

From Dublin to Dublin



Lord Mayor of Dublin Micheal MacDonncha, Sinn Fein, took time out of his U.S. visit to speak with Hibernians in Columbus, Ohio. As you can see, Columbus is quickly becoming one of Ohio's youngest divisions. Pictured here are some of the more than 70 individuals who attended the event held in Tara Hall the night before the Dublin (Ohio) Irish Festival. Mayor Micheal, fourth from right in the front row, spoke on the key issues facing Dublin and Ireland, including Brexit and a United Ireland. He was selected as mayor on June 26.

Let's make sure our voices are heard

By Neil Cosgrove, Political Education Chairman

When you read this article, many of you will be returning back to start a new Hibernian year with your divisions after a summer break. The state conventions will be behind us and there may be new Political Education Chairs among you. Let me congratulate those newly appointed and ask all of us to exercise the voice this great country affords us to express our views to our elected officials; holding them accountable to work for us to effect change. As always, I appreciate your input and invite you to reach out to me at Neil.Cosgrove@aoh.com.

Sadly, a topic that I believe shall be picked up in other articles in this issue, some pundits question whether Irish America still exists. They may have a right to wonder when they haven't heard

It is up to us to educate our elected officials on the truth, and make it clear that this is a matter of concern for us as Irish Americans.

from us in a while; this is something we need to change. I often hear from many brothers that politicians cater to the needs of this group or that; well, this is because they are active and vocal. As the old saying goes: if you don't ask, you don't get. Conservatively, we have approximately 40,000 members in this organization. Imagine

if only 5 percent of our membership answered a call to action; that is 2,000 phone calls, email and faxes. Would many elected officials ignore 2,000 voters? I think not. Imagine the changes we

could affect. When a call to action is issued don't wait for the other guy, be part of the 5 percent and after speaking out enlist your family and friends.

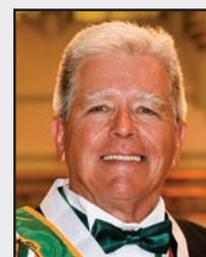
As I write, the British government seems intent on undermining the legacy of the U.S. brokered Good Friday Agreement. The government of Theresa May has yet to offer anything but "hopes" and "wishes" against the prospect of a hard border once again dividing the isle of Ireland. There has still been no progress on the commitments they signed to investigate the legacy crimes of the past (a recent court decision finding that the Police Service of Northern Ireland actively conspired to hide evidence of British collusion in murders by the notorious Glenanne gang), no progress on a Bill of Rights and no progress on a promised Irish language bill. Now, the government of Ms. May has entered into partnership with the loyalist Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) rendering absurd the Good Friday commitment that the UK act with scrupulous impartiality in Northern Ireland.

Your National Board has already sent letters to each member of the Irish American Caucus advising them of this grave threat to continued peace in the north of Ireland. As you may have read, the AOH has also sent two letters to the Department of State in regard to visits from top U.K. officials. The letters outline the lack of progress on the



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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

As we approach the end of summer, most of our State Conventions will have come and gone and our attention will turn to our National Interim Board Meeting. It will be held in conjunction with our National President's Dinner on October 14th in New Orleans. All of our National Board members should have made their hotel reservations by this time. This year the National Ladies are joining us for their President's Dinner as well. I look forward to spending the weekend with the Ladies' counterpart of our Order where we will both conduct the business that will guide us up to our convention in Louisville. We have two full days of activities in the Crescent City starting on the night of October 13th for our out-of-town guests, "A Night in Old New Orleans" starting at 9:30 p.m. This will give our guests an opportunity to have dinner at some of our more popular eateries and then come join us for dessert, open bar and hot jazz for "A Night in Old New Orleans." That next morning, on the 14th, we will conduct our respective business meeting where Officers will report on their activities during this past year. Mass will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the historic St. Patrick's Church on Camp Street, four blocks from our hotel. There will be a cocktail hour at the Intercontinental Hotel directly across from the St. Charles Hilton, in the Grand Ballroom, with the formality beginning at 7:30 p.m. It's a nice time of the year in New Orleans and I look forward to seeing many of my Brothers and Sisters there.

I have tried to attend as many State Conventions as possible and, if I am still President next year, I hope to make some of the ones I wasn't able to make this year. Membership continues to be the common problem of all the States in our Order and is currently being addressed by our National Ad Hoc Task Force headed up by our National Vice President, Daniel O'Connell. You will be hearing more about their findings and implementations this coming year.

We continue to monitor the BREXIT situation through our Ad Hoc Committee headed up by Seamus Boyle and Paul Gowdy. There seems to be more rumors than there are facts at this time.

Immigration continues to be an unanswered question with comprehensive reform stalled in both Houses of our Congress. Our National Chairman Dan Dennehy is doing an excellent job with keeping us abreast of the problems of the undocumented. We recently met with the Deputy Director of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. in order to get some insight into these "undocumented" problems and left the meeting with more questions than we entered with. We will keep all of you abreast of this situation. However, the Deputy Director did confirm with us that there is no current plan to make an "Irish sweep" of the undocumented Irish in this country. Let us hope this policy continues.

I hope the rest of your summer is relaxing and hope to see many of you in October.

God Bless



national secretary

by Jere Cole

New Procedures

As the fall approaches and cooler days arrive, it's almost time once again for the national office to make preparations for new membership cards.

As many of you know, when I took the office of National Secretary, I was charged with upgrading and modernizing our procedures, with the goal of increasing efficiency and lowering operating costs. This update, as you may have guessed, will mean increased use of electronic and digital resources. This year we will be phasing in new procedures for the distribution of division rosters via email as opposed to regular mail.

As of this writing, fully one-third of all Financial Secretaries DO NOT have an email address registered with us. This, right off the bat, will present a problem. If you have an email and you have not shared it with us please do so immediately. If you do not have an email, please get one as soon as possible. Alternatively, you may designate a deputy with an email address to receive your communications. Email is relatively simple to obtain and even if you do not own a computer you may use your local library, community center, etc., to get access. Acrobat Reader will also be required for you to review and modify the Roster and it is available FREE.

This year you will receive a PDF of your division roster in October, as usual. You may either annotate it electronically OR, if uncomfortable with that, print the roster, hand write the changes, and then scan the revised document for emailing back to us. You may request the roster be sent in alphabetical order if you like but normally it will be in membership-number order.

Please keep in mind that we can only release the 2018 cards once we have received the updated October roster; OR, if there are no changes to the October roster, you can send us a letter certifying that your roster is up to date. We encourage you to make a copy of the changes to your roster before you email it back.

Effective immediately, all forms should be obtained from our website (Form 40, Form 9, Form 12). Download and use the forms from there as they are the most up to date.

We are confident this change will increase our efficiency and save thousands of dollars in postage, paper and toner. Please make every effort to assure a smooth transition to these new procedures.



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Membership is the lifeblood of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. The AOH is everything Irish in America and more! Our Culture, our heritage, our faith brings us together as the voice of the Irish Diaspora in America. You are an important part of what may be the most comprehensive Irish organization in the world. To assure our continued success we must work as a team to market, promote and advertise the AOH at every opportunity.

Our ad hoc committee for Marketing, Promotion and Advertising will point us in the direction we need to assure our continued success. Without you on our team, we cannot reach our full potential as an organization. We have 11 young Hibernians that have stepped up to the plate to help move us forward. Countless hours have been spent by these brothers who are now asking for our assistance. The "Why I'm a Hibernian" was their first request. As of the writing of my article we have only received five. Content is key, and we need you to respond to our content requests.

Over the next month you will see some changes to our social media and our e-mail blasts. Two of our committee members have stepped up to the plate and will be directing these efforts moving forward. Social media will be directed by Don Bessom, Division 10, Lynn, Massachusetts. Don have brought a design spark to our committee and understands utilizing social media for growth. In next month's Hibernians Digest we will hear Don's plan for moving forward. Our email blast will be directed by Kevin Smith, a 20+ year Hibernian from St. Louis who owns Big Muddy Marketing. These are two top notch Hibernians who can make a difference with your help. Please be responsive to calls for content and continue to move the AOH forward.

I was honored recently to participate in a meeting with the Lord Mayor of Dublin Micheal MacDonncha, who visited Ohio for the Dublin Irish Festival. Following dinner, we visited with over 60 Hibernians present. Special thanks to our host, Patrick Pearse Division 1 and LAOH Countess De Markievicz Division 1, for rounding up the crowd. The icing on the cake for me was having my niece, Emily Partika, and nephew, Scott Partika, at the event. These young Irish Americans are active in each of their local Irish communities and Scott is an active member of the Patrick Pearse Division 1.

I want to send special thanks to Padriac O'Brien and Jim Green of Allegheny County for spearheading efforts to upgrade and promote the AOH-LAOH Famine Memorial in Clare. We encourage everyone visiting Ireland to circle the monument for a visit located in Ennistymon just a short distance from the Cliffs of Mohr. I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Board meeting and the AOH - LAOH president testimonials.



DUBLIN'S MAYOR VISITS: Lord Mayor of Dublin, Micheal MacDonncha, SF, pictured below the proclamation with members of the O'Connell clan. From left, Scott Patika, Patrick Pearse Division 1; Mayor MacDonncha, Emily Partika and Danny O'Connell, National Vice President.

'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.



Treasurer's Report

by Sean Pender

In our last article we categorized the status of every division pertaining to the validity of their EIN and their tax-exempt status. All divisions should have received by now a letter from the national board pertaining to the EIN tax-exempt status of their division. Since that time, we have received feedback from some divisions of whom we had requested clarification of details. But we have had only a handful of divisions who have successfully completed the process to reclaim their tax-exempt status.

There are 146 of the 369 divisions listed on the rolls of the National AOH that have had their tax-exempt status revoked. As long as the issue is addressed within 15 months of revocation, the division need only complete the required forms, pay the mandatory fee and complete the last year's tax filing. If divisions do not file within the 15 months they will have to provide three years of tax filings, so it is in everyone's best interest to make sure that the process is complete within 15 months. The National Board asks that all divisions make a commitment to have the process complete by the end of calendar year 2017.

Please remember that your National Board members are not tax professionals, we have simply reviewed the tax-exempt status of our divisions and defined a path to compliance. While we have done our best to address concerns we cannot answer every question pertaining to the tax consequences of the past practices and historical actions of a division. In these instances, divisions need to enlist the guidance of a tax or financial professional. Additionally, questions can be addressed to the IRS tax-exempt government entity line at 877-829-5500.

Our next goal is to contact all county and state boards regarding their tax-exempt status. As of now only seven state boards and three county boards show as valid tax-exempt organizations linked to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America parent organization 11-1548590, GEN number 0832.



Director's Report

by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the next Generation...

Recruit, Retain and Reclaim! While we all work together to support our national initiative to introduce new members to the Order, we must work diligently to retain our existing members through personal contact and engagement opportunities. Retaining current members on our roster helps the Division in many ways as we think creatively and innovatively to increase membership participation. It is also critical for us to "Reclaim" our experienced members who may have served in leadership positions in the past and are no longer active.

During the recent New York State AOH Convention, the topic of reclaiming experienced members was a common theme during many discussions. Many Division leaders shared their challenges related to reclaiming former officers. Examples of these challenges included a change in meeting locations in recent years, changing communication methods and internal squabbles resulting from disagreement over a decision or election.

To move the Order forward, we need to find ways to "welcome back" our experienced members who may be able to offer guidance and assistance. If our Order's membership initiative is successful and our numbers grow with "new blood" this year and next and so on, it is likely there will be new, younger leaders at the helm of many of our Divisions. Couldn't a new, younger leader benefit from the words of wisdom of a senior, more experienced member for the Good of the Order? When a Division President serves with confidence and with the support of the membership, we all succeed as an organization. Success creates momentum as well as promotes "buy in" and increases interest in membership participation.

While there are always engagement opportunities, the method used to re-engage former leaders can be a challenge. Many Division newsletters or information updates are now electronic and no longer distributed by mail. Recognizing that some senior members don't have e-mail addresses, I know of a Division President who recently started sending personal letters or postcards to provide AOH local updates and information as well as to let Brothers know that everyone is thinking of them.

Another way to engage and welcome back experienced members is by organizing a lunch or event to gather former leadership to share the vision of current leadership. This event and/or other traditional events such as an Installation of Officers or annual Communion Breakfast are also ways to recognize and honor the experienced members we're attempting to reclaim. This is a very personal way to invite advice or guidance that may lead to more consistent participation.

Stronger Divisions have succession and transition planning as well as access to many resources to ensure officers have the appropriate training and support to perform their duties. Former Division officers can serve another resource to support untrained officers and advance the mission of the Division.

While our priority is the members in front of us, we cannot forget the Brothers standing behind us who built the organization we're now working diligently to grow.



Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

As the Summer of 2017 fades into the history books, and the long, hot, lazy days of summer are but a memory, many Division, County and State Boards' Hibernian activities will soon be in full swing after their summer break. Among the events that will be taking place this fall during the weekend of October 13 and 14 will be the National Board Meeting and National Presidents Dinner in New Orleans. The fine hospitality of New Orleans Hibernians and the great festive city of New Orleans await us! I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Over the last several months many State Boards held their Biennial Conventions. In New England, the Massachusetts State Board held their convention on Cape Cod on the first weekend in June and reelected Paul Hogan as State President for the next two years. On the following weekend of June 9-11, in Danbury, CT, Thomas McDonough was reelected President of the AOH Connecticut State Board. The Rhode Island State Convention is slated to be held on September 9 at the home of the Dennis E. Collins Division 1 in Newport. The Newport Division also hosted the Tara Court Degree Team who performed the Major Degree on August 6. I look forward to attending both events in the Ocean State.

In July, I had the opportunity to attend the New York State Convention in Buffalo, NY, where Victor Vogel was elected State President, and the following week (July 20-22) to attend the Pennsylvania State Convention in Scranton, where Joseph Hosie was elected State President. My sincere congratulations to all new officers, and my sincere thanks to all my brothers in the states I had the opportunity to visit for their hospitality and friendship that was extended to me while there.

This fall, Tim McSweeney, our National Organizer, will conduct a Leadership and Organizational Seminar in the New England area. It is hoped that many State and County Boards and Divisions in New England will take advantage of this opportunity to learn new strategies and ideas that hopefully will increase AOH membership in our region.

As I noted in the last Digest, the summer and early fall are prime seasons for fairs and Irish Festivals. Massachusetts State Organizer Dick Wall will have an AOH Information Booth at the South Shore Irish Festival in early September. Hopefully, this undertaking will produce interest in membership in this part of the Bay State. One thing that undoubtedly this membership booth will do is to expose the AOH, possibly even for the first time, to thousands of fair attendees who most likely have Irish ancestry – a prime audience for future AOH growth! I strongly encourage State and County Boards and Divisions to have recruiting booths at similar events in their local area when possible. If it is not plausible for this year, please include it in your 2018 calendar of events.

Tom McGrath, who ran to raise funds for the Commodore Barry Gate at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis several years back, is planning a run through New England area this fall. McGrath, the author of the book, "The Black Sheep," which is an autobiography of Tom's heroic athletic achievement and personal survival, will be in our area running to help raise funds for a children's charity. More details will be forth coming soon.

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



Director's Report

by Tom O'Donnell
Project St. Patrick Chairman

On behalf of the National Board, I would like to thank everyone who supported and replied to the 2017 Easter Appeal. Our numbers so far this year look like they will exceed what we have done in previous years. It is heartwarming to see our response to the cause of continuing support for vocational life, remembering that one of our obligations is to protect and promote our Faith. Also, your continuous use of the Project St. Patrick prayer cards is very encouraging.

I hope all had a successful Convention season. I was able to attend both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Conventions. Congratulations to new Presidents Larry Prella (NJ) and Joe Hosie (PA) and their newly elected boards. I wish them the best to continue the great work that their States accomplish. I have also travelled throughout various parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, making contact with many of our members. All Divisions, County and State Boards are urged to get your paperwork up to date and to follow through with the IRS guidelines.

Brothers, this is very important. I encourage every Division and County to appoint a PSP Chairman. This will help Project St. Patrick to grow stronger and to help promote the program. Once you make an appointment, have them contact me and I will forward information to them.

We have received many thank-you notes from this year's Appeal recipients expressing their appreciation of our support. They all say that they will keep us in their prayers. Thank you to those who responded with the Diocese information, it is very useful in obtaining contact with the different regions throughout the country, and is a great tool for us to help spread the meaning and purpose of our Order.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of PSP, keep up the good work. If additional prayers cards are needed please contact me at NLNOD@comcast.net and put "PSP" in the subject line.



Director's Report by Dennis Parks

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer. Congratulations to all of the new State Boards installed throughout the country this spring and summer. Moving into fall, some state conventions have not been held. The Virginia convention will be held September 22-24, in Virginia Beach. The Maryland convention will be held October 27-29, in Ocean City. I thank all of the incoming and outgoing officers for their leadership.

Recruiting

As an organization spread throughout the country, I think it is imperative the we collaborate on recruiting. What are some of the successful things your Division is doing in regards to recruiting new members? I'm sure there are Divisions in the East doing things that a Division in the South or Mid West could be employing to recruit new members and vice versa. We need to share our ideas to grow our Order.

In conjunction with National Organizer Tim McSweeney, please send me some of your successful recruiting ideas so that they can be shared with other Divisions at dparks121@yahoo.com.



DIRECTOR SPEAKS IN VIRGINIA: National Director Denny Parks attended the June Virginia AOH state meeting hosted by Monsignor Kelly Division. Brother Parks, second from left, updated Virginia Hibernians on national initiatives pertaining to recruitment and retention. Pictured with Denny, from left, are Secretary Jay McCarthy, Treasurer Brian Kiernan, State President Gene Bransfield and Vice President Bill Halpin.



Director's Report by John Wilson

There may be someone who belongs to your Church or that you know through another organization that may ask you what a Hibernian is. You open your mouth and then pause. Where on earth do you start? Then, as you try to organize your thoughts you realize that this might be the only time you will ever have to recruit this person.

This is one situation where it helps to have an "elevator pitch." This is a short, pre-prepared speech that explains what our organization does, clearly and briefly.

The definition of the elevator pitch is a brief, persuasive speech that you use to spark interest in what your organization does. You can also use them to create interest in a project, idea, or product – or in yourself. A good elevator pitch should last no longer than a short elevator ride of 20 to 30 seconds, hence the name. It should be interesting, memorable and succinct and explains what makes you – or your organization, product or idea – unique.

Creating an the pitch can take some time to get right. You will likely go through several versions before finding one that is compelling and that sounds natural in conversation. Start your pitch by describing what your organization does. Focus on the problems that you solve and how you help people. If you can, add information or a statistic that shows the value in what you do.

So if you have worked on your pitch and someone asks, "What is a Hibernian?" You have just a small window to peak this person's interest. What do you say? A well-prepared Hibernian would give their "Hibernian elevator speech," a one-minute, rehearsed sales pitch to promote what we do.

We participate in local community fundraisers and social events and we support many charitable works in our State or through our National Programs.

We are often the first to welcome new Irish immigrants; we embrace our Irish heritage, our Gaelic sports, and the Irish arts.

Throughout the United States, the Hibernians sponsor annual dances, concerts and parades, and are able to raise millions for charities.

To be a Hibernian you must be a practicing Catholic, be of Irish descent, and support the right to life, and support the cause for a united Ireland

We are always looking for men who are willing to work with us throughout the year. We make sure we set aside time to socialize and have events that include our families.

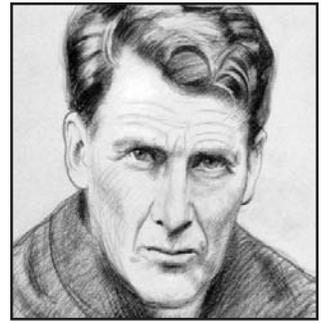
This is just an example; please create a pitch that describes what a Hibernian is to you. It would be good to exchange business cards with this potential new member and set aside a time to discuss further what it takes to be a Hibernian. Remember you want members who will participate throughout the year and not just show up once a year on St Patrick's Day.



catholic action by John D. Fitzmorris III Chairman

Fr. John Sullivan, An Irishman for All Seasons

On May 13, Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, conducted the first-ever formal request for beatification in Ireland. Before more than 2,000 people at Belvedere College, an unprecedented ecumenical gesture by both the Church of Ireland and the Catholic Archbishops requested that Fr. John Sullivan, of the Society of Jesus, be made a Beatus of the Church. An Anglican for the first half of his life and Roman Catholic for the second, Fr. John was called by Cardinal Amato "a poor man among the poor" and "the personification of the spirit of poverty" despite his affluent childhood.



Fr. John Sullivan, S.J.

Blessed John Sullivan's reputation for holiness stemmed in great part from his untiring attention to the sick and the poor. Most of his priestly life was spent in Clongowes Wood College, Co. Kildare, and it was mainly in the towns and villages around this school that he spent so much time walking and cycling to visit those in need. A Spartan lifestyle at his residence in Clongowes, absolute generosity with every gift he received, and complete humility in his ministry marked his personality and priesthood. After his death on February 19, 1933, devotion to him continued to spread.

Archbishop Michael Jackson of the Church of Ireland remarked that Fr. John Sullivan "had a special place in the hearts of all of us who are members of the Church of Ireland and of all of us who have an association with Portora Royal School and Clongowes Wood College." In a display of ecumenical brotherhood, Jackson used the life of Fr. John to highlight "the unending need for reconciliation in Ireland and expectant of the abundant grace of God."

Fr. John Dardis, S.J., General Counsellor for Discernment and Apostolic Planning and former Provincial of the Jesuits in Ireland, spoke on behalf of Jesuits worldwide. He referenced Fr. John's Anglican background and paid tribute to the Church of Ireland today as the place where Sullivan's faith was nurtured at a young age. Fr. Dardis remarked that Fr. Sullivan's life transcended theological differences, embraced the brotherhood of humankind in Christ, and would serve as an example for closer collaboration between the two Churches.

Fr. John was a man who was held in great affection by Irish Jesuits for his compassionate attitude toward the students, the locals, and especially those who were ill or poor. The 1930s in Ireland was a time of great suffering and hardship — a time of great poverty — but Sullivan stood out as a man preaching the compassion and mercy of God — themes close to the heart of Pope Francis.

Beatification, which confers the title 'Blessed', means that a man or woman is considered to be truly holy and worthy of veneration at a local level. The next stage after beatification is canonization, sainthood, which is a recognition of this holiness by the universal Church. For this process, a further miracle is required, one which is confirmed to have taken place after the beatification.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians joins with our Holy Mother Church in a prayer of Thanksgiving for Blessed John Sullivan, S.J., and call forth his example to enflame the spirit of Hibernians throughout the country to follow his example of holiness, humility and mercy.



Irish way & study abroad by Greg Sean Canning Chairman

It is my pleasure to announce this year's recipient of the Irish Way Study Abroad Scholarship Program, which encourages the children and grandchildren of AOH members to seriously consider pursuing courses of study in Ireland, whether it be for a semester or a full year of study at colleges in Ireland.

Those selected for this scholarship must attend an accredited college or university in the United States, and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends.



Mary O'Neill

This year's recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship is Mary O'Neill, of Glendale, Missouri. Currently a Junior at Santa Clara University in California, Mary has been accepted by the College of Global Studies at Arcadia University, PA, to study at University College Cork, Ireland, for the 2017 Fall semester, where she will continue to pursue her business career.

Her father, William O'Neill, is an AOH Brother from the Bishop Thomas Drury Division 3 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mary's extracurricular activities include Delta Gamma Fraternity, Women in Business and an Administrative Assistant at Santa Clara University School of Law. In her letter of recommendation, one of her professors noted Mary's hard work and leadership throughout her course of study and strongly recommended her for the Study Abroad scholarship.

Mary has stated that she is looking forward to her semester of study in Cork, as it will afford her the opportunity to experience first hand the cultural climate of Ireland and to make a direct connection with her Irish heritage.

We congratulate Mary on her acceptance of this year's AOH Study Abroad Scholarship.



Director's report

by Dan Dennehy
Immigration Chairman

The U.S. President and Congress are talking Immigration Reform despite the accepted view that comprehensive reform is a dead issue. Congress should be informed of Irish America's stance before they decide on those reforms. A commonly held belief by Congress and the general public is that Irish people have no US immigration problems. We are doing what we can to remedy this by stating the facts.

National President James McKay recently joined Irish Senator Billy Lawless in meetings with high-ranking officials and members of Congress in Washington to discuss broad immigration matters. In every meeting, the Irish are universally respected as one of the most highly regarded communities in America. Recently, a delegation of Irish Centers, attorneys and advocates met John Deasy, TD, Ireland's "Envoy for the Undocumented" to the U.S. Congress. We discussed strategies on engaging Congress on the Irish issues.

Below are AOH strategies on engaging Congress on the Irish issues.

- The Irish have contributed greatly to this nation, serving valiantly in every one of its wars. We've protected her streets and defended her Constitution.
- The Irish distinguished themselves in service in public safety, creating the labor movement and advancements in education. From the Brooklyn Bridge to Golden Gate, even the White House itself, Irish hands built this Great Nation
- Thirty percent of the top CEOs in America in 2009 were Irish or of Irish decent. The Irish are leaders and innovators in high tech, construction, education, medicine, science, agriculture and all forms of engineering.
- Ireland is a partner with U.S. Homeland Security, through Customs and Immigration at its airports.
- The Shannon StopOver was a morale boost to U.S. troops entering and leaving the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Irish Americans worked to preserve not only our rights and religious freedoms but also that of all others.
- We have held every form of public office in the land, the highest of which, once held by a Hibernian named John F. Kennedy.
- Of the 3,464 Medals of Honor awarded as of September 17, 2009, an estimated 2,018 have been awarded to Irish-American recipients. That's more than twice the number awarded any other ethnic group. Two-hundred and fifty-seven Irish-born Americans have received the Medal of Honor, which represents more than half of foreign-born Medal Of Honor recipients. Hibernians maintain a monument to Irish-born Medal of Honor recipients at the Valley Forge Medal of Honor Grove.
- Irish immigrants living here, whether legally or undocumented, are hard working, law-abiding taxpayers and are our neighbors.

So how could the Irish not receive preference in a U.S. immigration visa?

The fact is, the Irish only received 124 of 50,000 diversity immigrant lottery visas last year. It is surprising to learn, Iran gets more immigrant lottery visas than Ireland.

The U.S. could easily carve out a greater allotment of immigrant visas for Ireland.

For the last 50 years, U.S. immigration laws have worked against Irish people coming to the U.S. as immigrants.

For the last three decades, now middle-aged Irish undocumented have waited for legislation to rectify their status. While waiting for a visa, they have raised U.S. born families and made great contributions to their communities.

We must reform immigration for Irish America before permanent damage is done to our American Dream. We are resolved that our community's issues must be discussed



Siobhan Dennehy, from the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, TD John Deasy and AOH National Director and Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy.

with Congress by their constituents.

If we as Hibernians don't stand up and be counted for Irish immigrants and our heritage, how can we expect anything to change for the better?

Please use this information in your efforts to resolve the long wait for Irish people who need U.S. immigrant visas. Hibernians can directly engage legislators like no other group. Your tremendous support and political action on behalf of Matt Morrison, Malachy McAllister, and other Irish deportees and immigrants proves what we can do. These matters are complicated, delicate situations, yet Hibernians have always led these actions well. The combining of our experience in Catholic Action, PEC, FFAI, and Anti-Defamation, and our excellent AOH Historians, make our efforts effective. We can demonstrate our unified strength. Hibernians will one day soon reach our Irish Unity and Immigration goals because we lead from the front!

President McKay asks you to write, make calls and perhaps travel to Washington, D.C., and your legislators' district offices. Soon, I will be distributing an infographic to assist you on engaging Congress. Please let us know at (914) 588-2710 or by emailing me at dandennehy@hotmail.com that you are willing to communicate with your elected Congressional rep.'s office.

We're grateful to the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers www.cic-usa.org Irish Apostolate, and Chicago Celts who are our partners in this effort, please support your local Irish Immigration Center. Anticipating the much-publicized enforcement of deportation of criminal illegal aliens, we are working with our Irish Immigration Centers and Irish Embassy and Consulates to educate and inform the Irish immigrant community here. Before the NYS AOH Convention, then NYS President Tim McSweeney and I worked with other Hibernians and the Emerald Isle Immigration Center to raise awareness by distributing their infographic ahead of a massive GAA tournament in Buffalo, NY, right on the U.S. Canadian border in July.

Farewell with Gratitude

Barbara Jones has been Ireland's consul general to the United State in New York City since September 2014. It was announced recently that she would be moving on to become Ireland's Ambassador to Mexico. AOH National Secretary Jere Cole held a dinner reception

in her honor to thank her for her years of unconditional support to our organization. At the dinner Barbara was presented with commendations from Essex County NJ Freeholder Brendon Gill and from New Jersey's U.S. Senator Cory Booker.



At her farewell dinner in New Jersey, from left, Joe Ryan, Deputy National Secretary; Malachy McAllister; Sean Pender, National Treasurer; Jere Cole, National Secretary; Rich O'Brien, VP, NJ State Board; Michael Rhodes, NJ State Secretary; Barbara Jones, NYC Consul General of Ireland; Larry Prella, New Jersey AOH President; Tom Beirne, Hibernian Hunger Chairman; Dan Dennehy, National Director; and Jim Fallon, President of New Jersey's Michael Delahunty Division 9. (Photo by Digest Editor John O'Connell)



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Competition is keen among the Irish and this year is an exciting one in sports. An effort to bring more Gaelic sports to America is booming with road bowling, hurling and football creating new teams in the Hibernian world. One of the latest is a football team in AOH Division 11 in Suffolk County, Long Island. The sharing is also going the other way ever since American football has been played in Ireland and the formation of a National Baseball team in the 1990s. The Irish team played its first game in international competition in 1996 and won the bronze medal in 2004 and the silver in 2006. However, this year they fielded a Junior, under-18 team for the first time. Players and coaches were recruited as part of a collaboration between Baseball Ireland, the governing body of amateur baseball in Ireland, and the Baseball United Foundation, a non-profit youth baseball organization based in New York. Baseball Ireland President Tom Kelley said, "Through our partnership with the Baseball United Foundation, we've been able to assemble a roster of players who live in Ireland and America. We expect these players to help Ireland take the next step in developing into one of the top baseball playing countries in Europe." The new Junior Team consists of three players from Ireland and 19 players from Irish-America – all are Irish citizens, some with dual citizenship. They competed in the International Finals in Zurich, Switzerland during the week of July 10 to 15 where they met and defeated teams from Switzerland, Poland, Belgium, and Russia, winning the coveted First Place Gold as the top U18 Baseball team in Europe. Congratulations all around.

Still singing

August 1 is the ancient Celtic feast of Lughnasadh and it brings the reminder that the great Tommy Makem left us to join the angels' chorus 10 years ago on that date. I wrote then that he now belongs to history and in the decade since his death, history has treated him well. Those of us who treasure his recordings still hear from him occasionally. Another musical great left us 40 years ago in August; on the 16th to be precise and this one had Irish roots. Descended from a farmer in Stranakelly, Co. Wicklow, named William Presley, Elvis

is still a favorite when he sings Danny Boy or I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen in his own inimitable style. Check them out on YouTube.

A recent visit to Buffalo provided me with a little known bit of Irish history. I learned from author Timothy Shannon of a community of Irish immigrants who, in the 1840's, lived on a small island near the mouth of the Buffalo River where it meets Lake Erie. Separated from the mainland by a small creek, Kelly's Island was mostly covered with shacks and shanties of the Irish and a few German Catholics who were shunned by the majority population of the young city of Buffalo. In the fall of 1844, strong winds blowing out of the northeast for several days actually pushed the water from the shallow river and the eastern end of Lake Erie west across the lake toward Cleveland. The waters receded so quickly that residents actually walked out on the muddy flats picking up fish stranded by the receding waters. Then, suddenly the wind reversed direction. We are all familiar with a tsunami or great wave in the ocean; but when such a phenomenon occurs on an inland body of water it is called a seiche (pronounced saysh). When the wind changed direction, the waters of Lake Erie returned toward Buffalo at the east end of the lake as a gigantic seiche and it rolled over Kelly Island at night carrying away the shanties and sweeping countless men, women and children to their deaths as ships and boats of all descriptions littered the scene. The toll in Buffalo was also tremendous as more than 80 canal boats were tossed as far as two miles inland away from their docks, buildings were destroyed or damaged and the official identifiable loss of life in the city neared 90, although many more were swept back into Lake Erie never to be found.

But no one would ever know how many Irish perished on Kelly's Island. There had been a census in Buffalo a few years earlier, but no one saw any reason to count the unimportant Irish. According to Tim Shannon, *the good men of the city declared that the Irish bred so fast that there was no way to keep an accurate count of the bloody Micks*. The memory of the disaster is almost gone and the story is hard to find – even on the Internet. The creek that separated Kelly's Island from mainland Buffalo had long ago been filled in and it is now part of a peninsula at the end of the Buffalo River. It is the site of a gigantic General Mills plant as was pointed out to me by a river-boat man who was one of the few who even knew the location of the little bit of land that once was Kelly's Island. God rest those who were lost.

Until next time, keep well, keep the faith and keep our history alive!

Echoes of Irish History

by Mike McCormack, National Historian

Na Ceithre Máistrí

On August 10, 1636, a small group of highly dedicated historians put down their pens and probably soaked their aching wrists after completing the most extensive and valuable history of Ireland ever produced – and it was produced under the noses of an anti-Irish-Catholic government that would have arrested them had they known.

The coverage is from 3,000 BC to 1616 AD. The principal compiler of the effort was Michael O'Cleary, of Donegal, a trained antiquary and poet. He was a Franciscan who trained at the Friary in Louvain, Belgium, since no man could train for Holy Orders in Ireland at the time. In 1607, the Franciscans fled Ireland to found a school at Louvain, which became a great center of learning. Dedicated to history, O'Cleary wanted to secretly return to Ireland to collect documents on the lives of Irish kings before they were destroyed by foreigners. O'Cleary's superior, Father John Colgin, recognizing his talent, sent him home to document the lives of Irish saints. It was a dangerous mission, but he succeeded and many of the biographies, which he wrote from old vellum manuscripts, are still in the Burgundian Library at Brussels.

Recognizing that ancient vellums were fragile and fading, he collected all he could find throughout Ireland and put them in chronological order into the all-encompassing Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland. *I thought*, he said, *to write a book of annals in which these matters might be put on record, for should the writing of them be neglected at present, they would not again be found to be put on record even to the end of the world.*

His forebodings were prophetic; scarcely one of the ancient vellums that he brought together have survived, destroyed during the Cromwellian Persecution, the Williamite wars and England's continued attempts to destroy Irish culture.

In 1632, after a 15-year search throughout Ireland for the most important Irish documents, O'Cleary retired to a secluded friary at Bundrowes, Donegal. With three hand-picked men of great knowledge in their history – Farfassa O'Mulconry, Peregrine O'Clery, and Peregrine O'Duignan – they set to work. Distinguished historians Maurice O'Mulconry and Conary O'Clery briefly assisted, but it was the four original scholars who accomplished the intellectual bulk of the work. They are remembered as Na Ceithre Máistrí or the Four Masters, and the title they chose for their work, Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, quickly became known as The Annals of the Four Masters, the most extensive compilation of Ireland's early history.

Earliest data comes from medieval annals; later entries come from the records of the

Irish aristocracy such as the Annals of Ulster and the 17th century entries are based on personal observation. They were compiled under the protection of Fergal O'Gara, Lord of Coolavin, Co. Sligo, and it was to him that the 'Annals' were dedicated. Although O'Cleary was the only Franciscan in the group, Franciscans supplied the food and lodging for all four and their guests during the entire effort, which began January, 22, 1632, and concluded on August 10, 1636.

Written in Irish, it includes great battles and victors; the genealogy of the native Irish, Anglo-Norman and English possessors of land in Ireland. Irish laws, manners, customs and notable characters in Irish history are described along with "antiquities of every county." The Annals detail the reigns, deaths and successors of the high-kings of Ireland, the provincial kings, chiefs and heads of distinguished families. Men of science, historians, poets and priests are defined with deeds and dates as accurate as the masters could get them. They recorded the demise and succession of saints, abbots, bishops and ecclesiastical dignitaries. They recorded the foundation and occasional destruction or seizure of countless churches, castles, abbeys, convents and religious institutions. They give details of battles, murders, tribal wars, wars with the foreigners, battles with Vikings, Normans and English and political changes. They even include ancient verses related to the facts they mention.

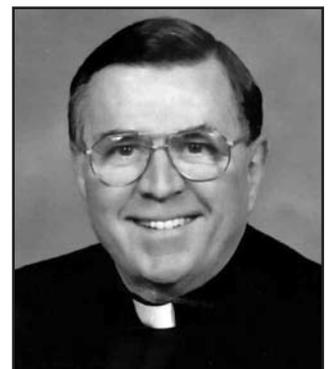
The late 16th and early 17th centuries were periods of massive upheaval in Ireland with the anti-Catholic legislation of Elizabeth I, the Desmond Rebellions, the Nine Years War and the Flight of the Earls. The Annals, as one of the few sources in Irish from this period, provide a valuable insight into these historical events from a Gaelic Irish perspective. They also lit a fire of pride in their race and showed that they were not an uneducated, worthless slave economy to obey the whims of landlords. The Annals of the Four Masters influenced the writing of national history from the 17th century onwards. Its importance increased when the annals were translated and published in 1846 by Owen Connellan and later in five large volumes between 1848 and 1851 by the great scholar John O'Donovan. Several manuscript copies of the Annals are held at Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy, University College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland. Although just one of several Irish annals, the Annals of the Four Masters are the most comprehensive and best-known account of ancient Irish history. If the Four Masters had not undertaken that tremendous task, much of Ireland's history would have been lost forever. God bless their memory!

Stories penned by PA priest

Fr. Charles J. Cummings of Williamsport, Pa., a member of the AOH, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton, in 1968. His great-grand parents, Patrick and Elizabeth Kelley Cummings, arrived in Lycoming County, Pa., in the 1840s.

According to census records from 1850, their first son, William, was born in 1844. They had nine children, of which his grandfather, Frank P. Cummings, Esq., was one; he was a lawyer and city solicitor of Williamsport, Pa., from 1903 until his death in 1939.

Now retired, Fr. Cummings was encouraged by his brother Jim and his son Jimmy to write stories of his Catholic school days and parish life and events. There are 61 stories in all, some serious, some funny, but hopefully all of them entertaining. Take a look: Free Sample Preview: Amazon or Facebook.





freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy
Chairman

"Supported by our exiled children in America" is a quote from the 1916 Easter Proclamation.

In June, I visited Ireland to present the 2016-17 AOH FFAI Christmas Appeal checks to the eligible applicant organizations. I was accompanied by my wife, Agnes (a former LAOH National FFAI Chairwoman), who was honored to be appointed by National LAOH President Patricia O'Connell, at the Michigan State Convention, as the LAOH Ambassador at the planned five check presentation sessions.

Session 1 — Thanks to my old friend, ex-prisoner Brendan 'Bik' McFarlane, who assisted me in arranging the first session, which was held at the Felons Club, in the Falls Road area of Belfast, my old neighborhood. We presented checks to the following five group representatives. Mark Thompson and Clara Reilly - Belfast Relatives for Justice; Finlay McAuley - Belfast Greater New Lodge Ex-Prisoners Republican Committee; Joseph Austin - Belfast National Graves; Liam Og Johnston - Down Patriot Graves; and Liam Johnston - Belfast Green Cross.

Session 2, we travelled to Downpatrick and were greeted by John Carson, the chairman of the St. Patrick's Visitor Centre. We spent the afternoon touring the facility, meeting their staff, viewing the many artifacts and gifts available in their stores. We also enjoyed a 30-minute video history of St. Patrick in their modern auditorium. Afterwards, we visited St. Patrick's grave and church before returning to Belfast.

Session 3 was in Derry, where we met with our old friend Jim Crossan, the national president of the AOH Board of Erin. He escorted us to the Patrick Finucane Centre where we met and presented a check to Paul O'Connor. We spent some time in their museum viewing the many photographs and reliving the horror of Bloody Sunday.

That night was Session 4 in the Derry AOH hall, where we presented checks to Eamon Daly - Omagh Thunder Basketball Club, and Michael Reynolds - Omagh Community Youth Choir. Jarath McNulty, project coordinator of Cairde Strabane Republican Ex-Prisoners planned to be present but due to unforeseen events he could not make it. I mailed his check to him. He confirmed that he received the check.

Brother Sean Pender met us in Belfast for Session 5, when we met with Fr. Gary Donegan at the Holy Cross Centre in Ardoyne, Belfast. We spent many hours with Fr. Gary and two of his community workers, (a Catholic and a Protestant) from the local neighborhoods, who work tirelessly to bring children from Orange and Green neighborhoods together. Thanks to donations received they built a coffee shop where the youngsters can meet and make new friends from the unfortunate, divided community. The café is available to cross community adults and thanks to their financial support that assists with up keep expenses. They thanked us over and over for our AOH/LAOH annual support.

I also mailed a donation to the Conway Mills Trust Inc. in Pittsburgh. Their treasurer, Edward J. Manus, sent me a letter thanking the AOH/LAOH for our on-going support.

Let me reiterate my thanks to all those AOH/LAOH Boards and members for their support of the Annual Christmas Appeal. There are many hurting Irish patriots who depend on your support and send their undying appreciation to their American supporters.

Regional FFAI Appointments: FFAI Deputy Michael Mellett and I are in the process of reviewing and updating the FFAI job responsibilities for regional FFAI appointments, to serve in the interim between conventions. Per the National Constitution, we can appoint up to six assistants (with the approval of the National AOH president), to support and inform the membership on all legislative action for the abolition of the Partition of Ireland. I will keep you posted as we progress with this project.

2017-18 Annual Christmas Appeal: A reminder to all AOH/LAOH boards and members, the 2017-18 Annual Christmas Appeal will start in August, with a concluding date of February 15, 2018.

North Carolina



Thanks to NC State Board: The AOH National History Day winner, Shelby Jones, of Greenville, North Carolina, was presented with her First Prize check, which can be used for a trip for two to Ireland. From left, NC State Secretary Bill Keely, Miss Jones, NC State President Joe Dougherty, Mrs. Jones, the winner's mom and Eastern Director Joe Costy. The award winner will be attending Manhattan College, in New York, majoring in History. The award was presented at a lunch in her honor at Poole's Restaurant, in Raleigh, NC, on July 29th. — Submitted by Joseph Dougherty, President, North Carolina State Board.

Freedom For All Ireland – Albany Style

By John Levendosky and Dolores Desch

Each year, the Albany Hibernians — AOH Division 5 and LAOH Division 1 — team up to bring awareness to the Freedom For All Ireland program. This culminates in an FFAI Night, where there is music, food and a guest speaker to provide updates on the issues that are ongoing in the North. Hibernians also present the Father Murphy award at the event to someone who has demonstrated his or her commitment to peace, justice, and support for the communities in the North of Ireland. This award is named for the County Wexford priest, Fr. John Murphy, who helped lead the 1798 Rebellion against the English oppression and occupation. This year's event in January was exceptional as we honored someone who is truly a hero of heroes — Father Gary Donegan, CP, Belfast.

Fr. Gary is a widely recognized champion for social justice in the North, and known worldwide for his peace-brokering efforts and heroic community activism. During his 15 years at Holy Cross Parish in Ardoyne he endured many contentious and dangerous situations. During the Troubles, Ardoyne was the "epicenter of pain," with the most loss of life per capita than any other area in the North. Since 2001, he has comforted families affected by violence and has worked to diffuse tensions from antagonistic Orange parades, which marched regularly through the nationalist Ardoyne neighborhood. He's been attacked and suffered countless injuries, yet never gave up. Over the years, he endured death threats from both sides, but was also embraced by the majority of people looking for a better community. Working with other community leaders, he turned around the negativity and focused on bringing positive change. He encouraged cross-community efforts, including programs for teens from both sides in deescalating violence.

Fr. Gary patrols the community's streets nightly. While visiting Albany he received several calls from the Police Service of Northern Ireland who have him on "speed dial" to assist with community issues. In this case they needed his advice on talking a young Catholic man off a bridge. He has led the community to move beyond the hatred of the past and toward a better future. He has become one of the most revered contributors for social change in Northern Ireland.

Fr. Gary told us that we were responsible for bringing the peace, and that when he patrolled the streets at night around the church grounds, that we were there with him. He said that one of his proudest accomplishments is the Houben Center, where his vision was to take an old dilapidated building on the site of Holy Cross parish grounds and build a community center open to all who wanted to make a positive change in their lives. He spearheaded the building using funds raised through the Holy Cross Trust. The Center opened its doors in the spring of 2016. Fr. Gary made it clear that without the Hibernians and the FFAI Christmas appeal, The Houben Center would not be a reality. The impact of that building has been tremendous.

Fr. Gary was presented with an official membership to Albany AOH Division 5, which was presented by NYS president and National Organizer, Timothy McSweeney and National Director Liam McNabb, of Division 5.



The joint FFAI event honoring Fr. Gary was organized by Albany LAOH Division 1's FFAI Chair Dolores Desch and AOH Division 5's FFAI Chair John Levendosky, far right. The Father Murphy Award was presented to Fr. Gary, second from left, by the previous year's winner, National AOH Treasurer Sean Pender. Sean is not only the National Treasurer, he is also a great supporter and mentor to many on the Hibernians' Freedom For All Ireland program. At the Albany event, Sean highlighted the many accomplishments of Fr. Gary, and reiterated the impact that Fr. Gary has had on the lives of the community as well as the peace process.

Deadline for October-November issue

All articles and photos are due no later than

OCTOBER 1, 2017

Brexit and the Border

By Seamus Boyle, Chairman

On June 23 of 2016 the British Government voted on whether to stay in the European Union or to leave it and work on their own. The result of the vote was that Britain should leave by a vote count of 51.9 percent to 48.1 percent, a small margin when you realize that thousands of people did not know what they were voting on and what the consequences would be. Other parts of the British Isles voted differently: Scotland voted to stay in the EU by a huge margin 62 percent to 38 percent and Northern Ireland also voted to stay in the EU by a margin of 55.8 percent to 44.2 percent. The Republic of Ireland is part of the European Union and so began the problems that could take place between the North and South of Ireland.

Brexit, as it is known, would basically destroy the economy in Northern Ireland should a "hard border" be implemented between the two nations. A hard border means that border checkpoints would be established on all roads leading to and from Ireland and Northern Ireland. The hard border would be devastating and would put the economy of Northern Ireland back decades. Those of us who remember the border checkpoints prior to the 1980's will remember what that was like for travel, hours of backups and searches of personal cars and persons. Think of this in terms of truck delays delivering goods. If trucks were stopped at checkpoints for just 10 minutes this would cost the trucking industry over 2 Hundred Million Dollars per year. Two million vehicles, trucks, cars and vans cross the border each month.

A hard border would be devastating in many ways to Irish business and trade, the imposition of tariffs, the impact on farmers' crops, the dairy, beef and milk industry, the fishing industry, tourism and much more. The effect it would have on the people on both sides of the border, 30,000 of whom travel across the border for work each day in businesses, hospitals, schools and offices, not to mention the impact it would have on the peace process. The border, as it is today, cuts through mountains, fields, rivers, bridges, farms, businesses and, in some cases, cuts through houses.

A group has been working diligently to make people all over the world aware of the serious repercussions a hard border would have. This group, "The Border Commission Against Brexit," has held peaceful demonstrations throughout the border counties in the north and have used tactics on some of the old border crossings that were in effect in the 1970's. The border is approximately 310 miles long and on many of these roads they have placed large billboards that read, NO EU FRONTIER NO HARD BORDER RESPECT OUR REMAIN VOTE. This organization has recently received the European Parliament Citizens Award, which will give the group much higher recognition in Dublin, London and Brussels.

Irish America, particularly the AOH, needs to get involved in demanding special status for the North to remain in the European Union to safeguard jobs, sustain the peace process, and to maintain a normal society in the North of Ireland. The real solution to this problem would be to implement the Good Friday Agreement and Re-Unite Ireland and these are the two things we must never lose sight of and do all we can as individuals and as an Organization. Educate your family and friends as to what is going on in Ireland.



pro-life
by John Patrick Walsh
Chairman

NYS Brothers Support Parish Pro-Life Ministry

The backbone of pro-life support within the Church is on the parish-diocesan level. Many parishes have pro-life committees that help support March pro-life rallies, speakers, outreach, crisis centers and March for Life attendance. Past NYS President Tim McSweeney recently told me how Hibernians in the Albany area came together to support one local parish ministry whose yearly budget was only \$500. Using proceeds donated from their weekly 'Friday Dinner @ the Hall', they helped increase this committee's budget by over 200 percent. Why not find a local parish or diocesan group near you that could use some fundraising help?

Colorado AOH Helps 'Students for Life' Leader Come To DC

Colorado Vice President Kevin Jones wants the Order to invest in the pro-life movement's future, and with the help of brother Hibernians (and local KoC councils) they have already made an impact. The AOH/KoC coalition helped raise over \$1,500 for the Regis University's 'Students for Life' chapter, enabling the student organization to send their president to the March for Life in Washington D.C. If that wasn't accomplishment enough, while in D.C. this student interviewed with the national 'Students for Life' organization and was hired as the State Organizer for four western states. This young woman will now help recruit chapters at local colleges, high schools, and communities within those states; all this from the efforts of like-minded Catholic men. 'Students for Life' have chapters all around the country, reach out and see how the AOH can partner in the creation of a truly pro-life generation.

Monroe (PA) County Brothers Encourage Prayer

Brothers Chris O'Brien, Martin Hickey and Larry Squires have implemented a challenge in PA that every member, division and board can meet. In 2013 the Sean MacDiarmada Division 1 of Monroe County started sponsoring a mass each month with the intention, "To Jesus in His divine mercy for protection of all unborn children and all souls harmed by abortion." This year they have expanded to three masses each month supported by the Division. Remembering what St. Paul said about the power of prayer in the war for hearts and minds, Brother Squires challenged other counties and the PA State Board to take up Division 1's challenge. For only \$10 or so, you too can help change hearts and minds while praying for the healing intercession of our Lord in the lives of all those touched by the evil of abortion. Consider sponsoring a mass intention each month at a local parish, you never know whose heart might be opened.

National Hibernian Digest, August-September 2017



Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, as I write this, Irish American Heritage Month is seven months away. IAHM is an AOH national program and every level and jurisdiction should be involved. Besides being the right thing to do, the fulfillment of one of the basic purposes of our organization, it is also of specific, tangible and pragmatic benefit to this organization. As noted by our National Board, declining memberships is a challenge to the viability of this organization. Encouraging people to rediscover their Irish heritage is a first step in them becoming potential Hibernians. People taking true pride in their Irish Heritage can only help stem the spread of defaming stereotypes. Knowledge of the countless contributions of Irish immigrants should highlight the injustice of a U.S. immigration policy, which last year gave Iran 4,500 visas, Yemen 1,239, Iraq 754, Afghanistan 636, Syria 777 and Saudi Arabia 489 and Ireland (North and South) only 124. Irish American Heritage Month would inform the public that 134 visas Ireland received last year is less than the number of Medal of Honor recipients who list Ireland as their birthplace, not to mention the more than 2,000 recipients who are of Irish descent. Could that knowledge, if imparted as part of Irish American Heritage Month, not make the unjust current U.S. immigration towards Ireland any more clear?

Brothers, we have to fight the battle for greater awareness of the contributions of the Irish on two fronts. First, we as Hibernians must practice what we preach. Please start now on a project that highlights what the Irish have contributed to America and specifically to your community. Publish the event through your local papers, social media and TV outlets. Make it a specific and personal story that tells the proud history of the Irish in America.

Secondly, we must demand that our public, taxpayer-funded institutions show the same respect to Irish Heritage as they do other heritages. Let us be clear, we are not questioning other heritages, we just want ours to be accorded the same recognition as others; the Irish have earned it. This year we are targeting the Library of Congress. As brought to our attention by brother John Schell, the Library of Congress honors the heritages of African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans and Jewish Americans with websites dedicated to their heritage months; providing materials to educators and students to aid in learning about the contributions these heritages have made. We don't question rightfully honoring these heritages, but what about the Irish? In the grand scheme of government expenditure, setting up a website to honor Irish Americans is minimal, the fact that it doesn't exist is frankly inexplicable. The fact that the Librarian of Congress, Ms. Carla Hayden, has yet to respond to numerous letters on this very reasonable request is an outrage.

We ask each member to please write their congressional representative and ask why THEIR LIBRARY does not recognize the contributions of Irish Americans comparably to other heritages. In writing please send the letter to their local office as mail to the Capitol is often delayed due to security concerns. We applaud their efforts to recognize other heritages, but believe that Irish Americans have earned equal dignity. Encourage your friends and family to do likewise. If even a small percentage of you take the time to write your congressional representative to say recognizing Irish Heritage is important to you I have no doubt that this injustice to our forebears will be rectified.



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

POLITICAL ACTION continued from page 1

Good Friday Agreement and ask the U.S. to raise the failure of the UK government to honor its Good Friday commitments in their discussions. We certainly see no reason why we cannot engage in frank, straight talk with arguably our closest ally. Friends hold friends accountable, someone who gives another carte blanche is not a friend or ally but an enabler.

The UK government is currently making the rounds doing their best salesmanship job to convince U.S. elected officials that "all is well" with Brexit and Northern Ireland. It is up to us to educate our elected officials on the truth, and make it clear that this is a matter of concern to us as Irish Americans. Progress to peace and justice in Ireland has only occurred when America has made clear to its ally that it is watching and holding them accountable. Contact your Congressional representative and tell them the Good Friday Agreement and U.S. prestige are important to you and you want all the provisions of the agreement fulfilled. It has been nearly 20 years since the Good Friday Agreement was signed; tell your elected officials that it is important that America sees the journey to peace it started finished.



veterans affairs

by Jim Green
Chairman

As this summer flies by and we approach Labor Day, I look forward to re-engaging with Divisions and Veterans Affairs chairs that have been on recess since June. I'm also optimistic about improvements in our ability to more effectively communicate with each other. While attending the AOH PA State Convention held this past July in Scranton, I had the opportunity to have a lot of positive discussion with the members of the AOH National Board regarding Veterans Affairs. They too are excited about making better use of our electronic communications potential and are willing and able to help. They are making changes to AOH roster documents and new member applications to capture veterans' information from members, which will help us to build a database of email addresses that I can use to communicate with, ideally, all of our Hibernian veterans. In addition, the monthly email "blast" that is sent out by the National President will include a "Veterans Corner" section to send short messages to all Hibernians that may be of immediate importance or relevance. My thanks to the National Executive Board for their keen interest in improving communication to better serve our veterans.

I have received ongoing correspondence from a few Veterans Chairmen around the country, keeping me abreast of activity and news from their areas, and I greatly appreciate it and hope to share some of it with you more regularly. For example - thank you brother Mark Kelly of Louisville - the President of the United States has fulfilled a promise to create a hotline for veterans' complaints, which is now up and running.

VA Secretary David Shulkin described the initial rollout of the line as a soft launch, with "live-answer agents" receiving and processing some of the calls. He promised that by Aug. 15, the hotline would have continuous coverage from a live operator 24-hours-a-day, every day of the week. The phone number is 855-948-2311 and is active NOW.

Due to the understandable limits of the sizes of these articles, I will end this report here. Please look to the monthly email blasts from President McKay for more, and also for expanded communications as we get the "veterans network" set up. Until then, God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.

seamus.green@comcast.net



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

"Ní hamháin saor ach Gaelach, ní hamháin Gaelach ach saor." *Not only free but Gaelic, not only Gaelic but free.* Sin a bhí ó Phádraig Mac Piarais agus lucht Éirí Amach 1916. *That's what Patrick Pearse and the revolutionaries wanted.* Éire shaor. *A free Ireland.* Tá cuid den chuspóir sin bainte amach. *Part of that has been achieved.* Ach Éire Ghaelach? *But a Gaelic Ireland?*

In eagrán Eagrann 2017 den irisleabhar *An Gael*, tá sliocht as *The Wolfe Tone Annual* ó 1946. *In the Spring issue of An Gael, there's a passage from the WTA of 1946.* San alt sin, déantar gearán go raibh Éire Ghaelach ag imeacht uatha, go raibh cultúr gallda ag brú isteach ar an uile ghné de shaol na hÉireann, ceol, damhsa, scannáin, spóirt, srl. *In that article, it complains that Gaelic Ireland was disappearing, that a foreign culture was pressing in on every aspect of life in Ireland, music, dance, movies, sports, etc.* Agus dar ndóigh, bhí an lámh in uachtar ag an mBéarla. *And of course, English had the upper hand.*

Bhí an saol ar fad an-difriúil i 1916. *The world was very different...* Bhíodh gach tír san Eoraip ag iarraidh féiniúlacht agus náisiúnachas bunaithe ar a n-oireachtas féin a bhaint amach. *Every country in Europe had been trying to achieve self-identity and nationalism based on their own heritage.* Ach ag an am céanna, agus go háirithe ina dhiaidh sin, bhí sé ag éirí i bhfad ní b'éasca taisteal ó thír go tír (san alt thuasluaite, tá inné air faoi thionchar an eitleáin, freisin), agus bhí an raidió ag tosnú, agus scannáin, agus gach meán cumarsáide nua-aimseartha. *But at the same time, and especially afterwards, it was becoming much easier to travel from country to country (in the above-mentioned article, he worries about the influence of the airplane, too), and radio was starting, and movies, and every modern means of communication.* Bhí an domhan ar fad ag cúngú cheana féin, agus cultúr domhanda ag teacht ar an saol. *The whole world was already getting smaller, and a world-wide culture coming into being.* Mar sin, ní bhíonn aon tír chomh héagsúil ó na tíortha eile níos mó. *And so, countries aren't so different from each other any more.* Ach bítear ag iarraidh a n-éagsúlacht a chamhnú chomh fada agus is féidir, freisin, go háirithe i measc díograiseoirí áirithe. *But there's always an attempt to preserve their uniqueness as possible, too - especially amongst enthusiasts.*

Dúirt an Píarsach freisin, Dá gcaillfí an Ghaeilge, chaillfí Éire." *Pearse also said, "If the Irish language were lost, Ireland would be lost.* Gné chomh tábhachtach sin de thír is ea a teanga rud a ghlacann gach tír eile leis. *A country's language is such an important aspect of it, something that every other country accepts.* Fiú amháin más i measc díograiseoirí amháin a mhaireann sí, tá sí beo. *Even if it's alive only amongst enthusiasts, it's alive.* Agus tá Éire Ghaelach (ar éigin) fós ann. *And there's still (barely) a Gaelic Ireland.*

The AOH at the Medal of Honor Grove

By Seamus Boyle

Brothers, a few years ago we attempted to raise funds through the Hibernian Charity to do an upgrade at the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge. At that time we were quoted a price of between \$24,000 and \$30,000 by different contractors but unfortunately we only raised about \$12,000 to date. After much discussion and soul searching the committee decided to go forward with the project using our contacts in the Trade Unions, volunteers from the local AOH in the Delaware Valley, and anyone else who would help. Myself and Mick Dunleavy who started this project contacted other people and we started on June 5, 2017, with all donated equipment and volunteers. To date we have had only 17 volunteers and more coming this week, some for one day and most for numerous days. It is extremely difficult as most of us are retired — in our 60's and 70's — but we hope more volunteers will join us in the next few weeks and we get the project completed.

We are still looking for donations to the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove and still have a lot of things we want to do at the grove. Please help if possible so the AOH site will be the most impressive site in the entire grove. Below is what the AOH Obelisk looked like on June 5, and some the progress we have made since then.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us so far, especially the Operating Engineers Local 542, Tom Dooley, Dennis Sullivan for donating the use of the dozer and backhoe for the entire project, the three operators, Tim Teshner and Sean O'Day and Tom Dooley, the masons Billy Decker, Dennis and John Corkery for their work and equipment, Jack McMonigal, Mike McMonigal and Jim Barnhart for pouring the concrete, and the rest of the crew, Tony Nahill, Mike Boyle, Gerry Coleman, Mike Cligett, Ed Costello, Pat Dugan, Thomas Boyle, Seamus Boyle and Mick Dunleavy, all proud Hibernians, who did anything and everything that needed to be done to bring this project to where it is today. June has been a real bad month for us as the weather was the wettest month in years and we could not use the heavy equipment as much as we would have liked. We need to also thank Division 39 for the use of their tools and equipment and for their monetary support. We also need to thank Division 1 North Wildwood, NJ, and AOH Division in Myrtle Beach for expenses for the volunteers on this project and from all of you who graciously donated to have this project completed. With your help, volunteers or monetary donations, we hope to have this project completed by the end of August.

As we progress and finish I will have finished pictures and a complete update in a future edition. In the meantime if you want to donate to the Medal of Honor Grove please make checks payable to Hibernian Charity with MOH in the memo section.



Before



After



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

Hibernian Digest Article Submission Process

So we may better serve you when publishing the Hibernian Digest please adhere to our submission process. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Deadlines

All articles must be submitted to the editor by the published deadline. The deadlines are February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1 and December 1.

Submission Method

The preferred method of submitting articles is in a Word Document by email sent to EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com.

Attach the Word document to the email, or you can paste the copy into the body of the email. In the subject line or at the top of your email, please identify your state, county and division.

Article Word Count

Recommended length is 300 words. Articles will be edited for space to include as many submissions as possible. Space and page count for the Digest is limited. Lengthy articles are not read as much as a concise well-written article with a headline. Persons who submit articles may suggest a short headline.

Photos

Photos must be submitted in a high-resolution jpg format. Please send photos that are in focus and well composed. Sensors in cameras are larger than sensors in phones, so photos taken with cameras are generally of higher, more printable quality than phone pictures. Most phones are capable of a good photo when the highest resolution setting for picture taking is set. If you are using a phone for pictures make sure it is set on the highest resolution. No matter what device you use, poorly shot photos will not be published.

Remember composition and focus. Hibernians in action that tell a story are better than posed shots. Most desired photos are high resolution, interesting (Hibernians in action), well lit, in focus properly composed and at least 1MB large.

Contact Information:

Include the author's name and a preferred contact email address or phone number with the article. Please note if the author should be published or not.

Editorial Changes:

All articles are subject to editing for clarity, brevity or style by the editor.

Hibernians Needed with Publishing Skills

We have openings on the Hibernian Digest Committee and welcome your help. If you have an interest or skill in writing, editing, photography and the mechanics of publishing a newspaper please contact Editor John O'Connell at editorhiberniandigest.com.

Major Degrees

AOH Danny Browne Div. 80 hosted the 86th Exemplification of the Major Degrees of the Order Ceremony on Sunday, June 11, at the Commodore John Barry Arts and Culture Center, at 6815 Emlen St., Philadelphia, Pa 19119. This building, also known as the Irish Center, has been here since 1958 and promotes all things Irish. You can get more information on the Irish Center at www.theirishcenter.com

Leading up to the Major Degrees I would like to thank Jack Schneider and Jim Murphy of the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team for all their help and preparations that made the day a success.

The day of the Major Degrees these two men and the rest of the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team performed their duties with extreme professionalism and are to be commended for their service to the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America.

I also would like to thank the candidates who received the honor of the 4th degree of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, the observers who supported their candidates, the volunteers who did whatever was asked of them, Paddy Rooney's Pub of Havertown, Pa., who provided the food and the Irish Center for refreshments.

I highly recommend that all Hibernian Brothers receive their degrees and if you already have your degree I recommend that you attend as an observer to support the candidates.

Andrew Harley

President, Danny Browne Div. 80

Lady Day – An AOH Board of Erin Tradition

In Ireland, to honor Our Lady on the Feast of the Assumption, the AOH Board of Erin, comprised of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, hosts an annual parade known as Lady Day, comprised of Hibernian Divisions, Catholic Boy Scout and Girl Guide troops, and Catholic sodalities and schools, as well as flute, accordion, pipe and brass bands sponsored by AOH Divisions. Unlike the bellicose "blood and thunder" and "kick the Pope" flute bands of the Protestant Loyalist community, Catholic bands are not antagonistic and are usually attired similarly to American youth brass bands.

AOH County Board and Division banners are proudly unfurled, and depict Irish

In Memoriam

John V. Collins, age 81, of Trumbull, passed away June 16, 2017, in St. Vincent's Medical Center. Mr. Collins was born in New York, NY, to the late John and Nora Collins. He worked in administration for Pittston Company in Greenwich, CT, for many years, prior to his retirement. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Park City Council, a past Grand Knight and Fourth Degree Knight, past president and longtime member of the the AOH John F. Kennedy Division 1, past president of the M.A.L.E.S., member of the Gaelic-American Club and the St. Theresa Seniors. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Helen Russ Collins, of Trumbull, four children, one brother, seven grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Trumbull E.M.S or St. Theresa Church (Adoration Chapel).



Robert Francis O'Keefe, 83, of Connecticut, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2017, at St. Vincent's Medical Center surrounded by his loving family. Bob was an ardent supporter of Catholic education, and used his talents to make meaningful and impactful contributions in support of this cause, benefitting many grade schools, high schools and universities in the area. This generosity was recognized by St. Joseph High School in 2002 with the Sister Catherine Fanning Privilege and Responsibility Award for Community and in 2009 by the Archdiocese of Hartford with the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. He was also inducted into The Order of Knights of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral in 2010. In addition to his professional and personal works, Bob was very proud of his Irish heritage and in 2010 served as Grand Marshal of the Greater St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bridgeport. He served on the parade committee since 2010 and was instrumental in establishing the Corporate Sponsor Program for the parade last year. He was a longtime member of The Gaelic American Club in Fairfield and The Ancient Order of Hibernians. These accolades are a small representation of the dozens of awards and leadership positions held by Bob. Bob will be remembered for his unequalled devotion to his faith, family and charitable works, his generosity, intelligence and compassion – he was a great man.



Judith A. Granville, of Smithtown, NY, died on April 21, 2017. She was 74. She was the loving wife of Ken, a long-time Hibernian in Suffolk County and also the long-time printer of the *Hibernian Digest*. Judy was a member of LAOH Division 2, Babylon and of great service for many years to the Hibernians.



Beloved mother of Sharon and Kevin, and beloved mother-in-law to Nichole. Cherished nana of Max and Tiffany. Dear sister of Joan Santora and sister in law to Raymond Santora Sr., Jack Granville, the late Francine Granville and the late Connie Anderson. Dear Aunt of the late Raymond Santora Jr., Ellen Santora, Brian Granville, Christopher Granville, Michael Anderson and Christine Anderson. Dear Great Aunt of Hannah Bevens, Olivia May, Rose Carroll and Leah Carroll. Mom to her fur baby Peanut.

To the Editor...

heroes, saints and scenes of Irish history, such as battles for Irish freedom and the celebration of secret Masses outlawed by the English during the Penal Law times. The BOE Brother Hibernians do not wear the tricolor sashes that we don on this side of the pond, but green collarettes adorned with Celtic crosses, red hearts, harps, the red hand of Ulster, round towers, Irish wolfhounds and Division numbers.

In Catholic Nationalist neighborhoods in Northern Ireland, the curbstones, streetlights, fire hydrants and mailboxes are painted the green, white and orange (or gold) of the Irish tricolor, and the flags of Ireland, both the tricolor and the green flag with the golden harp as well as the four Provincial flags, are proudly displayed from homes, shops and pubs.

Lady Day usually begins with Hibernians attending Mass in the morning in their parishes. The area that the parade will be held is in predominately Catholic towns to avoid any controversy with their Protestant neighbors. This has been the tradition for over 100 years and, unlike the Orangemen and Apprentice Boys parades that for over 200 years deliberately have marched in an antagonistic, triumphalist manner through Catholic towns and neighborhoods, with their flute bands playing hostile and derogatory airs, offensive to the Catholic and Nationalist community.

The AOH bands play traditional Irish patriotic airs, such as "Let Erin Remember," "The Minstrel Boy," "Kelly the Boy from Killane," "The Boys of Wexford," "Wearing of the Green," and "O'Donnell Abu."

The Lady Day parades have not been without danger. AOH bands and members have had their buses pelted with stones by Protestant Loyalists from the 1970s to the 1990s. The Royal Ulster Constabulary's thugs have stopped Lady Day parades to seize "offensive" Irish tricolors from marchers, as the tricolor was made illegal by the Unionists in the Northern Ireland statelet. Two Hibernians were shot and wounded by Loyalists at Ballinderry Bridge near Lisburn.

When we Hibernians observe this holy day of obligation, let us pause and remember the love Our Lady has for us, and to remember the long history of suffering and persecution of the Catholic people of Ireland for their faith, and of their resolve to stay loyal always to "Faith and Fatherland." Erin go bragh!

Denis P. McGowan

St. Columcille Division 4 (Staten Island, NY)

Newry Division 284 (County Down, Ireland)

New York

McGowan named 'Emerald of the Year'

Hibernian Brother Denis P. McGowan, of St. Columcille Division 4 (Staten Island, NY), received the "Emerald of the Year" award from the Emerald Society of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies at a dinner held in June at the Beekman Pub in Manhattan. Brother McGowan received the award from the Society, which is a fraternal organization of men and women of Irish heritage in federal law enforcement. He received the award in recognition of his 34 years of faithful service in law enforcement, retiring in 2013 as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Regional Director for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and was the commanding officer of the 1,400 law enforcement and security officers of the Federal Protective Service of Region 2. In attendance were several representatives of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the NYPD Emerald Society, Fire Department Emerald Society and Department of Correction Emerald Society.

McGowan is married to his lovely wife of 19 years, Theresa, and they are blessed with two darling daughters, Bridget Theresa and Megan Ann. They are congregants of St. Joseph-St. Thomas the Apostle R.C. Church on Staten Island. Denis is a Past National Officer of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the NYPD Honor Legion, the NJ Honor Legion, the NYPD Emerald Society, the Emerald Society of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, and is a Past Grand Knight and Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

Always proud of his Irish heritage, he is a 33-year member of the AOH, and has served on the Round Tower Major Degree Team, the CuCuchalain Celtic Warrior Major Degree Team, the County Leitrim Society of NY, and is a Charter Member of the St. Columcille Irish Cultural Center of Staten Island. He has served on the Bay Ridge and New York St. Patrick's Day Parades' Committees and the Staten Ireland Irish Fair.

Sister Kathy O'Keefe-Burke of LAOH Division No. 22, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn and the Richmond County Pipes and Drums, was also a recipient of an Emerald Society's award and was made an honorary member of the Society.



Emerald Society Master of Ceremonies, Brother Kevin F. Mannion, of the FBI New York Office, and Brother Denis P. McGowan with his award. Both are proud members of St. Columcille Division No. 4 on Staten Island. Photo by Michael Geraci

Yonkers Division Helps H.S. Acquire New Technology

The Myles Scully Division 1, of Yonkers, recently presented a donation to Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains that will help the school to continue implementing its new learning technology platform.

Division 1 member John Walsh presented a \$1,000 donation to Fr. Tom Collins, who is the President of Stepinac High School. John is a graduating senior from Stepinac this year and is the son of Division 1 Vice President Jim Walsh.

The funds will be used to purchase new Samsung Chromebooks for student use. School officials explained that new technology is becoming a necessity in today's learning environment.

"Since our school uses a blended learning environment where the teacher uses online resources that include Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), digital textbooks, and my Pearson Online Labs, the use of mobile devices is becoming more and more important every year," said Stepinac Advancement Officer Patrick Massaroni, "The ability to acquire additional Chromebooks will only add to our ability to ensure that every student has the resources to use our digital platforms regardless of the circumstances."

Division 1 Yonkers has also supported other local Catholic high schools with donations for computers labs at Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers and Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale.

The funds provided by the Hibernians were raised at the AOH Yonkers Annual Charity Golf Outing, which is held each spring at the Ardsley Country Club in Dobbs Ferry.



Division 1 members John Walsh presented a check to Stepinac H.S. President Fr. Tom Collins

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Connecticut Hibernians have been busy this summer. The slow season got off to a fast start on the weekend of June 9-11 when Danbury hosted the Biennial State Convention.

Both the Friday night Pub Night and the Saturday night banquet were very well attended as was the Convention Mass held at the historic St. Peter's Church. Construction on St. Peter's was begun in 1870 with granite quarried locally by Irish-born parishioners. St. Peter's is the Mother Church for all the other parishes in northern Fairfield County.

Increasing membership was a major topic of discussion at the Convention, which re-elected Attorney Tom McDonough, of Waterbury, as State President. Scott McNulty and Frank Kearney Sr., of Meriden, were re-elected as State Secretary and State Treasurer. Newcomer Brenden Walsh, of Danbury, was elected State Vice-President. Brenden will be joined as a State officer by Danbury LAOH Sisters Kathy Hannigan and Julie Tracy, who were elected State President and State Treasurer.

Danbury remained busy in June when on the 15th Past President Jim Palardy chaired the 38th annual Father's Day golf tournament at Sunset Hill Golf Course. This is a popular 9-hole event that always has a big turnout because a good time is had by all.

Waterbury held the annual Jack McCarthy Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament on August 18. This is always a sellout event for a good cause and was held at the East Mountain Golf Course.

If you are on Route I-84 passing through Waterbury on a Friday night remember that Happy Hour is from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home of the Monsignor Slocum Division where you can obtain free appetizers and great beverage prices!

Waterbury resident and State Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Joe O'Flaherty will again commemorate the passing of the Hunger Strikers at Bobby Sands Circle in Hartford on September 16.

The General Philip Sheridan Division of Stamford owns one of the finest AOH halls in America and a visit there is always a treat. On July 29, the Stamford AOH hosted the traditional Irish Musical group known as the Shamroques who are popular throughout Connecticut.

The Father McKeon Division 7 sailed once again on July 16 for their annual cruise of the Thimble Islands; another sell out event enjoyed by all.

The John P. Holland Division of New London is doing its best to promote membership by reaching out to the community. On July 1, the Hibernians of New London spent a long day at the Norwich, Connecticut, Rose Festival manning and AOH information booth. With almost 20 percent of Connecticut residents claiming Irish ancestry, there is a lot of room for growth.

Bridgeport hosted the State AOH softball tournament on August 26 at Foote Field in Milford. This event has been described as a combination social and fundraising event with a nice softball game on the side. It has become an annual event that the Bridgeport and Danbury men always look forward to but to which all are welcome. This year all money raised will be given to Saint Catherine's Center for Special Needs in Fairfield, Connecticut. This center is part of St. Catherine's Academy.

The JFK Division was saddened recently by the passing of Past President John Collins. John was an upbeat guy whose glass was always half full. He will be missed.

Check out Sacred Heart University's digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber



Rick Connell, Paul Moriarity and Jim Gallagher of the John P. Holland Division, New London, supported the drive for new members at an AOH information booth at the Norwich, Connecticut Rose Festival.

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

Louisiana

By John D. Fitzmorris III, Louisiana State Secretary

State Convention in 'Cajun Country'

For the first time in its history, the Louisiana State Board held its biennial state convention in "Cajun Country" as the Acadian Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians hosted Hibernians from across the state. A host of delegates from the Archbishop Hannan, Cardinal Gibbons, and Republic of West Florida Divisions and the Margaret Haughery Division of the Ladies AOH travelled to the Ramada Conference Center in Lafayette, Louisiana, to join their brothers in the Acadian Division to conduct the business of the Order and elect their state officers.

The convention festivities began with a golf outing planned by Brother Ian Foley of the Acadian AOH. Hibernians braved the scorching temperatures at the Wetlands Golf Club, which is part of the Audubon Golf Trail. The cold beverages and the generous pencils at the 19th more than made up for the tough conditions. Once cleaned up, the Hibernians gathered for their first hospitality suite session, where they greeted their fellow brothers and Lady Hibernians in the spirit of Friendship.

The convention began in earnest early the next morning with the business session, opened with a prayer by Rev. Msgr. Russell Harrington of the Acadian AOH. State Representative Jean Paul Coussan, representing District 45 in the Louisiana House, gave the keynote address and welcomed the delegates to Acadiana. Although admittedly not Irish himself, Representative Coussan gave tribute to the strong Irish and Irish-American community in Acadiana and drew parallels between the Irish and the Acadians of Nova Scotia, who came to Louisiana after being thrown out of Canada for their Catholic faith. National President James McKay III then addressed the gathered members and praised their involvement in the Order and their efforts at making sure the "Irish standard" in Louisiana is seen by Hibernians throughout the nation. He called upon the Hibernians and Lady Hibernians to rally again in October when the National Board comes back to New Orleans for the President's Dinner.

After the National President's address, the Lady Hibernians departed for a trip to Avery Island, where the world-famous Tabasco™ hot sauce is manufactured, for a tour of the factory and a lunch paid for by generous sponsors from the Lafayette Area. The Hibernians then settled down to the business of the convention, which was steered by Convention Chairman Mark Foley, president of the Acadian Division. State President James Kuhn lauded the Hibernians for their generosity displayed the previous month in raising more than \$24,000 at the Order's First Ever Charity Auction and announced that the monies raised would go completely to charitable causes, to be disbursed by the divisions to local charities.

Breakout sessions, led by the four division presidents, addressed membership, Political Education, Project St. Patrick and Freedom for All Ireland. These sessions enabled members to exchange ideas and strategies to increase involvement, vocations and works



Glad to participate in the Louisiana State Convention were, from left, Acadian President and Convention Chair Mark Foley, State Representative and Keynote Speaker Jean Paul Coussan, Louisiana State President James E. Kuhn and National President James F. McKay III.

of charity. Finally, the convention members nominated those they wished to lead the State Board for the next two years. By votes of acclamation, the Hibernians reelected James E. Kuhn as President, Sean Kennedy as Vice-President, Bernard J. "B.J." Eckholdt as Treasurer, and John Fitzmorris III as Secretary.

Division caucuses met briefly before the convention business was adjourned, and the members departed to make ready for the evening Mass. Thanks to the hard work of the Acadian Division, the Hibernians — now rejoined by the very satisfied Lady Hibernians — were bussed to St. Leo the Great Church not far from the hotel. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Curtis Maulet, Vicar General for the Diocese of Lafayette, after which National President James F. McKay III installed the officers and bestowed upon them their medallions.

After Mass, the Hibernians, Lady Hibernians, and their spouses and guests all gathered at Bailey's Restaurant in Lafayette for the closing banquet. A delightful repast and great company topped off what was an excellent convention, and the Louisiana State Board owes a huge debt of gratitude to Acadian AOH President Mark Foley, and Acadian Division Hibernians Kevin McKay, Robert Cassidy, James Brennan and Ian Foley who went above and beyond in hosting a first-rate convention.

The Hibernians in Louisiana look forward to seeing you all in Louisville in 2018!

Illinois

Division 32 names Man of the Year

Division 32 held its monthly meeting on August 3 meeting at which Michael S. O'Malley was named as the division's Ken Sullivan Man of the Year. Mike, a Park Ridge resident, and his lovely wife, Mary, are the parents of four grown children and grandparents to three with a fourth coming soon. Mike, an Executive Director People Advisory Services with Ernest & Young LLP, is a tireless organizer for the annual golf outing, the Christmas party (serving as Santa among other tasks), and is the Treasurer of Division 32.

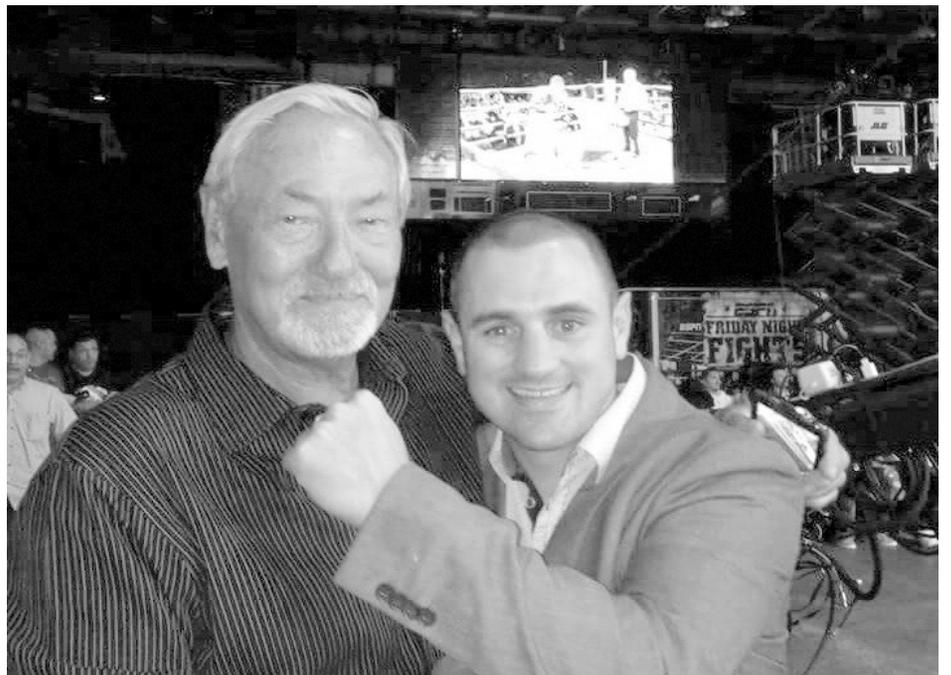
Mike will be recognized at the annual picnic Saturday, August 26. At the picnic — run by the 3 Flaherty Boys and a host of others — six \$500 scholarships will be awarded to Catholic students.

Also at the picnic there will be a call for a 16" no glove Chicago style clincher softball game, but most brothers beg off, claiming injuries, maladies and flared up arthritis after taking a few feeble swings at the cantaloupe sized softball.

It was also announced that on the evening of Wednesday November 15, will be an AOH-sponsored Thanksgiving feeding for the less fortunate at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish soup kitchen. For more details on all events check our Facebook page of Aoh Aoh.



Division 32, Ken Sullivan Man of the Year, Mike O'Malley, left, with brother John Molloy.



To the August 3 monthly meeting of Division 32, member Jack Morrissey, left, brought Irish boxer Henry Coyle as his guest. Henry is known as the "Western Warrior from the Land of the Salty Breeze" and is former Irish Senior Champion, a World Military Champion in 2005 and, as a professional, is a former WBF World Champion sporting a 21-2 record.



Maryland

Historic St. Peter Cemetery, Baltimore

The AOH Patrick Pearse Division 1 Catonsville, led by past State President Tim Harvey, spent a day cleaning up the grounds of the mid-19th century St. Peter's Cemetery. Many Irish-born Baltimore citizens who fled in the years around An Gorta Mor are interred there.

AOH St Patrick Division 5 men, led by Dan Layden, placed a marker memorializing the Great Hunger. Brother Bill Fahey, member of Division 5 Suffolk Co., NY, gifted it. A dedication was held with prayers. The AOH thanks the Jonah House Catholic Community for their support.



Members of AOH St. Patrick Division 5 gathered at St. Peter's Cemetery to place a headstone in memory of the Great Hunger.

St Patrick Division 5 FFAI Fundraiser

An electrifying lecture entitled Irish American support and roles in the Irish Freedom Movements since 1798, by author and Irish Republican Historian Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, was presented to the division. AOH history was well documented in this presentation. A well-done evening thanks to Division President Don Waters, Jr. and FFAI Division Chairman Joe Kelleher and Brother Jim McGovern for making this happen.

New York Irish Consul General Barbara Jones Honored

Maryland State Board President Jay Linahan represented the Maryland AOH in New York City along with past State President Tim Harvey to honor Ms. Jones after years of service and before her next diplomatic posting.

20th Anniversary of Irish Museum

The Baltimore City Irish Railroad Workers Museum (IRWM), directed by a majority of Hibernians serving on the Board of Directors, celebrated their 20th Anniversary on June

17. Political dignitaries attending were Baltimore City Councilman John Bullock and Past Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley.

National Board Deputy Chair of FFAI Michael Mellett, also of local St. Patrick Division 5, was master of ceremonies. Special thanks to Brothers Dan Layden and Joe Lochte for safely organizing the complex mural unveiling. Many fellow Maryland brothers attended from multiple divisions, including General J. Coleman, C. Donnan, B. Cockey, T. Layden, M. Flannery, and M Bealefield along with a crowd of 120 guests. Brian McHale, a retired member of the Maryland House of Delegates, read a congratulatory letter from Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson.



The Irish Railroad Workers Museum is a historic site that celebrates the history of the immense Irish presence in Southwest Baltimore City in the late 1840's. Part of the 20th Anniversary celebration was a presentation of the founding of the GAA.

Champion Baltimore City Bohemians GAA Teams Honored

The Maryland AOH with IRWM hosted the event on July 30. Bob Waldron, member of AOH 5, as well as Dan and Tommy Layden, Jay Linahan and Michael Mellett and many other Maryland Hibernians from the region brought generations of family members. Other AOH representatives attending were Virginia Pat Cady Division's, Brendan Cooney and James Coleman of St. Brendan Division 3 -Towson.

Many Irish born GAA players attended with families and children for the first time and began new friendships with our Hibernian brothers. Hibernian brothers and Ladies and guests also took in a wonderful historical presentation on the GAA's founding and the history of Irish sports. Many from the region attended as well.



Baltimore GAA Players Champions display trophies at Maryland AOH-sponsored GAA Celebration Day, July 30.

The Irish Outreach Program

Hibernians Rick Fairbend of the Ocean City, Emerald Isle Division 1, and Lady Hibernian Patricia Fairbend continue to provide helpful service to the visiting summer working students (summer J-1 visa student from Ireland). The students rely on the outreach program fortified with AOH division funds from across the state in conjunction with the Irish Apostolate and Embassy of Ireland.

The AOH-LAOH Maryland State Convention

Ocean City, October 27-29, 2017. Any inquires can be made to: AOH-LAOH Convention, c/o Tim Harvey, 201 Newburg Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228

- Update submitted by Michael Mellett, St Patrick Division 5 Baltimore City on direction by Maryland State President Jay Linahan.

Iowa

AOH donates crucifix

Dubuque County Division 2 (refounded on Groundhog Day 2013) members participated in the dedication of the donated crucifix for the new chapel at Wahlert Catholic High School and Mazzucelli Middle School. The donation was almost \$10,000, and the crucifix was hand carved, with Jesus' eyes open to look into the observer's eyes and heart.



At the dedication were, from left, Rob McCullough (founding past President), Joel Allen, Bob Feeney, Jerry Lynch, Carl Breen, Jim Siegert (President), Mike Martin (State President), Paul Fitzgerald, Pat Leonard (Vice President), Jerry in Feeney (Financial Secretary) and "General Bob" Felderman (Recording Secretary).

Massachusetts

By Jack Lahey

At the State Convention in Hyannis on June 2-4, all four AOH State officers were reelected. At the Installation Mass, AOH National President James McKay installed the newly reelected officers. They were: President Paul Hogan, of Division 1, Holyoke; Vice President John T. Lahey, of Division 8, Lawrence; Secretary Keith Murphy, of Division 8, Lawrence; and Treasurer Joe McCusker, of Division 14, Watertown.

On June 24, the State Board held their Annual John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial Exercises with a Mass celebrated by AOH/LAOH State Chaplain, the Rev. Patrick Armano, at the home of Division 14 in Watertown. Past State President Dick Thompson of Division 14 chaired this event.

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

Division 1 Newburyport held a sunset boat cruise on August 2.

Division 1 Holyoke celebrated its 144th Anniversary on July 23 and in mid-October will host a fall foliage train ride.

On June 14, **Division 8** Lawrence Scholarship Chairman Robert R. Gauthier presented awards to Amanda Corrigan, Madison Hickingbotham, Cara McCarthy, Sean McCarthy, Ryan Michaud, Declan Murphy and Tyler Thomas. The Division will hold their annual outing on September 16.

Division 10 Lynn held their annual Communion Breakfast on June 4 and presented \$10,000 in scholarships. Receiving scholarships were Thomas Cash, Harrison Seitz, Joseph Calnan, Jr., Daniel Calnan and Christian Couillard.

On May 16, Watertown **Division 14** brought in a class of 15 new members named after Past State, County and Division President Dick MacDonald, and on July 21 the Division's Annual Memorial Golf Tournament was held in Memory of Dick MacDonald as well. Brother MacDonald died in January 2016.

Division 18 Salem held their Annual AOH Summer Outing on August 12 at Camp Naumkeag in Salem.

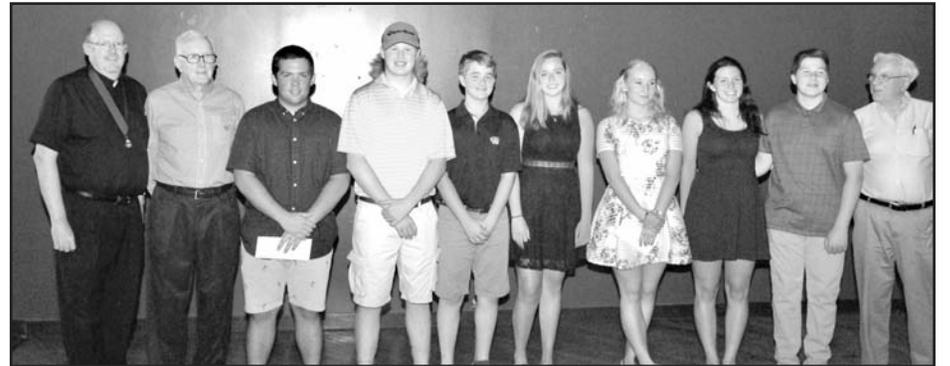
Division 19 Lowell held a fundraiser on June 14 at the Irish Cottage in Methuen.

Division 36 Worcester held an Outdoor Music Festival on July 15 on the grounds of their Division home.

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



At the Scholarship Award Ceremony, from left, Div. 10 Dick Wall, Thomas Cash, Harrison Seitz, Joseph Calnan Jr., Daniel Calnan, Christian Couillard and Scholarship chairman Paul Costello.



Division 8 AOH in Lawrence awarded their scholarships on June 14 at the Claddagh. From left, Rev. John Delaney, Division 8 Chaplain; Bob Gauthier, Scholarship Chairman; Ryan Michaud, Tyler Thomas, Declan Murphy, Amanda Corrigan, Madison Hickingbottom, Cara McCarthy, Sean McCarthy and Frank O'Connor, Division 8 Vice President.

South Carolina

Working for Project St. Patrick

Under the leadership of Brother Richard (Smitty) Smith, the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division, assisted by the St. Ciara Division LAOH, both of Beaufort County, South Carolina, joined forces on the weekends of June 17-18 and July 22-23 to conduct personal appeals for Project St. Patrick at Holy Family and St. Gregory the Great – two of the local parishes in Bluffton and Hilton Head Island. Their successful efforts raised more than \$7,100, which is an increase of more than 15 percent over last year, to help support our South Carolina seminarians and those studying for the permanent diaconate.



AOH and LAOH members along with Fr. Derrick Sneyd from Bluffton, SC, enjoyed a laugh with a parishioner while recently soliciting donations on behalf of Project St. Patrick at Saint Gregory the Great in Bluffton. Submitted by Vince Colgan.



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



Missouri

**By Richard C. A. Shoaf, Rec. Secretary
Michael J Roarty Division 1, Saint Charles County, MO**

Convention news

The Missouri AOH / LAOH Convention was held in the quaint town of Weston on June 17. This was a wonderful time for divisions to share best practices, history and fellowship. We found similar challenges across Missouri that we plan to partner through the state board to find solutions under our new leadership team.

We were blessed to have two national board members with us at the convention, National Director John Wilson and National Secretary Jere Cole.

As across the nation, we are seeing challenges in recruitment, retention and community engagement. With everyone competing for time in society we are asking "What is our value proposition?" So what does someone get out of being part of the Ancient Order of Hibernians? Is it educational in nature? Is it social or is it viewed as just a club for "Irish Catholic Guys"?

Questions we are asking include: Where are you finding new members? Why did you join the AOH? As well as what is your story? When you have a story you can tell of your particular experience in the AOH you can share that and recruitment comes easier. As for me, I am still trying to figure out my story but would love to hear yours. You can find some of our stories on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stcharlesaoh>



2017 Missouri State AOH Board, from left, Michael Quinn, MO State Board Treasurer; John Callahan, Missouri State Board Vice President; Jere Cole, National Secretary; Joseph Flanagan, MO State Board President; James Dugdale, MO State Board Secretary and John Wilson, National Director.

Virginia



The General Thomas F. Meagher Division annually presents two scholastic awards to selected graduates of Holy Cross Academy and St. Patrick Elementary. Award winners are selected by their respective school faculties based on scholastic achievement and community service among other criteria. The 2017 winners were Nathaniel Fitzpatrick (Holy Cross) pictured with Fr. John Mosimann, Pastor at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, his mother, Lori, and Division President Shawn Lenahan. Nathaniel will attend St. John Paul the Great High School. The second award was presented to Isabella Tibado, St. Patrick Elementary, who will be attending St. Michael the Archangel High School.



Major Dooley Division (HE01) Past President Vince Eikmeier sang the Irish national anthem at the annual Irish Night hosted by the Richmond Flying Squirrels (SF Giants/Double A). The evening included Irish music and dancers, plus a visit by St. Patrick (Division President Brian Hegarty).

Minnesota

Minnesota Shamrock Division awards \$6,500 in scholarships

The Minnesota Shamrock Division has always respected its fine Irish history and traditions. The Division also looks to the future by honoring our fine Irish lads and lassies with scholarships. Applicants are evaluated for their knowledge of Ireland, personal education plans and how they plan to honor their Irish heritage in the future. Each applicant is personally interviewed by the Scholarship Committee. At the end of the Shamrock Division's Founders Day, a total of \$6,500 in 2017 Hibernian Scholarships had been awarded to 13 applicants.



Fr. John Lynch Division (R001) awarded scholarship checks to a lower and an upper school student. The \$1,000 lower school Past President Ray Donnelly scholarship was presented to Lorenzo Dean. The \$1,500 Msgr. Thomas Miller upper school scholarship was presented to Martha Drapac. From left, Division President Bill Howard, Lorenzo, Martha, and School President/Hibernian Patrick Patterson.



Hibernian Scholarship recipients Ryan Murr, Allison Moriarty, Mariena Hayden, Hailey Witt and Austin Murr.

Pennsylvania



AOH HELPS THE HUNGRY: Twenty-eight members of Division 3, Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, made the last of three food deliveries on June 23 for the needy of Bucks County. They are pictured moving the cases from the Weis Markets' pallets and loading them into three groups in a truck and trailer. The organizer of the project, and long-time chairman of this ministry is brother Sean McArdle. The three agencies whose families benefit from the ministry are the Bucks County Housing Authority in Doylestown, The New Britain Baptist Church Larder and St. John the Baptist Church Kitchen in Ottsville. This activity occurs at least twice annually.



Hibernian Scholarship recipients Nick Gannon, Hannah Hofmeister, John Morrison, Montana Bahr and Lauren Murphy. Not shown: Kade Skelley, Jake Hansen and Bailey Murphy.

Pennsylvania



The new Pennsylvania state Board, from left, Glenn Cannon, Ed Halligan, Denny Gaw, Dave Bloomer, Pat O'Brien, Bob Haley, Joe Hosie, Joe Walsh and Tim Carley.



HAIL TO THE PRESIDENTS: Celebrating at the Pennsylvania convention were, from left, Rae Dispaldo, newly elected PA LAOH President; Joe Hosie, newly elected PA AOH President; and Katie Hosie, Joe's wife.



McKAY SPEAKS AT PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION: Judge James McKay, the Order's national president, addressed the closing dinner of the 2017 PA AOH Convention.



The scholarship award recipients are, from left, Jillian Grace Clark (Villa Joseph Marie HS), Gavin Flanagan (Conwell Egan HS), Mary Grace O'Malley (Nazareth Academy), Kerry O'Connor (Nazareth Academy), Madison Blackshire (Nazareth Academy), Carly Maw (Conwell Egan HS), Victor Byrd (Holy Ghost Prep) and Ines Dominique (Villa Joseph Marie HS). Also in the photo are members of Division 2, from left, Jim Anderson, Bill O'Connor, Jim Flanagan, Paul Wehner, John McGovern, Greg Cunningham, Jim Johnston, Larry Byrne and Mike Shields.

Bucks County Division 2 awards \$8,000 in scholarships

AOH Division 2 in Newtown recently awarded eight tuition scholarships of \$1,000 each to deserving Irish American students who will be attending Catholic High Schools this fall. This division has sponsored a 5K Run each year to support the Joe McGinnis Scholarship Fund honoring PFC Michael B. McGinnis (Joe's brother) who was killed in the Vietnam War. Division 2 has awarded more than \$20,000 in scholarships over the last several years to students who wrote essays about a topic in Irish history. For more information on Division 2, visit their website @ aohnewtownpa.com.



NATIONAL BOARD AT PENN. CONVENTION: Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums from Notre Dame Division 1 at the Pennsylvania AOH/LAOH State Convention in Scranton Pa. with National Officers Sean Pender, Danny O'Connell, President Jim McKay and Jere Cole. Montgomery County, PA., Division 1.

Rhode Island

Newport AOH Pipes & Drums leads Governors Association procession

The Newport R.I. Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipes & Drums was honored to serve as at the 2017 National Governors Association Summer Meeting on July 14. Playing a medley of American and Irish tunes, the band escorted Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, First Gentleman Andrew Moffitt, and son Thompson Moffitt. Raimondo and family were joined by 31 state governors in the celebratory procession from the steps of the Rhode Island State House to Water Place Park for a special Water Fire lighting.



The Newport AOH Pipes & Drums. Photo credit: Jon Dilworth

Governor Raimondo hosted the three-day conference, which unites the nation's governors biannually to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing the country and to share best practices on how to better serve the American public. Vice President Michael Pence, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Tesla CEO Elon Musk were among the keynote speakers.

The Newport AOH Pipes & Drums is affiliated with Newport's Dennis E. Collins Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 1. With over 700 members, Newport's AOH Division is the largest in Rhode Island and one of the largest in North America. Newport's LAOH is similarly large with more than 250 members.

Founded in 2006, the award-winning pipe band regularly marches in parades and competes across the Northeast. In addition to the 2017 National Governors Association, the Newport AOH Pipes & Drums regularly performed at events like the 2016 Irish Centennial of the Easter Rising in Dublin and the 2015 Volvo Ocean Race Stopover in Newport. A mainstay of the city's Irish Heritage Month and St. Patrick's Day parade, members perform in custom historically appropriate Irish uniforms featuring saffron kilts.

A teaching band deeply committed to the Hibernian credo of friendship, unity and Christian charity, the band welcomes new members and students. To learn more, visit aohpipesanddrums.com.

New York



NEW BRONX COUNTY BOARD: On June 21, National Director Dan Dennehy presented the leadership gavel to Bob Nolan, who was elected to a third term as Bronx County AOH President. Also installed, from left, were Sean McCarthy, Marshal; Tim O'Donohue, Sentinel; Chris Butler, Financial Secretary; John Hyland, Recording Secretary; guest; Tom Beirne, District Director; Bob Nolan; Dan Dennehy; Martin Galvin, Vice-President; Jim O'Farrell, Treasurer; and John Ward, Chairman of the Standing Committee. The new officers compose the Bronx County Board 2017-2019. The installation was held at the Charles Bajart American Legion Post on McLean Avenue.

Pennsylvania



JOE HOSIE DAY: Newly elected PA State President Joe Hosie was presented with a plaque by Lackawanna County Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, proclaiming Saturday, July, 22, 2017, as "Joe Hosie Day" in Lackawanna County.



'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.

New Jersey

Come to the Irish Fall Festival in Wildwood

The largest Irish festival on the east coast runs from Thursday, Sept. 21 to the 24th, sponsored by James J. Reilly, Division 1, AOH.

The success of this festival has been overwhelming, and continues to draw more and more people each year. With over 100 vendors, 16 food vendors and an estimated crowd of over 200,000, this gathering will definitely be the place where you want to be!

The activities begin on Thursday, September 21st, at 1 PM with a round of GOLF at the Cape May National Golf Course, Route 9 and Fairway Drive, Cape May Court House (2 miles south of Route 47). The fee is \$90 on or before Sept. 10th and \$100 after Sept. 10th and includes green fee and cart, light lunch, dinner buffet, beer and many prizes. Space is limited and reservations are suggested. For additional information, please contact the AOH.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday the FESTIVITIES will take place on Olde New Jersey Avenue. Here the street vendors will display their Irish memorabilia, and the food vendors will offer a variety of Irish and non-Irish treats. This activity begins at 8 AM each morning and continues until 7 pm. On Friday and Saturday there will be free LIVE ENTERTAINMENT continuously from noon to 8:30. The AOH is proud to announce the return of the BEER GARDEN located on the Municipal parking lot at Spruce and Olde New Jersey Avenues.

Saturday begins with a 5K RUN. If you are interested, you can sign up at 8am at the AOH tent (between 1st and 2nd Avenues) on Olde New Jersey Avenue. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Saturday at 10am the BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION will take place at Bill Henfey Park located at 8th and Central Avenues, North Wildwood. This event attracts thousands of spectators every year. Come see and hear some of the best pipe bands in the East! Also on Saturday, the AOH will host free IRISH DANCE LESSONS at the Anglesea Volunteer Fire House, located in the festival district at 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenues from 10am until noon.

On Friday and Saturday there will be free LIVE ENTERTAINMENT continuously from noon to 10 pm. The concert will begin with the National Anthem. Other featured performers include: Maura McKinney, Broken Shillelaghs, Birmingham 6, the Shenanigans and Brothers McGillan.

On Sunday, everyone is welcome to celebrate our faith and heritage at Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Church in the Notre Dame de la Mer Parish, Glenwood and Atlantic Avenues, for 10:30 am MASS. Sunday at 12:30 PM, the PARADE begins at 20th and Surf Avenues and will continue to Spruce and Olde New Jersey Avenues. The Irish Fall Festival is proud to announce that the 2017 Grand Marshal will be Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Diocese of Camden. In addition, we are honored to have Seamus Boyle, Past National President as a special guest. The parade also will feature Miss North Wildwood, Mae C. Bischoff, many fraternal organizations, bag pipe bands, Irish dance groups and much, much more. All AOH organizations are welcome to be a part of this celebration of Irish history and heritage.

As always, bus service will be available from the Anglesea Fire Hall – 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenue along Surf Avenue to 26th Street. Additional bus service will be available through Wildwood and Wildwood Crest. For detailed information, please call 609-884-5230 or visit gatrolley.com. As a result of this extremely successful annual fund raising event, the AOH achieves significant charitable accomplishments. These contributions reflect the loyalty and ideals, which have helped to strengthen our families, community, and national character. This festival is sponsored, in part, by Budweiser, the Greater Wildwood Tourism Improvement and Development Authority and the City of North Wildwood. The AOH would like to acknowledge and thank Mayor Patrick Rosenello, City Council and the City of North Wildwood for their annual support of this event!

For additional information contact the AOH at 1-800-IRISH-91 or www.cmcaoh.com.



GOOD COOKING: Fr. Solanus Casey-Bergen 32 cooked for the town at the 4th of July in the Park. From left, Steve Baxter, Kevin Blute, Des Dahill, Jack Walsh, Rocco Rizzo, Jr., Rocco Rizzo Sr., Dan Sullivan, Tom Herity, John Connolly and their piper, Pete Vesey.



Members of the Fr. Solanus Casey-Bergen 32 AOH celebrated their 10-Year Anniversary with a mass at St. Peter's Church in River Edge, NJ, on June 10. Fr. Michael Sheehan officiated. Kevin Blute did a presentation on Fr. Solanus Casey to the members after mass.

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



Bergen 32 participated in the Tank Pull Challenge on June 25 benefitting wounded-veterans' charities.

Ladies hibernian news

LAOH National Historian

by Dee Wallace

I am proud and honored that in our 120th Year as an organization, we continue to promote our Irish and Irish American History. The 2017-2018 National Irish History Contest will honor the topics that are still related to the decade of the centenaries considering the many events in history that have occurred in this decade 100 years ago.

The topic for this 2017-2018 writing contest is: "Expressing Irish History through Music." The Rules of the Contest, as well as a brochure is available to download on our website. Please feel free to make copies and list your Division Contact information. Please note: Wikipedia is not a source that can be used.

The Timelines for the 2017-2018 National History Writing Contest are as follows:
September 1, 2017 - National Historian to State Historians

September 15, 2017 State Historian to County Board and Division Historians.

October 2nd - November 15th -Schools receive packages and students begin writing papers.

November 15,2017 -Essays (4 copies of each) are to be submitted to Division Historians.

I hope your Divisions, Counties and States participate in this contest. Please see the website for additional information. It can be found by clicking on National Board>Historian>Irish Writing Contest.

President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



A little over a year ago, I began this journey with you as your Chief Executive Officer. I asked you, the membership, to renew your commitment to our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity as we, your National Board and Appointees for the 2016-2018 Term of Office, worked with you to meet the challenges to advance the works of our Order.

I congratulate you and thank you for the positive work you have accomplished over the past year at the Division, the County Board, and the State Board Levels within our organizational structure.

It seems simple to say, but it is so understated, "building trust, supporting and respecting each other, while creating and maintaining open, honest communication are essential components needed by the membership as we work together to meet defined goals." I encourage you to "step-up" to engage with your newly elected State Officers as they begin their 2017-2019 Term of Office. For those of you who are having County Board Officer elections and Division elections, I encourage to you consider how you may be able to "step forward" to consider being a candidate for an open office position.

It is my honor to invite all of you to come to New Orleans LA to participate in the AOH-LAOH National Presidents' Testimonial Weekend being hosted at the St. Charles Hilton Hotel. In our effort to "walk the talk" of working collaboratively as LAOH-AOH members, AOH President Jim McKay and I are co-hosting the National President's Testimonial Weekend in New Orleans LA the weekend of October 13-14, 2017. The Friday night social begins at 9:00 PM CDT and is being billed as a "Musical Night in Old New Orleans." There will be time share refreshments, to visit, and to enjoy the old-time music. During the day on Saturday, each of the National Boards will host their Interim National Board Meeting. Mass is scheduled for 5:00 PM at St. Patrick's Church followed by a Cocktail Hour at the Intercontinental Hotel located just across the street from the St. Charles Hilton Hotel. The Banquet being held in the Intercontinental Hotel is slated to begin at 7:30 PM with the presentation of the Sean MacBride Award to be made at approximately 8:30 PM. Dancing will follow the completion of the Banquet program. Check with your State Presidents or go to the LAOH website, www.ladiesaoh.com, or to the AOH website, www.aoh.com, to download your registration forms and to gather information to make your hotel reservations. There is also a form available for you to consider placing an Ad in the commemorative journal.

All LAOH-AOH members are privileged to be able to honor Mr. Niall Burgess, Ireland's Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as the 2017 Sean MacBride Honoree. Mr. Burgess has supported the MacBride principles and worked so honorably and generously to support Irish and Irish American relationships and causes over so many years. Thank you, Mr. Niall Burgess!



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. Leatham	Freedom for All Ireland	mtleatham@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

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

Michigan



L-R State Pres. Maureen Kelly, Julian Santillan, 2nd Place winner of the Level 1 Irish History Writing Contest, National President Pat O'Connell and Pam Conway-Teunis, Michigan State Historian.

New York



Picture from left to right: Mary Leatham, Past National President, Pat O'Connell, National President, Anna McGillicuddy, Deputy Consul General Ireland, Sue Legasse, Marilyn Madigan, National Treasurer, Margaret Hennessy, Past National President, Mary Hogan, Past National President. Photo ©oconnellphotos.com

Hibernians from across the state honor Youngstown Resident

Recently over 500 Hibernian delegates and guests from the state of New York visited the city of Buffalo for their biennial state convention. Youngstown resident, Susanne Legasse was honored as recipient of the Mother Teresa award. The Mother Teresa Award goes to a LAOH member who is in good standing and lives by the guiding principles of the Order and in a way Mother Teresa would live her life.

Sue has been a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 30 + years. Her mother was from Ireland and also a member. Born in 1932, one of seven children, Sue then had 7 children. She was a registered nurse for 65 years and still continues to help those in need.

She has volunteered for countless organizations besides the LAOH. To include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, PTA's, and West Point Parents association. Sue currently serves on the Alter and Rosary Society, is a Eucharistic Minister and reader for St. Bernard's Parish.

Her lifelong passion has been to promote her Irish heritage and culture. For years she has been accumulating family history, papers etc. as much as possible from locals, finding where and what part of Ireland they were from. She is ready at a moment's notice to put on display for all in the City to see. She participates in fundraiser's for Cancer research, Alzheimer's, Magdalene Project, Ronald McDonald House and a supporter of the Rosary Crusade and Pro Life.

She continues to provide wisdom and extensive knowledge of the order to all. She encouraged a group from Lockport to form another division of the order in their city. That division has been in existence for more than 10 years and boasts a membership of 89 + members. She has encouraged the two divisions to work together, celebrate Mass and social functions as a group.

She currently is County President and Niagara Falls Division Catholic action Chair. She lives and breathes her Irish heritage and her Religion every day. She is a true example of the order's motto "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity".



New York newly elected State board.

Pennsylvania

Allegheny County Division 11

Congratulations to Maggie Cloonan, 2017 Anna C. Malia Ruddy Awardee. Your sisters from Allegheny County Division 11 of the LAOH could not be more proud of you on receiving the 2017 Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award.

You have shown leadership with offices you have held through your 43 years as a member and always having demonstrated and lived our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. You have always been there for organizing multitude of fundraisers for our divisions or causes for the community. You are living your Catholic faith by caring for others and acknowledging peoples accomplishments and struggles. Congratulations on your many awards, including our LAOH Division St. Agnes Award, LAOH County Golden Rose Award and National Life Membership to list a few.

Being the recipient of the Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award is the highest award given to a member of the LAOH within the Pennsylvania Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. It is well deserved from all of hibernianism, dedication and selflessness living our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity that you have shown through your tenure with the Order.

We leave you with this saying as you celebrate this award: For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way, good health, good luck and happiness for today and every day.



Pennsylvania Allegheny President of Division 11, Shirley Sestric, congratulating Maggie Cloonan, on being honored with the 2017 Anna C. Malia Ruddy award.

Indiana

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Our Lady of Knock Division, was invited to send five representatives to the Prayer Service at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on the eve of Archbishop Charles Thompson's installation as the new archbishop of Indianapolis. Peggy Fowley, Eva Rickard, Stephanie Thibo, Mary Dougherty, and Kathy Kaplan participated in the entrance procession which also included the Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, St Thomas More Society, Knights of St John, Knights of St Peter Claver, and Knights of Holy of Holy Sepulchre. The Most Reverend Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, blessed the papal insignia (miter, crozier, pectoral cross, and ring) and made some remarks. Archbishop Thompson gave the homily. Several bishops, priests, deacons and religious attended the prayer service which was open to the public. A reception followed with a receiving line so everyone had an opportunity to meet and welcome Archbishop Thompson.

**Deadline for the
October-November issue
is NO LATER than October 1**

National Vice President

by Carol Sheyer

Hopefully by the time you are reading this article the 2014-2016 National Proceedings will be in the hands of those who ordered copies. Past National President Mary Hogan had decided to take on the task of completing the Proceedings herself. The Proceedings were printed in New York and with help from members of her LAOH Division Past National President Hogan mailed out those copies. I was sent an electronic copy of the Proceedings which I transferred on to flash drives and mailed, to those who ordered an electronic copy in, early August.

The 2017 Hibernian Weekend at Notre Dame is planned for September 22-23, 2017. This year's Hibernian Lecture, "The Struggle for Ireland's Soul: Catholics under the Penal Laws", will be presented by Professor Ian McBride. Professor McBride is Foster Professor of Irish History at Hertford College, University of Oxford.

Shortly the AOH-LAOH John F. Kennedy Memorial nomination information will be sent out to the membership. This Award is given to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his/her field of endeavor and will be awarded at the 2018 National Convention in Louisville, KY.

At anytime I can be of help with any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at csheyer@fuse.net.

Treasurer

by Marilyn Madigan

As the National Treasurer, I would like to express my appreciation to Kathryn Keane and the staff at Macanta for their work with the IRS Reinstatement Process. At this time approximately 95% of the LAOH States, Counties and Divisions have received a letter confirming their IRS Tax Exempt Status. These letters must be on file with the National Treasurer. Please keep a copy for your records and send a copy to National in a PDF format to memadigan@gmail.com. Thank you to all who have already sent the information.

The next important task was the filing of the tax information to the IRS by May 15. Guidelines for filing were sent to State Presidents and Treasurers. Tax exempt status can be revoked for not filing. I know this process was stressful for all. I am extremely grateful for the support and work of the State Presidents and Treasurers in filing of the 990's.

The IRS Reinstatement Process, Year End Reports and the filing of the 990's was overwhelming for all of us. At times, I thought why am I involved in all this work. Then I remembered that I had the privilege of serving on the National Board of the greatest organization of women of Irish heritage who are committed to their Catholic faith.

I had the opportunity to attend special Hibernian events this spring and summer. I represented the National Board at the Annual Mass to honor the Nuns of the Battlefield. I enjoyed spending time with my DC Sisters. At National History Day, I served as one of the judges for the Irish/ Irish American Award sponsored by the AOH and LAOH. Our National Historian Dee Wallace unfortunately was unable to attend. Helping to judge were Ann Fisher and Maria Humphries. After the Awards, I was able to join in fellowship with Ann and Gail Dapolito and discuss future plans for the Marker for Nuns of the Battlefield Monument. I was also fortunate to attend 3 State Conventions: Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. The best part of attending the Conventions was connecting with friends and meeting new Sister Hibernians.

Webmaster/Asst. Hibernian Digest Editor/Social Media

by Sandi Riley Swift

By now the majority of State Conventions are completed. Please remember to submit the name of your new State President and her email address in order to keep the website updated.

As Division elections will be happening in the next few months, again, please submit the name of your new Division President and her email address to keep the division contact page on the website current.

As a reminder, when submitting articles for the Digest please follow the guidelines. All pictures must be with a camera 1 MB or larger. Articles, photo tag lines and photos must be attached as separate documents, please do not embed these in the email.

We can post photos less than 1MB and taken with cell phones on our Facebook page. Those submissions should be noted as "Facebook."

We are working on posting the proceedings on the website under a password protected page. Your State President will receive the password to pass down to the Division Presidents who will give it to their members.

In order to receive notice of new information posted on the website, please subscribe to our page. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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.



LAOH JFK 2 Pottsville, Schuylkill County, PA celebrated the Feast of St. Brigid with a Mass at St. Stephen Church in Port Carbon. In attendance, front row from left: Mary Ann Lubinsky, President/National Missions & Charities Officer; Lois Weiser, Sentinel; Lydia Laughlin, PA State Publicity/County President/Division Treasurer; Mary Frantz; Betty Murphy, County Secretary/Division Historian; Winnie Kerns; Kathleen Valibus, Recording Secretary, Linda Clarke, Mistress at Arms. Back row: Carol Cooney-Syzdek, FFAI; Linda Brennan; Msgr. William Handges, Celebrant; Kathryn Clews; Alice Henry, Past PA State President; Noreen O'Boyle, Divisions Immigration & Legislation/County Financial Secretary.

NY State Convention in Buffalo a Success!

By Liam McNabb, National Director

The New York State AOH & LAOH Biennial Convention took place from July 12-15 and was hosted at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo by the Erie and Niagara County AOH and LAOH Divisions. As Buffalo is known as the "City of Good Neighbors," hundreds of Brother and Sister Hibernians from throughout New York and other states were treated with wonderful western NY hospitality.

On Wednesday, the Convention opened with Mass at beautiful St. Joseph's Cathedral, followed by the "Welcome Night" Reception, which featured Buffalo's trademark chicken wings and Beef on Weck among other fine foods. Convention business began on Thursday with the AOH and LAOH joint meeting where delegates were once again welcomed to the convention by AOH State President Tim McSweeney and LAOH State President Karen Keane. AOH and LAOH general sessions followed along with numerous AOH and LAOH committee meetings.

For Thursday evening, the local convention committee offered social options that included a trip to the Lockport Locks and Niagara Falls, "Hibernian Night" at the Buffalo Bisons baseball game or an evening of live music and food at the Buffalo Irish Center. All events were reported to be fun and entertaining.

AOH and LAOH general sessions continued Friday morning and ended at

lunchtime to allow presentations for both AOH and LAOH delegates. Denis Mulcahy, co-founder of Project Children, showed his film, which documented the tremendous impact that Project Children has on children of Northern Ireland. Following the film, Chris Hazzard, Sinn Fein Member of Parliament from South Down, addressed a large crowd of Hibernians. Friday's events concluded with the "Irish Night" dinner with music by "The Willie Lynch Band" and LAOH and AOH awards. National Historian Mike McCormack also showed the winning documentary from NHD.

Saturday offered final AOH and LAOH business sessions, which included appearances by LAOH National President Patricia O'Connell and AOH National President Judge Jim McKay. Closing Mass was again at St. Joseph's, where the newly elected NYS AOH and LAOH officers were installed in ceremonies on the Altar. The Installation Night Banquet concluded the convention with dinner, dancing and remarks by newly installed LAOH State President Jacquelyn Clute and AOH State President Vic Vogel. The 2019 NYS AOH & LAOH Convention will be hosted by the Albany AOH and LAOH Divisions.

Congratulations to State AOH Chairman Tom Lambert and LAOH Chairlady Kathleen McLuckie and their committee on an enjoyable and successful convention.



The new NY State Board, clockwise from top, President Vic Vogel, Vice President Tom Lambert, Secretary John Manning, Director Kevin Moore, Director Owen Cole, Director Barry Griffith, Director John Hurley, Director Martin Crimmins, and Treasurer Tom O'Donnell. Directors Mark Kadlecik, Aiden O'Kelly-Lynch and Sean Hennessey were not available for the picture.



Tom Lambert and the rest of the convention committee made the whole weekend gathering such a big success. They were, from left, Kathi McLuckie, Tom Lambert, his wife Andrea Lambert, Kathleen Lafferty, Convention Committee Registrar and Erie County Div 1 President, Kevin Lafferty with daughter, Margaret Lafferty.

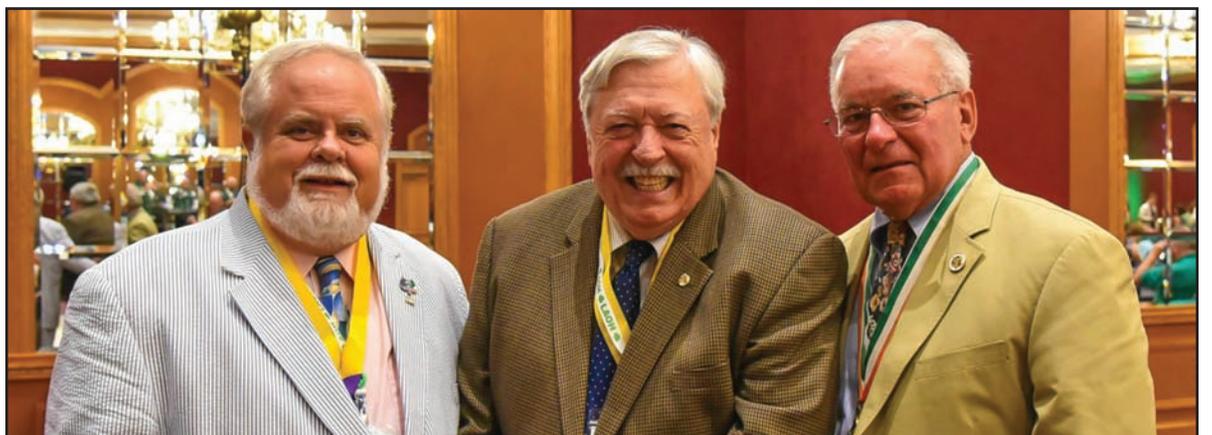
All photos ©oconnellphotos.com



Fr. Henry Reid and concelebrants led Hibernians in the Eucharist at the opening mass at St. Joseph's in Buffalo before the convention.



Dermot Moore, Tim McSweeney, Brian Nagelhout, Barry "Bear" Griffith and Matt Buckley with the Charity Award named for Arnie Nagelhout.



National Digest Editor John O'Connell had a great time at the convention, here flanked by past state presidents Charles 'Chip' McLean and Jim Burke.

**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 _____
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Journal size is 5.5 X 8.5, Artwork must be camera ready and either attached with check or emailed to: 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. Click on Link for Testimonial

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AOH-LAOH

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' TESTIMONIAL WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017

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

**AOH - Presidents' Dinner
 c/o 4400 Pike Dr.
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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
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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

Texas eyes AOH expansion

The Ancient Order of Hibernians held its first Texas state convention in recent memory in San Antonio June 10 with an eye toward expanding membership in the Lone Star State.

The convention, which was attended by about 35 members of the AOH and LAOH, was sponsored by the Msgr. Richard McCabe Travis County Division in Austin, whose founding chairman, Mike Joyce, was named the provisional chairman of the state board exploration committee with the immediate goal of reviving the longtime St Columbkille Division in San Antonio and organizing divisions in Dallas/Fort Worth and across the state of Texas.

National President James McKay noted that the AOH, which has about 40,000 members in the U.S., as well as 20,000 members in the Ladies AOH, is interested in gaining the membership of all Irish Catholics. "We're not an exclusive society," he said.

Other speakers included Adrian Farrell, Consul General in Austin for the Republic of Ireland, and the Monsignor McCabe division's own Major Gen. Patrick H. Brady (retired), accompanied by his wife, Nancy. Gen. Brady served two tours piloting helicopter medical evacuations during the war in Vietnam, in 1964-65 and in 1967-68, when he flew over 2,500 combat missions, rescued over 5,000 wounded, and received the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and other medals, including the Purple Heart. His unit rescued over 21,000 wounded in 10 months, while sustaining 26 Purple Hearts.

His Medal of Honor citation of action near Chu Lai, on Jan. 8, 1968, said, in part: "Maj. Brady utilized three helicopters to evacuate 51 seriously wounded men, many of whom would have perished without prompt medical treatment," that he flew in "dense fog," landed in an enemy minefield, where a mine detonated near the helicopter, damaging the ship and wounding two crew members, but he managed to rescue six American casualties who lay within 50 meters of the enemy.

In his remarks, Gen. Brady said his service had enhanced his faith. After his remarks, he signed copies of his book, "Dead Men Flying: Victory in Viet Nam," whose proceeds go to veterans' organizations. He noted that two-thirds of Medal of Honor recipients were of Irish descent. Gen. Brady, a resident of New Braunfels, Texas, received the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Medal at the closing banquet of the AOH's National Convention on July 14, 2016, in Atlantic City.



Dignitaries at the Texas state convention of the AOH in San Antonio on June 10 included, from left, Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell; provisional state Chairman Mike Joyce of Austin; Stacey Brewer, president of the LAOH Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland Division of Austin; National President James McKay; Kevin Buechler, chairman of the Msgr. Richard McCabe Travis County Division in Austin; and Major Gen. Patrick H. Brady (Ret.) of New Braunfels, Texas. (Photo by James Cullen)

Consul Gen. Farrell, who is based in Austin, said the Irish economy is doing well after the economic downturn of 2008-14, when unemployment peaked at 15.1 percent in 2012 and is now about 6 percent.

Ireland is poised to benefit from the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, as the Republic remains a potential English-speaking base for businesses seeking access to the 530 million consumers in Europe. A majority of voters in Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU, but the province will leave with Britain.

Farrell added that Irish officials hope to keep the "soft border" with Northern Ireland, which came about after the Good Friday Agreement of April 10, 1998. "Nobody wants the hard borders back," he said.

— James Cullen