board meeting. And the annual picnic where the Ken Sullivan Man of the Year and scholarship winners are announced will be held Saturday, Aug. 26, and it is to be chaired by the Flaherty Boys, John, Mike and Pat.



**Bob O'Leary, left, and Dave Suerth tried to stay warm and dry at the Chicago Division 32 AOH/IAHC Annual Golf Outing on May 19. Only three foursomes were brave enough to finish all 18 holes during February-like conditions. Said one golfer "It's just like playing in Ireland," and, quipped his cartmate, "Only 25 degrees colder." But a good time was had by all on the 19th hole with socializing and singing and award/door prize distribution.**



**New Hibernians: At the June 1st monthly meeting of Chicago's Division 32, William "Bill" Hickey, center, was sworn in as a Hibernian with the beautiful yet serious pledge ceremony. With him were Kevin O'Malley, left, and Gerry Holley. It is good to hear those powerful and timeless pledge words describing AOH and the values we stand for.**

— John F. O'Donnell



**Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Niall Burgess, AOH National President James McKay and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan, TD.**

# Massachusetts

By Jack Lahey

Word has been received that AOH National President Jim McKay and LAOH National President Pat O'Connell will attend the AOH/LAOH State Convention in Hyannis in early June. You will be reading this in early July, but as of this writing in late May it is planned that the Convention festivities will kick off with a wreath laying ceremony at the JFK Memorial in Hyannis and a boat cruise will follow this ceremony. On Friday evening an ice breaker reception will be held and the Installation Mass and Banquet will take place on Saturday evening.

On May 8 **Division 18** AOH hosted the Mass AOH State Golf Classic at Olde Salem Greens in Salem. Charlie Sinclair, President of Division 18, chaired this event.

**Essex County Board:** The Essex County Convention was hosted by Division 1 Newburyport on April 22. Elected for the next two years were: Richard Wall, President; Michael Ferrick, Vice President; Jack Lawless, Secretary; Paul MacDonald, Financial Secretary; Michael P. Miller, Treasurer; Paul O'Brien, Standing Committee Chairman; Michael Sproul, Marshal, and Kevin Walsh, Sentinel.

**Division 8 Lawrence:** On May 20 a Commemoration of the Great Hunger was held at the An Gorta Mor Memorial. The Rev. John Delaney, Division Chaplain, led the prayer service; Francis A. O'Connor Jr., Division Historian, was the guest speaker and Anne Collins, of Division 8 LAOH, recited prayers in Irish for the deceased.

**Division 1 Holyoke:** The Maurice A. Donahue Scholarships will be presented at the Annual Summer Picnic on June 24.

**Division 14 Watertown:** Division 14 held their Scholarship Social on May 19 and participated in the Memorial Day Parade. On July 21 the Division's Memorial Golf Tournament will be held in Memory of Dick MacDonald.

**Division 36 Worcester:** Division 36 held an Irish Breakfast on May 13 and participated in Worcester's Walk for the Homeless on May 21. An Irish Dance with Andy Healy will be held on June 16.

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

## Plymouth Division commemorates the Rising

On Sunday, April 23, the Father John Murphy Division 9 Plymouth, Massachusetts, sponsored a commemoration of the Easter Rising at the bandstand in Scituate Harbor. Members of the board of selectman and state representatives were present. John P. Travers, President of Division 9, spoke; there was a reading of the Irish Proclamation and a keynote address by Dr. Catherine Shannon, Irish Historian. Additionally there was the singing of the Irish National Anthem as well as the U.S. National Anthem. The event was very well attended and to our knowledge was the only Easter Rising Commemoration event taking place this year sponsored by any city or town in Massachusetts.

On Saturday, April 29, at the Plymouth Public Library, Division 9 sponsored "Music of Irish Rebellion and Freedom," featuring the Lindsays. This event was free to the public and more than one hundred people attended. The music program covered songs ranging from "Follow Me Up To Carlow" to "Four Green Fields." Our Division will continue to be active in sponsoring events in the upcoming months.

— Submitted by John Sullivan in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

# Alabama



**Blessing the flags:** The Father Treacy Division served as the color guard and were honored to have Father Kelly bless the American and the Irish flags when the parade paused at St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church. This year marked the 40th Ellen McAnnelly Memorial St. Patrick's Day parade (<http://www.huntsvillestpatricksday.com>).

## PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER continued from page 1

moving forward. We need to be sure our communications support the original plan for promotion and recruitment.

Each state, county and division will be a critical participant in every campaign moving forward. Our goal is to bring you the contact information for potential recruits. Your charge will be to follow-up with each candidate and carefully vet him to assure they are of the character needed to be a successful Hibernian. Once he becomes a new member, retention is the key to our success. Remember, if you believe we must continue to do everything the way we always have we are destined to fail. Let the next generation of Hibernians guide our continued success, try their new ideas and continue to work together as the oldest and largest Irish Catholic organization in the United States.

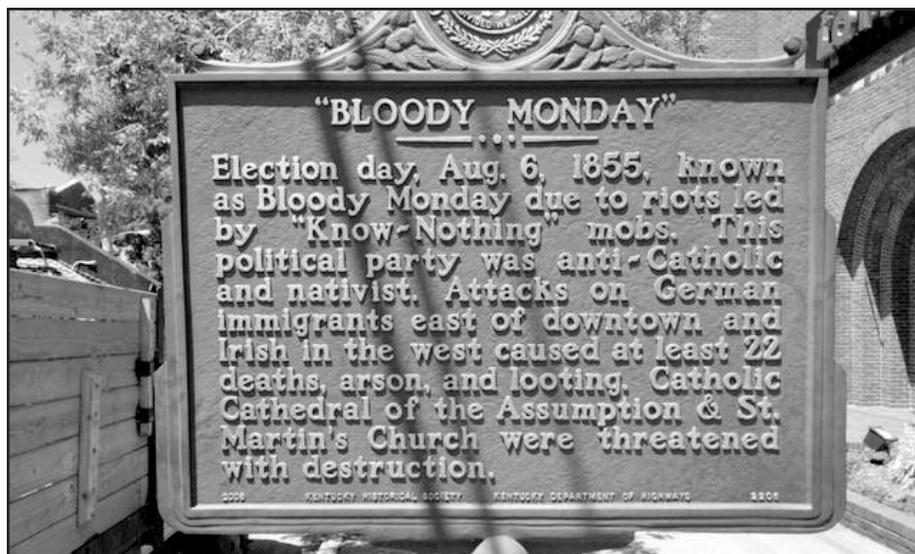
If you have a specific talent related to marketing, promotion and advertising, contact Vice President Danny O'Connell to volunteer your assistance. ([daniel.oconnell@aoh.com](mailto:daniel.oconnell@aoh.com) or 330-518-4450) We are looking specifically for design talent in electronic and print media. We are looking for a team to develop and update our social media including but not limited to our webpage, Facebook page, and our e-mail blast, as well as snapchat and twitter and anything else on the horizon.

# Honored by the Echo



**A. Warren Scullin, NYS Deputy Finance Chair and Nassau County Organizer, was honored by the Irish Echo as one of 2017 Community Champions for his efforts to promote Irish culture through his work with the Order and local community groups. The presentation was held at a dinner on May 5 at the Manhattan Club. Scullin, left, is pictured with Irish Business Organization President Nicholas Malito.**

# Kentucky



Two years ago, the AOH, along with the German-American Club, presented the city of Louisville with a Bloody Monday Historical Marker, commemorating 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 Know-Nothing 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 was an elderly man who was tossed into the flames of his burning home. At the time, the Daily Democrat newspaper wrote that his only crime was "that he was an Irishman and a Catholic." We shall never forget our past and always remember our storied history.

## Petition to honor Lance Corporal Pat Gallagher

There is a petition to have a Navy Destroyer ship named in honor of Lance Corporal Patrick "Bob" Gallagher, who was awarded the Navy Cross for bravery, having been drafted into the service of his adopted country (he was from County Mayo), he willingly served. While under fire Gallagher showed his extraordinary heroism and inspiring valor in the face of almost certain death, he saved his comrades from probable injury and possible loss of life. His daring actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

This honor would be recognition for the families of those enlistees of foreign birth who have served our country in support of our countries principles & protection around the world: A navy ship afloat with this heritage would be a welcome reminder to those at home that their loved one's service and perhaps ultimate sacrifice, were remembered by us, the citizens, members of our Armed Forces and the government of the United States of America.

Please visit the petition page and sign:

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/patrickgallagher>

# Irish Night at the Nationals

On May 2, the Washington Nationals hosted their first ever Irish Heritage Night. Spearheaded by former National Director Keith Carney. The celebration included a pregame celebration with local Irish dancers and musicians. Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson threw out the first pitch. Led by DC State Board Organizer Don Connolly, brothers from DC, Maryland and Virginia participated in the pregame festivities with a community outreach table outside the stadium. This was a great opportunity to reach out to the community to educate them on the many charitable and cultural activities performed by the AOH. – Submitted by Stephen Sullivan, DC AOH Treasurer



Brothers from DC, VA and MD celebrate Irish Heritage Night at Nationals Park.



Former National Director Keith Carney speaks with Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson before the game.

# West Virginia



**Scholarships awarded**  
The Bishop Whelen Division of the AOH, in Wheeling, WV, has awarded the winners of its inaugural scholarship. Three \$750 scholarships were awarded to worthy seniors based on grades, extracurricular activities, knowledge of Ireland and civic and religious activities. The scholarship has to be used for post-secondary education or training. The three winners of the scholarship, from left, are Megan Ondeck, Shay Kaminski and Hannah Ondeck. — Submitted by Tom Murphy.

# Washington DC



Sean Culkin and members from his school entertain visitors as they wait on line to enter the Irish Embassy.

On May 13, the Irish Embassy in Washington, DC, opened its doors to the public in conjunction with the E.U. Embassies' annual open house day. Members of the DC AOH and LAOH were on hand to help welcome the thousands of visitors to the Irish Embassy. Not only did they inform the visitors of the many charitable and cultural activities performed by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, they also help answer questions on how to research their family history and obtain their Irish citizenship. Brother Sean Culkin, owner and operator of the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, entertained those waiting on line outside the Embassy. Thank you, Maria Humphries, former DC LAOH President; Anne Durkin Fisher, current DC LAOH President; JP Walsh, DC AOH President; Stephen Sullivan, DC AOH Treasurer; Fr. Jack Hurley, DC AOH Chaplain; and Mike Dombo, of the Monsignor Wells Division in Silver Spring, MD.



# Nebraska



The Father Flanagan Division marched proudly in the south Omaha Cinco de Mayo parade led by its Skip O'Keefe Color Guard.

## 'Viva Los San Patricio's'

On May 6, the Skip O'Keefe Color Guard from the AOH-Father Flanagan Division in Omaha, Nebraska, participated in the Cinco de Mayo parade in south Omaha. There used to be a large Irish-American community in south Omaha but it has slowly yielded to a large Latino immigrant population over the last few decades. The reception that the Hibernians received from the crowd was phenomenal. There were shouts of "Viva Los San Patricio's" from bystanders. Those loud cries were referring to the Irish immigrants who were part of the Saint Patrick's Battalion who fought for Mexico during the war of 1846-8. The majority of the Saint Patrick's Battalion was comprised of Irish Catholics who sided with Mexico for various reasons, religious compatibility being one of them.

Now make no mistake, every member of the Father Flanagan Division are modern patriots for the United States of America. However, perhaps the bigger picture here for the National AOH is to take notice of the bond we can find among other immigrant populations who face similar issues as the Irish. Maybe other AOH Divisions across the U.S. can march in other ethnic parades while inviting different ethnicities to participate in our Saint Patrick's Day parades. In this way, we can help our National, Regional, State, County and Division AOH Immigration Chairmen accomplish their mission.

— Yours in our Motto, President Dr. Larry Bradley, AOH-Father Flanagan Division.

# Minnesota

## Shamrock Division celebrates Founders Day

On a fine spring day, April 29th, the Shamrock Division met to celebrate Founders Day, admit new members to our Order and to award scholarships.

Established 37 years ago, the Shamrock Division has been celebrating Founders Day annually at St. Thomas Church in Jessenland, Minnesota. Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish settlement in Minnesota, gives a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of Founders Day.

The Scholarship Committee interviewed scholarship candidates and awarded \$6,500 in AOH Scholarships to 13 students. Scholarship selection was based on the applicants' Irish heritage, education plans and how they plan to promote their Irish heritage in the future.

Induction of new members through the Induction Ceremony was overseen by Chapter President John Devins. New members include: Jerome Murphy, Dennis Fogarty, Pat Skelly, Patrick Mulroy, John Piche, Gene Fahey, John Driscoll and Jason Piche.

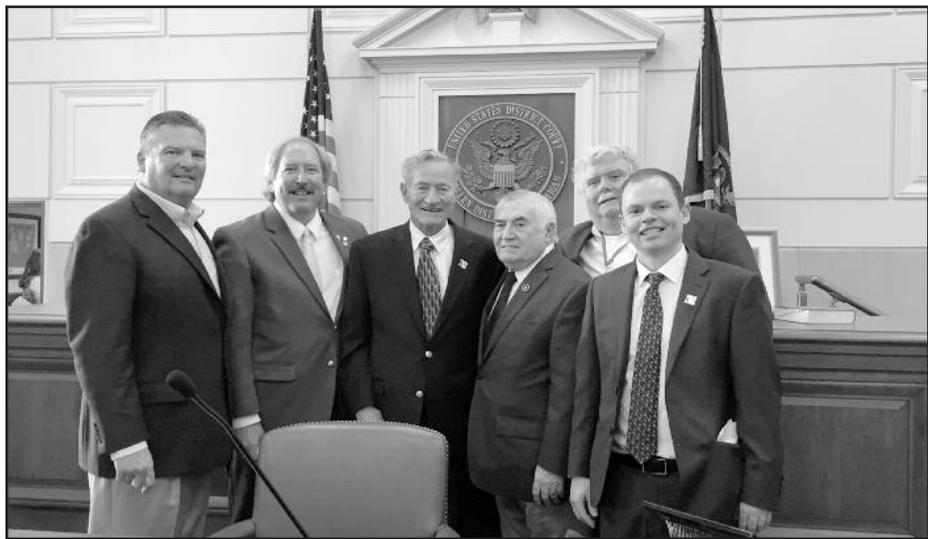
Pictures and more information about the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our web site at [hibernians-shamrock.com](http://hibernians-shamrock.com)

— Submitted by Tim Halloran



At the celebration, from left, back row: Member Jeff Hansen, New members: Pat Skelly, Patrick Mulroy, Dennis Fogarty, John Morrison and Gene Fahey. Front row: Member Shawn Kirby, New members: Jerome Murphy, Jason and John Piche, John Mulroy and member Bruce Kelly

# Michigan



## Ceremony recognizes the Order

The AOH was recognized at the courtroom dedication and retirement of Judge Patrick Duggan from the bench of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit in late April. From left, Michael Kelly, Michigan State VP; Kevin Burk, Michigan State President; Judge Patrick Duggan; Paul Gowdy, AOH National FFAI Chairman; Brian Dunleavy, Past President Dunleavy Division; and Brian O'Brien, Consul General of Ireland for the Midwest States.



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

# Missouri

## Emerald Ball gets great reviews!

It was the highlight of the St. Louis Irish-American community when hundreds of Hibernians and their guests gathered in April for the 27th Annual Irish Emerald Ball at St. Louis' Orlando Banquet Center.

Sponsored by the AOH and LAOH of St. Louis, the Emerald Ball was co-chaired by Kate Skrendenske, Jamie Britt and Jay Ryan, who were given high marks for putting on an outstanding event.

Brian McKenna, a major voice of St. Louis sports radio for nearly two decades, received the Irish Person of the Year Award, recently renamed in honor of the late Judge James Daily Wahl, a long-time leader in the St. Louis Irish-American community who passed away in December 2016.

John Callahan was selected as the Hibernian of the Year. Callahan, Past President of the Michael J. Roarty Division in St. Charles, Missouri, is active in local politics and was recognized for his efforts in spearheading the special commemoration of 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, in Missouri's state capitol last year.

Joan Barry, a member of John Fitzgerald Kennedy LAOH Division, received the Daughter of Erin Award, which was presented for the first time this year. Barry, a former member of Missouri House of Representatives, led LAOH efforts to support a program that provides in-home nursing visits called Nurses for Newborns.

Andy Vineyard, of the Fr. Tim Dempsey Division, was selected the Young Hibernian of the Year. Vineyard was recognized for his efforts in creating the Hibernian Helping Hand Fund that supports members and their families in need of financial assistance during a crisis.

The evening began with a performance of Irish Dancing by the Clarkson School of Irish Dance and closed out with music by Colin & Reynolds.

Proceeds from the Emerald Ball will be donated to Brian McKenna's designated charity, BackStoppers, which provides financial assistance and support to the spouses and dependent children of members of the first responder community.



Chairpersons and honorees of the Emerald Ball were, from left, Jamie Britt, John Callahan, Joan Barry, Kate Skredenske, Andy Vineyard, Brian McKenna and Jay Ryan.



## St. Louis AOH Parade Honorees

Organizers of the St. Louis' AOH St. Patrick's Day Parade presented awards to some of the outstanding units who participated in the 2017 event. In the back row, from left, were Meghan Torno, Grand Marshal Award-Meghan-Torno Irish School of Dance; Mike O'Shea, Best AOH Division-Cardinal Glennon Division; Joe Murphy-2017 AOH Parade Chairman; Kelly Wahl Chew, Best Irish Clan-Dailey Clan and Sharon Abernathy Cox, Chairman's Award-Abernathy Cox Clan. In the front row, from left, Nora Joyce and Maura Daub, Meghan-Torno dancers and Natalie and Lucas Moddrel, Best Float-St. James the Greater School. Unable to attend the ceremony were the winners of the Best Irish Heritage Award-Fitzgerald Clan and Best Band-Irish Pipes and Drums.

## Remember the AOH in your will

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

# New Jersey



## 10th Year Anniversary of Gael Scoil

The AOH Joe Cahill Division 10 in Mercer County New Jersey, presented their 10th annual Gael Scoil on February 11 and 12. This year, 75 students ages 6 to 17 attended this two-day unique Irish experience. Classes in Irish culture, history, music, sports, language, heroes and much more were held at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Classes were 45-minutes long with students in age appropriate groups. A mass ended a full day of classes on Saturday and all students experienced a full Irish breakfast with bangers, Irish bacon, white and black pudding and boxty on Sunday morning. The Tir na nOg pipe band of Mercer County performed for the students. Students experienced hands on activities, which included making Irish soda bread that they took home. This year a traveling exhibit on The Irish & Labor was on display from the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, New York. All the students received a special Gael Scoil 10-year commemorative Gaelic football shirt from O'Neill's of Ireland.

It takes many talented teachers from the tristate area as well as chaperones and volunteers to make this special program a success each year. The committee is already working on plans for next year's Gael Scoil. Follow us at [www.gaelcoil.us](http://www.gaelcoil.us).

## Hibernians convene in Middletown

The NJ AOH and LAOH held their State Conventions on May 19 at Vol. Patrick Torphy Monmouth County, Division 2, Columbus Club, located in Middletown, NJ. On May 20, members attended various seminars during the day and then later on that night, the Convention Banquet, held in the Holiday Inn, in Hazlet. LAOH Honoree Rose Langan was the Humanitarian Award recipient. The AOH Honorees were The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, the Bishop of Camden, the McFaul-Mullan Award, Clergy/Lay persons-Advancing the Motto of the AOH. Jere Cole, AOH National Secretary, received The Vol. Patrick Torphy Award-Advancing the AOH by their field of endeavor. John Hughes, President, Archbishop John Hughes Division 16, Passaic County, received the Corporal Michael P. Curtin Award-Changing a person's life for the better.



The new board, from left, Jim Miller, Mike Rhodes, Larry Prella and Rich O'Brien.

## By State President Larry Prella

On May 19 and 20, New Jersey held their Biennial Convention. A new board was voted in: President Larry Prella, Vice President Rich O'Brien, Secretary Mike Rhodes and Treasurer Jim Miller.

I would like to thank the members of the NJAOH for the honor of being elected to lead the state for the next two years. I challenged the presidents of New Jersey in my acceptance speech, to increase the membership of the NJAOH by 500 in my first term. It may sound like a daunting task but my home division, Division 1 Gloucester County NJ, under our worthy President Jim O'Neill, has increased our rolls by 27 since January 1.

Also at the Convention, we several awards were conferred.

The McFaul-Mullan Award-Clergy and or Lay persons advancing the Motto of the AOH to The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, the Bishop of Camden.

The Vol. Patrick Torphy Award-Advancing the AOH by their field of endeavor to Jere Cole, National Secretary, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.

The Corporal Michael P. Curtin Award - Changing a person's life for the better to John Hughes, President, Archbishop John Hughes Division 16, Passaic County, NJ.

I will continue to report on the many wonderful things are happening in New Jersey.



**Irishman of the Year**  
Ocean County Division 1 presented Jack Clark, center, with their Irishman of the Year award. Pictured with Jack is his daughter, Colleen Adams, and NJAOH Vice President Rich O'Brien.



**Medal of Honor Grove:** NJ AOH members cleanup crew volunteered at Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, PA. On Saturday, April 8, a group of NJ AOH members journeyed to the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge Medal of Honor Grove to help restore the NJ area. Each state has one acre and an obelisk with plaques dedicated to honoring the recipients of the Medal of Honor. Photo: Brother George Stampoulos



Hibernians' Bi-Annual Joint NJ State Conventions. Members who participated in the Joint State Board Meeting on May 19. All photos by Brother George Stampoulos.

# New York



## Cardinal visits Kingston

Cardinal Timothy Dolan visited St. Mary's-St. Peter's parish in Kingston, NY, to celebrate Mass for the 175th anniversary of the parish. He was met by the Fr. Con Colbert Woulfe Division 1 Pipe, Drum and Honor Guard and the Kingston St Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal, William Murphy, before Mass. The band also played a performance around the Memorial An Gorta Mor Cross that the AOH erected several years ago. — Submitted by Bill Kearney, VP, Div. 1 Ulster County.

## Richmond County Convention

By Brother Denis P. McGowan. St. Columcille Division 4

On May 17, more than 75 Brother Hibernians, representing the Richmond County Board's three Divisions, attended the annual County Convention conducted at the Society of St. Paul on Staten Island, NY.

Hibernianism first came to Staten Island in the early 1850s, when the first Division was established in Tompkinsville due to anti-Catholic, anti-Irish hostility from Nativists on Staten Island. A second Division was later established among the Irish Catholic community in Port Richmond. The Order currently consists of three Divisions on Staten Island, the John F. Kennedy Division 1, the John D. Kearney Division 3 and the St. Columcille Division 4.

Brother Charles "Chip" McLean, Past New York State President, was nominated by the convention's attendees to be proposed for National Life Membership at the coming 99th biennial State Board convention in Buffalo, to overwhelming support and applause.

Reports were presented on the success of the 42nd Annual Hibernian Ball, the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the AOH Saint Patrick's Day Dinner, and the well-attended AOH Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast at Mount Loretto, celebrated by His Eminence Bishop John Joseph O'Hara. Additional reports on the progress and preparations for the 19th annual Staten Ireland Irish Fair and the annual AOH picnic were given by their respective committee chairmen.

The following Brothers were nominated from the floor and duly elected unanimously to serve on the County Board for the 2017-2018 fraternal year: President Jerry Mulvaney, Vice President Thomas J. Gray, Recording Secretary Patrick W. Glynn, Jr., Treasurer Dr. Craig Campbell, Financial Secretary William Humphrey, Standing Committee Chairman James Haynes IV, Marshal Charles Fitzpatrick and Sentinel Neil O'Sullivan.

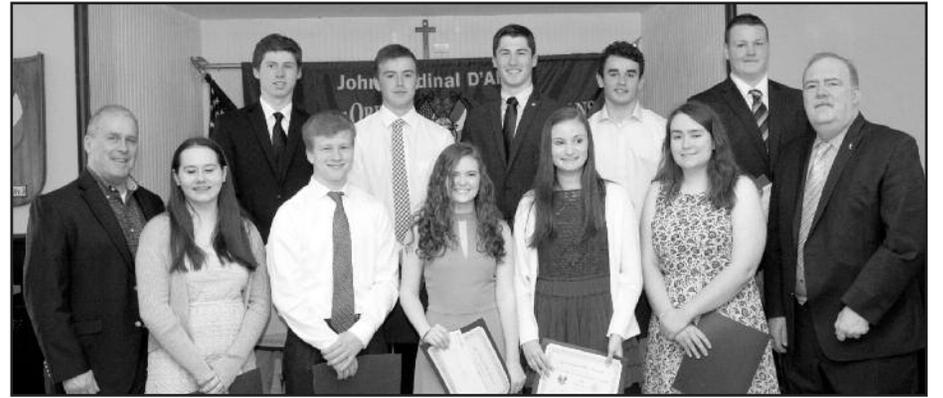
The Brothers of Staten Island expressed their support for Brother Martin Crimmins of St. Columcille Division 4 for his nomination for the position of New York District 5's Director at the coming State biennial convention at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo on July 12-15.

They also offered their support for Brother John Manning of Breezy Point/Rockaway Division No 21, Past County President of the Queens County Board for the position of New York State Board Secretary at the biennial convention.

The County's Brothers voted to support the 19th annual Staten Ireland Irish Fair, to be held on the grounds of the historic Mission of Mount Loretto's former orphanage established by the Irish-born Father John Christopher Drumgoole, of County Longford, on Saturday, June 10, and June 11. The Order will staff a recruiting booth for potential new Hibernian members at the fair. The Staten Ireland Irish Fair raises funds for Hibernian charities and the creation of an Irish cultural center on Staten Island. For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.statenirelandirish.com/staten-ireland-irish-fair.html>

Brother Jack King of the famed Cu Chulainn Celtic Warrior Degree Team announced that there will be an exemplification of the Order's Major Degrees, the "inner circle of the Hibernian brotherhood," on Staten Island in November. The date and location will be forthcoming once its finalized. Brother Hibernians from nearby New Jersey, Manhattan, Queens, Bronx and Brooklyn will be cordially invited to attend and receive their Major Degrees. For further information on the Cu Chulainn Celtic Warrior Degree Team, please contact Brother King via email at [jkcuchulainn531@gmail.com](mailto:jkcuchulainn531@gmail.com).

The Richmond County Convention closed in a renewed spirit of Hibernianism with the rousing and spirited singing of The Soldier's Song and The Star-Spangled Banner and the recitation of prayers for our departed Brothers.



## Scholarships awarded in Pearl River

John Cardinal D'Alton Division 3 held its annual Communion Breakfast at the Church of St. Margaret in Pearl River on Sunday, April 23, 2017. Ten student scholarship winners were honored by the pastor, Rev. Eric P. Raaser, at the Mass. The honorees were presented their awards at the breakfast held at Hibernian House. Front Row, from left: Kevin McNulty, co-chair Scholarship Committee, Kerry Holt (who accepted the award on behalf of her sister, Caitlin Holt), Kevin Lynn, Theresa Glynn, Brianne Lee, Mairead Dillon and Neil Cosgrove, co-chair Scholarship Committee; top row, from left: Niall Glynn, John Hogan, Kevin Moore, Christian Madigan and Jack Deegan. *Photo courtesy of Bob Reers*



President Thomas Gray, Brother Anthony Caratozzolo, Bishop O'Hara and Monsignor Bartley. Photo: Brother Vincent Gatens.

## Staten Island Hibernians attend annual Memorial Mass

By Brother Denis P. McGowan

On the beautiful Sunday morning of April 2, more than 165 Brother and Sister Hibernians from Staten Island's AOH St. Columcille Division 4 and St. Brigid Division 4, as well as officers of the AOH and LAOH Richmond County Board, gathered with their families and friends to attend the annual memorial Mass to honor our departed Brothers and Sisters, and to commemorate the 47th anniversary of these two stalwart Divisions' establishment in April 1970.

The Mass was celebrated at the historic Roman Catholic Church of St. Joachim and St. Anne on the grounds of the former Mission of the Immaculate Conception Orphanage of Mount Loretto. The orphanage was established in 1883 by Reverend John Christopher Drumgoole (August 15, 1816 - March 28, 1888) for homeless children at Mount Loretto on Staten Island.

Born in Granard, County Longford, Father Drumgoole established a modern orphanage at Mount Loretto, where several thousand orphaned Irish boys and girls were taught a trade to earn a living after they left the orphanage, received a full education, were well-versed in their Roman Catholic faith, and were provided a healthy, sanitary and happy life that they would not have had if they remained homeless and destitute on the streets of New York.

The main celebrant of the Mass at this beautiful church was The Most Reverend Bishop John Joseph O'Hara of the Archdiocese of New York, assisted by Reverend Monsignor Vincent Bartley of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, and Brother Vincent Caratozzolo, Sentinel of St. Columcille Division 4 and Eucharistic Minister of St. Joseph-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Brother James Haynes III and Brother Martin Crimmins of the St. Columcille Color Guard posted the American and Irish national colors at the beginning of the Mass.

The Divisions' charters were draped with black crepe and displayed upon the altar out of respect to our departed Brothers and Sister Hibernians.

Bishop O'Hara, a beloved member of the clergy of Staten Island, delivered an inspiring homily and proved to be a very eloquent and enlightening (and many times, very entertaining) homilist.

AOH Division 4 President Thomas J. Gray and LAOH Division 4 President Maria Del Bagno also participated in the Mass with the presentation of the gifts.

After Holy Communion, the names of every Brother and Sister Hibernian of these Divisions were read aloud to the tolling of the bells, in memoriam of their good lives and their service to their Order and their Divisions. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Psalm 112:6

The colors were retired with solemnity at the conclusion of the celebration of Mass, and a well-attended communion breakfast was held afterwards on the grounds of Mount Loretto, with lively traditional Irish music played throughout the meal.

# Ohio



At the donation presentation were, from left, Tony Manley, Raymond Schulte, Maureen O'Neill-Laszlo and David Manley.

### Christian Charity in action

The Irish Brigade Division 1 of Medina County, Ohio, presented a check for \$771 to Maureen O'Neill-Laszlo, a director at Regina Health Center in Richfield. This money will go toward the Alzheimer Unit at the Center. The money was raised during the division's first annual Charity Beer Run, where the Hibernians and their friends spent the day touring and sampling at five local breweries. David Manley (Ohio State Director) and Raymond Schulte were instrumental in getting this event organized and the division plans to host the beer run again next year.



Hibernian promoted to Lieutenant Commander: Hibernian Brother Eric Moss, Mahoning County, Ohio, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander on June 1. Another Hibernian following in the steps of Commodore John Barry. Eric is pictured with his family following his swearing in ceremony. With the proud Hibernian are Stephanie Moss and their children, Adelyn and Madison. Eric is stationed at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

# New York

### Yonkers Division raises over \$25,000 at Charity Golf Outing

The Myles Scully Division 1 of Yonkers held their 20th Annual Charity Golf Outing on May 8th at The Ardsley Country Club in Dobbs Ferry. The event welcomed 120 players who were treated to a wonderful day of golf, food and fun.

The Golf Outing has become the Division's largest and most successful charity fundraising event and continues to grow each and every year. Funds raised at the event go towards the Division's Charities and Missions Program.

"Our Golf Committee Chairman Dennis O'Brien and his team spend the entire year planning this event and the results speak for themselves," said Division President Kevin Ellis, "We are very fortunate to have so many sponsors and supporters in the local community."

The Division is already beginning plans for next year's event, when the Ardsley Country Club will open a brand new catering hall and clubhouse, which were damaged in a fire two years ago.



Players enjoying the day at the Yonkers Charity Golf Outing.

### Trip planned to Shrine at Auriesville, NY

A trip to the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY, on Sunday, September 24, will be hosted by the AOH division in Whitestone, Queens. BBQ lunch will be included. Bus leaves from St. Mel's Church, 154th Street and 26th Avenue, Whitestone at 7 a.m. Tickets are \$45. Call Ed Rice at (917) 209-5829, and mail payments to 253-20 61st Avenue, Little Neck, NY 11362.



AOH joins solemn Memorial Day ceremonies in Goshen: AOH members of Division 1 and Division 4 of Orange County, New York, attended sunrise Memorial Day services at seven cemetery and monument locations in Goshen. At each location a prayer was recited for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, followed by a piper playing Amazing Grace and then a 21-gun salute by members of the American Legion. While visiting the Orange County Veterans Cemetery members paid their respects at the gravesite of 1st Lt. Louis Allen, who died in Iraq and is the namesake of the first AOH Junior Division in Orange County. A decade of the Rosary was said by members along with his parents who were in attendance.



## 'Why I'm a Hibernian'

### Help us recruit new members



Why are you a Hibernian? What are the benefits of being a Hibernian? What's your favorite thing about the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and what's the best activity your division does and the Order does?

As part of our new Marketing, Promotion and Advertising Committee, we are gathering content to help attract and recruit new Irish Catholics to join our Order. We'd like you to join in that effort by thinking about these questions and send your responses in writing to the National Board.

So we'd like you, in less than 100 words, respond to the statement: "Why I'm a Hibernian," and send it to committee member John O'Connell at his Digest editor email: [EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com](mailto:EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com).

We intend to use the best responses in various social media campaigns, on our national and state websites, and in other media.

We're also planning to encourage Hibernians to make brief, informal videos that will enable brothers to tell potential membership candidates "in person" why they are Hibernians and why other Irish-American Catholics should join, and how.

# Pennsylvania



Montgomery Division hosts communion breakfast: The Notre Dame Division, Montgomery County, PA, held a Communion Breakfast Mass at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church, in Plymouth. The Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums and the AOH Color Guard after Mass.



President honored: Pennsylvania State President Ed Halligan was honored at his Testimonial Dinner on May 6 at the Flourtown Country Club. Ed is pictured here with Irish Thunder Pipers Mike Brown from Montgomery County Div. 6 and Div. 1 President Mark Ryan.



County elects officers: The Lackawanna County Board met in Scranton for their Biennial Convention. Pictured are Officers-Elect and were sworn in by Joseph Hosie. From left, State Vice President Joe Hosie; Financial Secretary Dennis Feeney; Marshal Harry Smith; Sentinel Joe Garrity; Vice President Terry Hughes; Treasurer Joe Walsh; Recording Secretary Don McCarthy; President Tom Gilbride; Standing Committee Sean Frizzle.

## Honoring the President

The Pennsylvania AOH State President's Dinner took place at the Flourtown County Club, on Saturday, May, 6, honoring Ed Halligan.



Ed Halligan is pictured standing with the Pennsylvania State Board. From left, John Michaely, Mike Rose, Jack Fagen, Jim Hook, Larry Daly, Ed, Ted Miller, William McKinney, Joe Walsh, Jim Murphy, Joe Hosie, Denny Gaw, Bob Haley and Tim Carley. — Submitted by Larry Squires



Ed Halligan is seated in front of the seven past Pennsylvania AOH State Presidents who were in attendance. Seated in front is Ed Halligan, and behind Ed, from left, are Denny Donnelly, Jim Green, Tommy O'Donnell, Denny Gaw, Seamus Boyle, Chris Norris and Dan Devinney



Ed with the National Board, from left, Sean Pender, Jim Green, Tommy O'Donnell, Denny Gaw, Ed Halligan, Seamus Boyle, and Danny O'Connell.

## Nassau County, NY Convention



The Nassau County Board in New York held its convention on June 11, at which a new slate of officers were elected for two-year terms. From left, Vice President John O'Brien, Standing Committee Chairman John Nolan, Recording Secretary Ken Ferguson, President Peter Begley, Treasurer Joe McDonald, Sentinel Paul Doud (in the front), Financial Secretary Edward McGlade and Marshal Sean Hood.

# Ladies Hibernian News

## Iowa



**On April 19, 2017 LAOH National Organizer Mary Hogan installed a new division in Iowa; LAOH St. Brigid Division 1, Dubuque County, Iowa. New president Vicki Leonard and 39 new Hibernian sisters.**

On April 19, 2017 LAOH National Organizer Mary Hogan installed a new division in Iowa; LAOH Div. 1, Dubuque County, Iowa. The new division is currently the only LAOH division in Iowa; they have chosen the name St. Brigid in honor of the LAOH Patron Saint. The Division was officially opened and 40 Ladies were installed as new Hibernian sisters. Officers were elected and installed; the new Division 1 President is Vicki Leonard; VP-Ann Meloy; Rec Secy-Mary English; Treas-Lauren Torres, Fin Secy-Karen McClain, I Hist-Sarah Fitting, Miss & Char-Mary King, Cath Act-Cindy Breen, Mist Arms-Jayne Schuster, Sentinel-Janet Feeney. Pres. Leonard made the following Appointments- Co-Chaplains-Sr. Mary Pat Conlon and Sr. Marlene McDonnell; PR-Joan Frommelt. The new division may be contacted at laohdiv1iowa@gmail.com. Congratulations Sisters and Welcome!

## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
Patricia A. O'Connell	President	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Carol Sheyer	Vice President	csheyer@fuse.net
Karen Keane	Secretary	laohkaren@live.com
Marilyn Madigan	Treasurer	memadigan@gmail.com
Dee Wallace	Irish Historian	deew93395@gmail.com
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Missions & Charities	maryannlubinsky@gmail.com
Colleen Bowers	Catholic Action	bowers033@gmail.com
Mary Hogan	Organizer	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Good & Welfare	nanaryan713@aol.com
Dorothy Weldon	Budget Committee	dorothyweldon@comcast.net
Mary T. Leathem	Freedom for All Ireland	mtleathem@aol.com
Mary B. Dolan	Immigration & Legislation	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Budget Committee	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	Budget Committee Chair	marypaglione@comcast.net
Kathie Linton	2018 Nat'l Conv. Chair	kathie.linton@akrongeneral.org
Mary Conlon	Supplies & Merchandise	mandjconlon@atmc.net
Sandi Swift	Web, Press, Social Media	webmaster@ladiesaoh.com
Mary Ellen Chajkowski	Legal Counsel to President in Organization Matters	

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mary Hogan	Organizer	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy		Deer Park, NY
Mary Ryan		Marlboro, MA
Dorothy Weldon		Monongahela, PA
Mary T. Leathem		Troy, NY
Mary B. Dolan		North Brookfield, MA
Peggy Cooney		Pittsburgh, PA
Mary Paglione		St. Lucie West, FL
Kathie Linton		Uniontown, Ohio

## President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



As you read this edition, I bring you greetings and prayers that you may continue to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. I am hopeful that through our member to member engagement that we will be strengthened to live our lives modeling Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

I want to thank the members who have participated in their 2017 State Convention deliberations. I challenge the members of the States whose 2017 State Conventions have not yet been convened to make a commitment to participate in their 2017 State Convention. As I have learned through my experience in participating in my own State Conventions through the years, "you learn by doing, and by doing you learn."

Let me take this opportunity to publicly thank the State Presidents who have completed their Term of Office for their leadership and commitment of time to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of their State. To the newly elected State Presidents, I pledge my support to assist you in whatever manner I can. You may contact me via phone (309-309-2116) or by email (oconnellp407@comcast.net). Let me remind the newly elected State Presidents to send the contact information for your newly elected State Board including the following: Title, full name, street address, city, state, zip code, phone number, and email address to me at oconnellp407@comcast.net and to National Secretary Karen Keane at laohkaren@live.com.

By the time you read his article, your LAOH State President will have received information regarding the AOH-LAOH National Presidents' Testimonial Weekend being held October 13-14, 2017 in New Orleans LA at the St. Charles Hilton Hotel. AOH National President James F. McKay and I are co-hosting this weekend starting at 9:00 PM on Friday, October 13th, with a Welcome and a "Musical Night in Old New Orleans" Social. On Saturday, October 14th, each Hibernian Organization will convene their Interim National Board Meeting. Following the Meeting Schedules, Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Church followed by a Social Hour at the Intercontinental Hotel where the Presidents' Dinner will be held and the Sean MacBride Award will be presented. Forms for participating in this special weekend are available at [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) OR [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) and in The Hibernian Digest. I look forward to seeing many of you readers at this special AOH-LAOH National Presidents' Weekend.

I encourage all of you to continue your efforts to identify new candidates for consideration for membership and I pray that through your Division meetings, activities, and events that you will be able to sustain your membership. May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, continue to strengthen us as we work daily to live our motto, "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity."

## Missouri



**St. Louis, Missouri, JFK Division 3, celebrated the 100th birthday of John F. Kennedy at their May Meeting. They had a history reading on President Kennedy and a birthday cake.**

## Louisiana

Members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Margaret Haughey Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, gathered in the beautiful courtyard of the Irish Cultural Museum for their monthly meeting.

Located in the historic French Quarter, the Irish Cultural Museum of New Orleans traces the City's Irish Heritage through rarely seen archival maps, photographs and newspaper articles. After the meeting, members enjoyed a wonderful lunch catered by the Irish Cultural Museum staff and were also given the opportunity to tour the Museum.

## Pennsylvania



Pictured are LAOH members who were in attendance at the recent Berks County AOH/Knights of Columbus/Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast. From left: Maureen Caherly, Bonnie Collins (Past PA State President,) Bryn Weckel of Berks Division 1, Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Missions & Charities Officer.



PA Allegheny County Division 11 members marched in the Annual St. Patrick's Day parade on a cold and windy day in downtown Pittsburgh on March 11. Pictured: front row flag bearers: Erin McCormick, Peggy Populo. Second row flag bearers: Mary Jo Jennings, Kalyn Populous. In background: Laura Schubert, Ellen Haggerty, Mary Ellen Myers, Mary Rogers-Schubert

## Ohio



2017-2018 Ohio Officers were elected at of State Convention on 5/20/17. Pictured are: Clara Joyce, President, Theresa Cory, Vice President, Teresa Veeley Harris, Secretary, Treasurer, Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti, Historian, JoAnn Shire, Missions and Charities, Kathy Rennie Mates, and Catholic Action, Cindee Case.

## Condolences

Eileen D. O'Connell, the mother of our National President Patricia O'Connell, went to her eternal rest. Please remember Pat and her family in your prayers. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Pat's mother at the conventions and remember the smile she was wearing when Pat was sworn into office as the leader of our Order. Details regarding the service and address to send condolence cards will be posted on the website.

## Michigan

The Michigan LAOH/AOH members were honored and thrilled to have LAOH National President, Patricia O'Connell and AOH National President, Jim McKay attend our State Convention on May 19th - 20th at the Embassy Suites in Livonia Michigan.

During her address, National President Patricia O'Connell informed us that Michigan is the eighth largest state in membership. She challenged us to sustain and increase our numbers. The St. Brigid Degree Team of Michigan escorted the State Board and our National President for our Opening Ceremony. They also assisted at the installation of officers following Mass said by Fr. Richard Leliaert, Chaplain of the Steven Walsh Division.

We appreciate and thank Pat and Jim for taking the time from their demanding schedules to come to Michigan.



The new Michigan State Board was proud to be installed by Patricia O'Connell, our LAOH National President. L-R: Kathleen Capman, Catholic Action; Dianne Mankel, Missions & Charities; Patricia O'Connell, National President; Barb Weir, President; Stacey Blair, Vice President; Maureen Kelly, Secretary and Brigid Taylor, Historian. Missing from photo, Marna Adamian, Historian.

## California



2017 CA State Board and guest. Seated L to R: Chris Del Carlo (Treasurer), Margaret McAuliffe (Vice President), Peggy Cornish (President), Kathy Llera (Secretary) Standing L to R: Kathleen Votaw (Missions/Charities), Finbar Hill (Hon. Consul General of Ireland), Brother Joseph Anoop (Project St. Patrick grant recipient), Leanne McGrady (Catholic Action)

## Washington DC

Tuesday evening, May 2nd, was the Irish Night at the Washington, DC Nationals Baseball Park. Under the tent, before the game, there was a fine array for Irish performers and an assortment of tasty Irish snacks, courtesy of our many fine Irish restaurants. Anne Anderson, our esteemed Irish ambassador, threw out the first pitch. Even though our Washington Nationals lost the game to the Arizona Diamondbacks, it was a great evening. Our annual Nuns of the Battlefield Mass, procession, ceremony and luncheon took place on Sunday, May 7. Ohio State Board President, Marie Manning, and our national treasurer, Marilyn Madigan, represented the National Board. As everyone knows, this monument was dedicated on September 24, 1924, and we continue on with the tradition each May.

The Irish Embassy participated in the Embassies Open House, sponsored by the European Union, Sunday, May 14. Our ladies worked at the Embassy, along with the men, to recruit members of the AOH and LAOH.

# New York

## Knock Witness John Curry Reinterred at Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the soul of John Curry, the youngest witness to the Our Lady of Knock vision was offered on Saturday May 13, 2017 after which he was reburied on the historic grounds of the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in the adjacent cemetery. Timothy Cardinal Dolan Archbishop of New York was the Celebrant; "John Curry who would come here to New York as a young man, an immigrant, who only distinguished himself by his simplicity, humility, kindness and his piety, spending his final seven years with our beloved Little Sisters of the Poor in the Sacred Heart Home on 70th Street where he repeated his simple testimony when asked officially in 1937 and where he quietly died in 1943, then to be buried in donated, unmarked grave until this day when his proud and grateful, spiritual and natural heirs gather to give him the prominence and esteem he deserves." Cardinal Dolan

John Curry was born in 1874 in Lecarrow, Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. He was the eldest of the four children and when he was about one-year-old John went to live with his maternal grandparents, the Byrnes, in the village of Knock. On the evening of 21 August 1879 he and three others from the Byrne house went to see the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist on the gable end of the parish church nearby. Then aged 5 years, he was the youngest of the 15 official witnesses who gave testimony to members of the Commission of Enquiry established shortly after the apparition by Archbishop of Tuam.

In 1897 John Curry, arrived in America where he spent about two years before going to England. In 1911 he returned to America from England. In the 1920s John moved to New York. His last-known occupation was as an attendant in the City Hospital on Welfare Island (Roosevelt Island) in the East River.

In 1932, due to ill health, he entered a home for the elderly run by the Little Sisters of the Poor on East 70th Street, where he remained until his death on 27 May 1943 at the age of 69. He was buried in a communal plot owned by the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Cemetery of the Resurrection on Long Island.

A number of John Curry's relatives were in attendance, including his namesake and grand-nephew who was the author of a detailed book on his life. Also in attendance was the pilgrimage group from Knock Parish, led by Fr Richard Gibbons the Director of OL Knock Shrine in Ireland. Many members of the LAOH, AOH, County Mayo Society, UIC were honored to be in attendance.

Towards the end of the ceremony Fr Richard Gibbons presented Monsignor Donald Sakano, Pastor of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral with an original piece of clay from the gable wall at Knock Shrine. Fr Richard said "We are delighted and honored to be here for this historic occasion and to lead the Parish of Knock on our first pilgrimage to this sacred place. I would like to express my warm and sincere gratitude to both Cardinal Dolan and Monsignor Donald Sakano for inviting us here and for making all of this possible. We are extremely grateful to everyone for providing us with such a warm welcome, for making the Mass so special and an experience that will be cherished for many years."

The final blessings of John Curry's remains were followed by an emotional singing of Our Lady of Knock song by everyone in the church. A headstone has been erected to give him full recognition as a native of Knock and a witness to the Apparition.



In front of piece of the original gable wall from Knock Shrine in Ireland; Delia Weissenberg, Cathy Miceli, Regina Begley, Lillian Murphy, Joann Gundersen, Mary Hogan, Claire Hulton, and Pat Monihan.



New officers of Broome County LAOH: Maureen Bradley, Michele Teller, Suzanne Messina, President, Linda Wylie, Deborah Burke, Kate Hull, Nancy Hyatt, Barbara Walling, and Mary Ellen Koncak.

# Maryland



The Rockville Maryland, Div 9 Ladies, participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

# Kentucky



LAOH Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1 celebrated their 3rd anniversary this March at their new home located in the Goetz Center at St. Brigid's Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Deadline for the August-September issue is NO LATER than August 1**

# Bronx Division 5 hosts Dr. Ruan O'Donnell

AOH-Division 5 Wakefield/Woodlawn hosted a talk on America's Fenians and Irish Freedom 1867-2017 by Irish Historian Dr. Ruan O'Donnell

(professor, University of Limerick) on Wednesday, April 19th at The Rambling House in Woodlawn, Bronx, NY. *Photos by Nuala Purcell*



Tom Beirne (financial secretary, AOH Francis B. Beirne-Div.9-New York County), Erica Veil, great-granddaughter of Galway-born Col. Thomas Kelly who was a famous Fenian leader and also fought for the Union Army in the Civil War, and AOH Div.9 President Denis McCarthy who sang both the Irish and American anthems at the event.

*Photos by Nuala Purcell*



Guest speaker Dr. Ruan O'Donnell and AOH-Division 5 President Martin Galvin were presented with NYS Assembly proclamations by AOH-Division 3 Bronx President Joe McManus.



Dr. Ruan O'Donnell was presented with a proclamation from Westchester County Legislator David Tubiolo.



Noted Irish historian Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, who is currently on a speaking tour of the U.S., with AOH Division 5 Woodlawn President Martin Galvin.



Bob Bateman, the great-grandnephew of famous Fenian Captain Timothy Deasy who fought in the American Civil War with distinction, proceeded into the event followed by Dr. Ruan O'Donnell and Joe McManus.



AOH Division 5-Woodlawn members John Ryan, Chris Boyd, Raymond Leyden, Patrick Leathem, and Brian McNally.

## Suffolk Division 5's food drive helps the needy



Staffing the AOH food-drive table were, from left, Ed Kelly, Kayla Kelly, Jim Mannix, Dennis Curtin, Larry Hurley, Mike McElleney, Don Schauder, Tom Thompson and John Hurley.

The Mary & Joseph Thompson, Division 5, on Long Island, NY, held their bi-annual food drive on Sunday, April 30. Division members were on hand at the King Kullen supermarket in Shirley, NY, collecting food and other donations to benefit the St. Jude Roman Catholic Church Outreach Program in Mastic Beach.

"Poverty on Long Island has been ever increasing since the Great Recession and we felt that we needed to do our part to help," explained Don Schauder, Chairman of Charities & Missions for Division 5. "We understand how poverty and hunger can have such an adverse effect on communities. Our own Irish history shows us how hopelessness under such terrible conditions can fundamentally change a person, and the larger community as a whole. We just want to do our part in helping to make life a bit easier for struggling Long Islanders."

Local shoppers agreed, having donated enough food and supplies to fill two pickup trucks. "The people of the Shirley and Mastic area are so generous. They made this event a huge success," said Larry Hurley, Vice President of Division 5. "It is truly an amazing thing to see how everyone steps up to help people less fortunate." Division 5 will be holding another food drive later in the year. For more information about charity events or to join the Order, visit [aohdiv5.org](http://aohdiv5.org).

— Submitted by Ed Kelly, Rec. Sec., Division 5.

**2017 AOH-LAOH NATIONAL  
PRESIDENTS' TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**ROOM RESERVATIONS**

St. Charles Hilton, 333 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130

(504) 378-2800 (Group Code: AOH)

Discounted Rate: \$169. per night (plus tax). Rate applies to Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Sun. nights. Room reservations must be made by Thursday, September 21, 2017, in order to obtain the Hibernian Rate.

**SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

To purchase an advertisement in the Souvenir Journal to be published in conjunction with the National Presidents' Testimonial Dinner on October 14, 2017, I agree to pay the rate indicated below:

Please check the appropriate line to indicate the size and price for your advertisement.

**Options:**

Rear Cover \$1,500 \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Page \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inside Front Cover \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Full Page \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inside Rear Cover \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Half Page \$ 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Journal size is 5.5 X 8.5, Artwork must be camera ready and either attached with check or emailed to: [MarieMcKay@me.com](mailto:MarieMcKay@me.com)

Ads and payment must be received by September 15, 2017

Please make checks payable to: AOH

Mail to: AOH Testimonial Journal  
 4400 Pike Drive  
 Metairie, LA 70003-2720

Payment by PayPal via [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com). Click on Link for Testimonial

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 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**AOH-LAOH**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' TESTIMONIAL WEEKEND**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

- ✓ One Person Per Form
- ✓ CREDIT CARD Payment see below
- ✓ Please make check payable to "AOH"
- ✓ Forward check/credit card info with completed form(s) to:

**AOH - Presidents' Dinner  
 c/o 4400 Pike Dr.  
 Metairie, LA 70003-2720**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Number

**AOH/LAOH Division #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Division County** \_\_\_\_\_ **Division State** \_\_\_\_\_

Highest current elected/appointed Position Level (circle one): National State County Division N/A

Highest current elected/appointed Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one seating preference for the Saturday Evening Banquet  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Same County \_\_\_\_\_ Same Division \_\_\_\_\_ No Preference

**Reservation Deadline Thursday, September 21, 2017, No Exceptions**

Make your dinner selection of either: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ or Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one of the following options and indicate method of payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$95 - Friday Cocktail Reception (open bar) and Saturday Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed OR  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Payment  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$80 - Saturday Cocktail Hour (Open Bar) / Banquet (Cash Bar Option) Beer and Wine Served  
 with Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed OR \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Payment

**Credit Card Authorization**

Charge Amount \$	Circle Card Type	Discover	AMEX
	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card		

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CCV# \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name as on CARD \_\_\_\_\_

Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Number

Form Must be signed by Card Holder

**Commemorating the Easter Rising**



Nassau County, NY, Hibernians gathered at the AOH Easter Rising Memorial on Easter Monday, April 17. From left, Jim Henry, National Editor John O'Connell, Ed Rice, Vic Sackett, Ed Friel, Peg Hannan, Warren Scullin (in back), Mike Byrne, Carol McTigue, Tim Myles, Regina Begley, Peter Begley, Marian Cronin, Dermot Kelly, Warren Cadiz, Ted McTigue, Jim Burke and Jack O'Brien.