

## Good times rolled at Presidents Testimonial Weekend



Presidents McKay and O'Connell arrived to the banquet hall in grand New Orleans Mardi Gras style! (Photo by Pat Garin)



Patricia O'Connell and James McKay enjoyed their Presidents Testimonial Dinner in New Orleans. (Photo by Pat Garin)

The National Board Presidents Dinner in New Orleans on October 14 was simply brilliant. With more than 250 people in attendance receiving the red-carpet treatment. The evening began with Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, celebrated by National Chaplain Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, with concelebrants Reverend Patrick Collum, Reverend Michael Healy and Reverend Thomas O'Donnell. The Hibernians were then escorted to the Intercontinental Hotel for the dinner, which honored Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award winner Niall Burgess, Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ireland.

In his address to the Hibernians, Niall touched on his long-standing relationship with the United States, as well as the AOH and LAOH in America. He spoke of visiting relatives in New York as a child, serving as Consul General in New York prior to returning to Ireland and now directing the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin. You could hear a pin drop in the room when Burgess took the Hibernians back in time, sharing letters he has uncovered from various family archives, detailing his relations who left Ireland for their life in America.

Introducing the Sean MacBride Award winner was Ireland's new Ambassador to the U.S., the Honorable Daniel Mulhall. The ambassador spoke about his first few months in his new position, which included his first official meeting in the Embassy, which was with National AOH President Jim McKay. Mulhall said he is looking forward to a long and

rewarding relationship with the AOH. Ambassador Mulhall and his wife, Greta, have already taken note of the dates for the National Convention, which they hope to attend.

The event included recognition of the work of both Patricia O'Connell and Jim McKay for their service as presidents, as well as their efforts leading up to the National Board meetings. They each recognized the work of their boards and the patience of their families. The two presidents demonstrated how we all achieve more by working together.

The Honorable Dennis Waldron served as the able master of ceremonies for the evening. Tim Laughlin's New Orleans All-Stars provided exciting jazz music; Sarah McMahon sang the Irish and U.S. anthems beautifully; Kevin Gilheany was the fine piper; and the Rev. Michael Healy, the AOH National Deputy Chaplain, gave the benediction. Ireland's NY Consul General Ciaran Madden happily attended as well.

The overall festivities were not less than dazzling. The presidents were led into the banquet in true New Orleans fashion on top of a fabulous Mardi Gras Parade float in the grand NOLA tradition of "*Laissez les bon temps rouler*," or "*Let the good times roll*." As you know, no parade is complete without a marching band provided by DeLaSalle High School and a police motorcycle escort! The Hibernians from Louisiana and the McKay family certainly outdid themselves in creating a first class event.

**Additional photos on pages 19 and 20.**



The AOH-LAOH awarded Ireland's Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs Niall Burgess the Sean McBride Award for his decades of service. The presentation of the award to Burgess, center, was made by LAOH Vice President Carol Sheyer and AOH Vice President Dan O'Connell. (Photo by Pat Garin.)



National AOH Chaplain giving his homily at the Mass at St. Patrick's Church preceding the testimonial dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS® IN AMERICA

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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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## Texas



Justin Berry, an Austin police officer and sentinel for the AOH Msgr. Richard McCabe Division in Austin, who organized relief for first responders to towns ravaged by Hurricane Harvey on the Texas Gulf Coast, surveys some of the goods.

### AOH responds to Texas gulf coast ravaged by Hurricane Harve

When Justin Berry, sentinel of the AOH Msgr. Richard McCabe Division in Austin, received an urgent appeal for assistance from a police officer in Rockport, Texas, who had been a classmate from his elementary school days in College Station, Texas, it was only the beginning of what was to become a month of almost non-stop activities in relief of communities hit by the destructive storm along almost the entirety of the Texas coast.

Berry, a 10-year veteran of the Austin Police Department, quickly formed an ad-hoc group to assist first responders on the coast. Operating as the Blue Line Relief Group, they filled a trailer with cases of Clif energy bars, Red Bull and other energy drinks as well as bottled water, clothes, toiletries and other items to provide, among other things, dry socks and clean underwear for police, fire, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and jailers who were on what amounted to 24/7 call during the emergency from Corpus Christi north to Houston, Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.

When Berry brought the first trailer to Aransas Pass, northeast of Corpus Christi, he noticed that out-of-town firefighters were sleeping on the floor in the local fire station. He arranged with fellow officers in Austin to buy more than 400 cots for the firefighters, as well as 70 for families of first responders who lost everything in the storm, but because the money ran through city accounts, they needed to mark them "Property of City of Austin, Texas." Five of Berry's fellow AOH members in Austin, as well as four friends and relatives, turned out over three days to unload 500 cots from shipping bins, marked the cots "Property of City of Austin" with their Sharpies, and reloaded the bins with the cots for delivery by officers on their days off.

continued on page 8

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## president's message

by Jim McKay III

Fall has arrived and my attention has been devoted to the Presidents' Dinner here in New Orleans. LAOH President Patricia O'Connell planned this year for her National Board to meet the same time as the AOH National Board for the weekend of work and pleasure. Both Boards met separately on Saturday, Oct. 14, to conduct the business of our respective organizations. Hibernians attended Mass that afternoon at historic St. Patrick's Church here in New Orleans, followed by the festivities at the Intercontinental Hotel. A great deal of preparation went into not only a successful Board meeting but also an enjoyable evening in the "Big Easy."

At the meetings, our Directors will give reports to update the National Board on what has transpired over the past year regarding their respective committees. Obviously, committees such as Membership, FFAL, Easter Appeal and Immigration sparked a great deal of conversation at the meeting. Pages 19 - 20 in this issue of the Digest has a plethora of photos and articles surrounding the events in New Orleans on October 13 and 14.

At the dinner, our good friend Niall Burgess, Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland, received the Sean MacBride Award, one of the highest awards given by our Order. Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall introduced him. Also attending was Consul General Adrian Farrell of Austin Texas and Consul General Ciaran Madden of New York, New York.

When the dust settles on the Presidents' Dinner here in New Orleans, all attention now turns to our National Convention planned for Louisville, Kentucky, on July 10-14, 2018. Brother John O'Dwyer, our state liaison, has been meeting with the staff of the Galt House frequently to help plan and facilitate the many activities scheduled for that.

We have begun our Annual Label Program and the packets should be hitting your mail boxes any day now. Please remember the good work we do with the proceeds from this endeavor. All proceeds raised go toward our Project St. Patrick with scholarships for seminarians throughout this country.

God Bless.



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

We need you to help grow the AOH every day. With your help, we can succeed in expanding our umbrella to include even more of Irish Catholic America. The AOH is "the Voice of Irish America," the AOH provides an opportunity for you to "Embrace your Irish Heritage," and the AOH provides you an opportunity to "Grow your Irish American Community."

When a potential member asks you why they should join the answer is simple. We provide you with opportunities. The opportunity to be the voice of Irish America, the opportunity to embrace your Irish heritage, the opportunity to grow your Irish American community, and the list goes on.... As Hibernians, recruiting must be second nature and we should each have a list of opportunities to share with potential members.

The national Marketing, Promotion and Advertising committee has been working hard to build the tools we need for success. You will not be disappointed. Our national Irish Central advertising campaign is underway. Our website refresh has given us a clean new look. Our branding logo has been updated and distributed. Our social media guide, which includes several basic ads for your use, has been distributed. Our success will come from you taking advantage of each of these tools. Follow-up on new leads, respond to the request from the national board and recruit and retain members.

If you haven't already, please send in your "Why I'm a Hibernian." We only need one or two paragraphs and a picture. An action shot of you being a Hibernian is always best. We are also asking for actions photos of your Hibernian events. These can include a simple tagline or a couple of paragraphs about the event. Our success in the electronic world is contingent on having enough content. You can help us succeed by providing high quality photos for our use.

### Label Program

Now that our branding has been updated our labels are in the mail. If you haven't received your labels you will shortly. Remember, all proceeds for the labels now support our projects through Hibernian Charities. The entire profit of the label program will support our national programs such as Project St. Patrick, Irish Way Scholarships, National History Day, Hibernian Disaster Relief and more. No donation is too large or too small. Our goal is to increase overall participation. With your help, we can succeed.

### 2018 Convention

Louisville here we come. Please save the dates, Wednesday, July 11, thru Saturday, July 15, the AOH-LAOH national convention will return to the Galt House. All the details can be found at WWW.AOH.COM. The package price remains at \$200 and includes the Ice Breaker, Irish Night and the closing banquet. Rooms can be booked through the AOH link. Now is the time to lock up your calendar.

Thank you and God Bless, Danny O.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### New Procedures

It is that time again to have our attention shift to updating our rosters for each division.

As I indicated last month, when I took this office I was charged with updating all procedures and methods for a smoother operation in this electronic age. In keeping that pledge we are making some significant changes this year in the way we update rosters. Beginning in late October, your Financial Secretary will be receiving via email a PDF of your roster. If your financial secretary does not have an email address, or they have one but cannot access it, they should remedy that situation immediately. If this is not possible, please supply an alternate contact point (email address) that we may use. This is a serious issue because, as of early-October, more than 70 Division Financial Secretaries do not have an email address on file at our office.

Additionally, if your financial secretary does not have a computer they should take steps to obtain one. On the computer they should have installed Adobe Acrobat Reader. This program is available for free via download from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

### Very Important This Year!

We will be adding "Veteran status" to the member profile. To do this we are asking you to write on the roster whether or not the member is a veteran and which branch of the service they were in. A veteran notation will then be printed on the membership card for 2018.

Should there be no changes to your roster you will still need to add the new information for veteran status.

Once your roster is received, download the roster and print it out. You then may edit, and scan to email back to the National Secretary's office at [jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com), with the notation, "Roster Changes" in the subject line of the email. Alternatively, if you are comfortable and able, you may annotate the PDF, save, and email it back.

Also new this year, should you maintain your records in an Excel spreadsheet you may make the changes there and e-mail that back to the National Secretary's office at [jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com). Be mindful however that you need to supply ALL the information requested. This will mean that you will have to edit your spreadsheet to include the fields for veteran status before e-mailing back.

Lastly, and least preferred, you may mail a hard copy to the National Secretary Office as you have in previous years. As always if you make changes by hand we ask that you try to write the information neatly.

Once we receive the corrected roster we will print your 2018 cards and mail them back to you with a small supply of forms. Your new roster will be emailed (PDF) as it was to start the process.

These changes to procedure will require that you use THE NEW Form 40. Please be sure to destroy ALL forms you have on hand and only use the new one that was mailed to you OR you may download one from our website: [www.AOH.com](http://www.AOH.com).

If you have not received a roster by Thanksgiving — something is wrong. Please contact the National Secretary's office and we will make alternative arrangements.

You must then calculate your per capita on the membership as it stands on 12/31/2017. Complete Form 11 for your division and return it to the National Secretary's office with a check for the per capita due. (\$12 per member – no per capita from active military or clergy). This per capita payment will be due no later than 2/15/2018. Form 11 may be scanned and be e-mailed ahead of the check to [jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com).

Remember 2018 is a National Convention year, so in order to participate in the convention you must have the per capita paid.

I realize this is a big step for many of you but it is necessary if we are to streamline our recordkeeping. Next year we will begin to phase in a division direct driven procedure, which will make things even more efficient.

Please email [jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com), or call 973-575-0050 the National Secretary's office, should you have any questions.

**Deadline for Dec.- Jan. issue**  
**All articles and photos are due no later than**  
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## Treasurer's Report

by Sean Pender

Brothers, the EIN/IRS Tax Exempt Reinstatement process continues. I have started to receive reinstatement letters from divisions and boards that have successfully completed the reinstatement process. Initially the process was defined in IRS guidelines as taking 90 days, but some boards have been informed that the process may now take up to 180 days. All State Presidents will receive an updated roster of all divisions' and boards' tax-exempt status at the National President's dinner. As previously communicated the National Board has asked that all divisions make a commitment to have the process complete by the end of calendar year 2017.

In 2017 it was an honor to serve the members of our organization as your national treasurer. It was with great pride that I attended seven state conventions, and helped install seven new boards.

As the year comes to a close I want to wish all members and their families the very best that Christmas has to offer.

As we turn the page to 2018 let us remember that in 2018 The Good Friday Agreement will have been signed for 20 years. In the 20 years since the signing of the GFA there have been promising results, an entire generation has grown up in relative peace and with a lack of war. But while the best intentions of the document stressed a truly historic opportunity for a new beginning that would address the legacy of suffering that the Troubles brought, the implementation of the GFA has been stalled by an English government that still cannot admit to its true role in the North during the troubles and bigoted Unionist politicians who do not support equality or parity of esteem, the bedrock of the Good Friday Agreement. This is why our FFAI program and the Christmas Appeal is so important and still needs your support, to help raise awareness and funds for the groups that still seek truth, justice and equality. In 2018 I hope that all boards and divisions will support the Christmas appeal.



## Director's Report

by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation:

Installation season is when many Divisions host a public ceremony to swear in Officers for the new term. In many instances, this ceremony is preceded or followed by a meal or a formal program that may include recognition awards such as Hibernian of the Year along with remarks by outgoing and/or incoming Presidents.

A new term of Office for your Division presents many opportunities. If there are new and returning Officers, it is critical to ensure all elected and appointed Officers have a clear understanding of all duties and responsibilities that accompany the office. Please review and share the "blue book" and AOH National Constitution as each resource clearly outlines expectations of Officers.

Having the new Officers meet as a "team" to discuss goals, objectives and a strategy creates an atmosphere of "brotherhood" sets the group on a course for a productive year. In addition, Officers are leaders of the Division and need to feel included in decision making and operations of the organization.

As many Installation ceremonies are public, Division leadership should take advantage of presenting a positive and meaningful message related to the mission of the Order. Relatives, friends and guests of AOH and LAOH members typically attend these events and it is a good opportunity to educate everyone by sharing AOH history, national or local, as well as examples of AOH initiatives (Project St. Patrick, FFAI, etc.) or the charitable work completed the previous term. This is not only an attempt to inform others of our work but to also foster interest and enthusiasm in the Order among non-members and members alike.

Public events are also a way to welcome local elected officials and others from the community to see and hear more about Hibernianism in your area. Demonstrating the great works of the Order out in the "open" along with information regarding AOH initiatives may lead to local government support and more interest from the community at large.

As Division Officers plan for the new term, celebrating positive achievements of the past for all to see is an effective way to make an investment in your future.

## Remember the AOH in your will

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



## Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

Here in New England, Hibernian activities have been plentiful! August 6 was a proud day for the AOH in the Ocean State when 40-plus members took their Major Degree in Newport, RI, performed by the Tara Major Degree Team of New York. The Newport Division also played host to the AOH Rhode Island State Convention on September 23. Wick Rudd, of Division 1 Newport, was reelected president of the Rhode Island State Board. My sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Rudd and the entire Rhode Island State Board for much success over the next two years.

On October 21, National Organizer Tim McSweeney, along with National Director Liam McNabb, plans to conduct a leadership and organizational seminar for the New England region. The daylong conference will be hosted by Division 36 in Worcester, MA. It is hoped that many State and County Boards and Divisions will take advantage of this opportunity that hopefully will increase their membership.

Plans are being finalized for well-known distance runner Tom McGrath to run from Boston to New York during the first week of December to raise money for the American Wheelchair Mission. As many of you may remember, about five years ago Tom had a successful run to raise funds for the Commodore Barry Gate at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Preliminary plans call for Tom to kick off his run with a fund-raising event in Boston on November 30. The following day, he will start his 225-mile run from Boston with nightly stops in six different Massachusetts and Connecticut cities. The run will end in Manhattan on December 8. It is hoped that support for this run will be a combined effort by the AOH, K of C, the Gaelic Athletic Associations, and various running clubs. Tom Beirne, of New York, along with several AOH brothers in New England, are coordinating this northeast regional spectacular.

By now, all members of the AOH should have received a set of AOH address labels in the mail. Please use them to show your Irish and Hibernian pride! To those members who have sent in a donation, THANK YOU! If you have not already sent in your contribution, I ask that you please consider doing so as soon as possible. THANKS!

As you learned from reading other articles in this issue of the Hibernian Digest, there is much going on nationally to help increase our membership. Our AOH National Website has been redesigned, a membership campaign using Irish Central has been launched and a new social media guide to help recruit new members is in the works. If you have not yet done so, please take a close look at each of these to see what is being done to increase our membership.

As the year 2017 fades into the history books, hopefully some of the ideas that have been noted in my column over the past year regarding recruitment of new members have been considered and possibly implemented by you or your Division. If you have yet to implement a recruitment endeavor in your area, please do your best to include one in your 2018 calendar of events. The future of the AOH depends on you!

In the coming month, I look forward to visiting several divisions in the New England area. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018!



## Deputy Chaplain's Report

by Rev. Michael H. Healy

Many gallons of water have passed since my last encounter with my fellow Hibernians.

I am grateful to our National President for the invitation to serve again on the National Board. I believe I have been a Hibernian for more than 30 years. For most of those years, I have been a valued member of the National Boards of both the men and women Hibernians.

Our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Charity has been the glue that has brought us together as a community of believers. Our Catholic faith has been the foundation of our Order. It has always been Catholic with a big "C" rather than a small "c." Our history goes beyond our present age. It brings us back to the dark times when the Hibernians were watchmen that protected the priests celebrating the Eucharist on the Mass Rocks scattered throughout our native land. Those priests knew that the Hibernians were faithful to their faith and heritage. When the famine came and the Hibernians carried their faith and their heritage across the ocean to the shores of America. They continued to protect the nuns and priests in Philly and millions protected St. Patrick's in New York. The Know Nothing Party still continues to victimize immigrants and refugees. Our brother and sister Hibernians have continued to serve our Church. They have given their Time, Talent and Treasure to enable our Catholic Faith to be relevant in these times of confusion. May we never forget our past, but let us be wise enough to live in the present. Let us be united in our purpose of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Amen.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

Our Vietnam veterans have taught us that no matter what our position may be on policy we must support all our soldiers, sailors and airmen with our thoughts and prayers. The Ken Burns series on the Vietnam War has brought back a lot of memories about that time in our lives. If you go to the Wall in Washington there are 20 men and one woman born in Ireland who died in that war; may they rest in peace.

The heavy cruiser Indianapolis was found on August 19, after 72 years at the bottom Philippine Seas. The Indy, on July 30, 1945, carrying 1,197 sailors and Marines, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. It took only 12 minutes to sink. While 900 crewmen made it through the initial sinking, only 316 survived to be rescued when help arrived five days later on Aug. 2. Many had died of exposure or thirst, drowned or were attacked by sharks.

The members of the Kevin Barry Division in Indianapolis have shared a Go-Fund-Me page to raise funds necessary to erect a plaque for Water Tender 3rd Class James "Jimmy" O'Donnell. He was a crewman on the Indy when it went down. He was a native Hoosier and the only Indianapolis resident to survive the ordeal. When Jimmy made it back home he continued serving his community as a firefighter for several decades, surviving catastrophes that should have proved fatal.

In Indianapolis, outside the City Market on the West Plaza, a statue of a sailor, with the image of the USS Indianapolis, depicts Jimmy and the memory of his ship. They want to put up a marker to tell his story and the story of his comrades.

Hats off to Michael A. Ferrill, of the St. Joseph Division in South Bend, IN. He is working on the repair or replacement of the Father Corby Monument and Veterans Monuments at Notre Dame University. They are in the process of identifying which military markers and monuments are in need of repair or replacement.

I traveled to Iowa on August 4, for the State Meeting in Waterloo; State President John E. Gallagher is working hard to revitalize the Waterloo Division. He has done a great job recruiting members in the Dubuque area and they continue to grow. There are four AOH divisions in Iowa: Dubuque Co. 1 (Dyersville), Dubuque Co. 2 (Dubuque), Five Sullivan Brothers Div. (Waterloo), and Polk Co. (Des Moines).

I had the honor of presenting Lincoln, Nebraska, their charter to form a division on August 17. The installation for this new division took place at McKinney's Irish Pub in the vibrant Haymarket District of Lincoln. On hand were members of the Omaha Division and State President William Gaughan. Division President Benjamin J. Coleman will be a great leader for this division.

Peoria, Illinois, was the meeting place for the Illinois State AOH/LAOH Convention, the weekend of September 8. Bob Simpson, a proven leader for the AOH in Illinois, was once again elected to office as State President. LAOH President Patricia O'Connell was honored by her fellow AOH/LAOH in her home city of Peoria. On hand were National AOH President Jim McKay, Past National AOH President George Clough and LAOH Vice President Carol Sheyer. Brian O'Brien, Consul General of Ireland for the midwestern area of the United States, joined us for lunch and gave a brief talk about his work here in the U.S.

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



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers, as we compile the application process for this year's Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, the Diocesan support is very good. Since I have become a part of the National Board and assigned to PSP, we have collected in excess of \$100,000. Between 2015 and 2016 there was a 14 percent growth, and between 2016 and the present there has been another 25 percent growth. These are great numbers and that is totally attributed to you, the members. For this we as the National Board say thank you very much for your continuous dedication and support.

I feel that the PSP success has grown because of us being able to get the word out and encouragement to continue to support vocational life, maintaining our commitment to our obligation to promote and protect our Faith and Clergy. I hope that my articles have had bearing on this, too. It's a good feeling hearing the appreciation from those whom we have been able to assist.

So again, the National Board urges all Divisions, County and State Boards to appoint a Project St. Patrick Chairman, and keep Project St. Patrick as part of your meeting agenda. Brothers this can only help the project and expand the knowledge and information to our membership. Project St. Patrick is something that should be year-long, not just during the Appeal. If a Chairman is appointed, please have him get in touch with me and I will pass on as much information as I can. Remember that PSP prayer cards are available all year, if anyone is in need of cards or needs information feel free to contact me. NLNOD@comcast.net.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this article finds you well. It has been a busy time as we move our Order forward.

Congratulations are in order to the new Virginia State Board. At the recently held Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach, new State Board President Bill Halpin was installed along with a new State Board and the convention was a great success. Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, chairman of the History Department at the University of Limerick and currently a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the University of Montana, was the guest speaker and gave an electrifying speech on historical and current events in Ireland.

Congratulations are also in order to Brother J.P. Walsh as he was reelected to State President of the Washington D.C. Board.

In Michigan, the Adrian AOH/LAOH held their annual commemoration program and Mass in honor of An Gorta Mor at the St. Joseph's Shrine in the Irish Hills of Michigan. Thanks to State President Kevin Burke and the Adrian AOH/LAOH for continuing to remember those who perished.

In West Virginia, the annual Wheeling AOH Irish Road Bowling tournament was held in September. This year's event set a new record with 847 bowlers and 190 teams.

As events continue, please have your Press and Publicity chairman from the State Board down to the Division level share not only the aforementioned events but any and all events that show the work of the AOH with your local media. It is important that our message gets out that the AOH is strong and we are continuing to live our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [dparks121@yahoo.com](mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com).



## freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Chairman

Brothers, it is that time of the year when we begin the 2017-18 Annual Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal. The usual mailing has been sent to all the AOH Boards and I have started to receive donations. I am appealing to those AOH Boards/members whose donations are minimal and those who do not donate, to please make an increased effort. The number of eligible organizations applying for financial aid is increasing. As I reported previously we made donations to 12 requesting organizations resulting from the 2016 Christmas Appeal project. This year I am expecting applications from 14 or 15 groups. When we have more valid requests for financial support and our donation total is as before, it follows that the average donation amount will decrease unless we have increased donations.

Along with my Deputy FFAI Chairman, Michael Mellett, we are in the process of adding some FFAI appointees to the team. Our goal is to develop a system whereby FFAI chairs from different locations around the USA will assist in sharing pertinent political news from Ireland with AOH boards in their region on a regular basis. We will share information with everyone as this project evolves.

The collapse of the Stormont DUP/Sinn Fein shared government situation is still not resolved. Arlene Foster and her cohorts are adamant there will be no financial aid for an Irish Language Act as proposed by Sinn Fein. The DUP MP Gregory Campbell told his party conference that the party would never agree to an Irish language act. Arlene Foster repeated that stance when she told her cohorts, "If you feed a crocodile it will keep coming back for more." She later said she regretted the remark after visiting pupils studying the Irish language at a Catholic school.

Recent news topics such as the effect of Brexit and the possible return of a 'hard' border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could be extremely detrimental to business interaction on the Island. The loss of financial subsidies from the European Union to Northern Irish farmers after Brexit would force them to increase the price of their goods. Whereas farmers in the Republic will sell their items cheaper thanks to the continuance of aid from Europe.

I end this article with a reminder that the final date for the 2017 - 18 FFAI Annual Appeal donations to be sent to me is February 15, 2018.



**Paul Gowdy made a check presentation of the AOH donation to the Relatives For Justice organization in Belfast at the Felons Club earlier this year. From left, Paul Gowdy FFAI Chairman, in the wheelchair is veteran RFJ volunteer Clare Reilly, and Agnes Gowdy, National LAOH Ambassador.**



## Director's report by Dan Dennehy Immigration Chairman

I'm honored to have participated in the organizing and installation of a new Division in Westchester County. Named for the inspiration of our AOH Immigration Pin, Thomas Addis Emmet Division 17 of New Rochelle and the Pelhams is largely composed of members under the age of 24! Most of Division 17 are Iona College students and faculty along with Irish-born members. Division 17 has committed to restore the family cemetery plot of Thomas Addis Emmet's descendants, including that of a Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Robert Temple Emmet, US Cavalry, Indian Wars. Congratulations to Westchester County President Brian Duffy, Division 17 organizer James McGlashin and Cork-born funeral home owner Clive Anderson, and all our new Division 17 Brothers!

In visits to Hibernians in the NY Metro area, I am grateful for the hospitality demonstrated at each as well as interest and commitment to Hibernian work and goals. I also attended the productive and memorable National Board meeting and President's Testimonial Dinner, where the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award was presented to good friend Niall Burgess.

A recent National Director teleconference discussed cooperation, face-to-face meetings and telecommunication between our members and an issue known as "Founder's Syndrome." Divisions that become insular, not accepting new members, or regular elections are often a result of that syndrome. Divisions and members then often fall away from our missions and goals. Addressing these issues are essential to our growth and success. A successful remedy is to engage collaboration with other Divisions, Counties, and organizations. These partnerships are keys for successful endeavors of the Order. By directly communicating, we learn about other group's missions and strategies and how we can work together.

Recently, we have assisted in promoting the film project of Denis Mulcahy of "Project Children," the Rebel Rossa film, the talks and film project of Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington, the granddaughter of Easter Rising heroes Francis and Mary Sheehy-Skeffington and In January 2018, Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice. All projects have been helped by Hibernians across New York and New Jersey. Tom Beirne and I are once again helping Commodore Barry Gate Running Man Tom McGrath. National Director Bill Sullivan and New England AOH State Presidents, their Divisions and the Knights of Columbus, are key to the upcoming charitable run.

On immigration, more Hibernians than ever recognize the need for Immigration reform that provides visas and future flow for the Irish. The past year has demonstrated how hard life here is for Irish immigrants without reform. We are looking into reciprocal interests of Ireland and America, working in coordination with the Irish Embassy, its Consulate, the Irish Immigration Centers, Senator Bill Lawless and U.S. Congress. Meetings with senior legislators and committee leaders are planned, including a meeting in late October with Ambassador Dan Mulhern in Washington. President McKay is trying to attain rectification for these Irish folks here in America, long waiting for the right visa so that they may finally come out of the shadows. During a family visit to Ottawa Canada, I learned much about Canada's immigration policy towards the Irish. The policy is entirely satisfactory, incorporating high tech and needs-based skilled labor and could work for our policies.

Thank you for coming from far and wide to the 9th Hudson Valley Irish Fest. This day of AOH and LAOH Division 18 involved sharing with the community our music and culture, Baltimore AOH Patrick McHugh's historical artifacts and talks from several Hibernian historians also Irish American Writers and Artists. Subsequently, new NY Consul General Madden and Deputy Consul Shane Cahill presented us with our Irish Heritage Grant of the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Program, marking over \$100,000 in support of the Fest since 2009. I encourage Hibernian Halls everywhere to consider participating. To consider the ESP Grants for your efforts, take a look at the Global Irish Forum and Global Irish Hub: <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/>

## Snowbird Social

Wed. Jan.31, 2018 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Sterling Village Auditorium

500 S. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach, Florida

Please join brother Hibernians for an afternoon of fun  
Light lunch and beverages provided — \$10 donation.

Bring a friend.

Entertainment by Irish DJ Kevin — All Welcome

RSVP: Tim Myles at [timtam614@aol.com](mailto:timtam614@aol.com) (516) 660-7456

Jim Sullivan at [jim@brooklynirish.org](mailto:jim@brooklynirish.org) (347) 224-4822



## Organizer by Tim McSweeney

### Recruitment: Back to the Basics

Very often in our Order, we try to overcomplicate things. This holds true in our recruitments. The enlistment of new members into our Order is a simple concept if you think about it:

**Who:** Irish Catholic males over 16 who are practicing Catholics.

**What:** The above mentioned men with an interest in their Irish culture and heritage.

**Where** do we find these men? Church, parish events, Irish culture and music events, social settings, Irish themed Internet groups and pages.

**How:** By opening dialogue with these regards to the common interests previously mentioned.

**When:** NOW! Our Order has seen a notable decrease in membership over the last 10 years.

Recruitment efforts depend on all members of your Division stepping up and helping. Recruiting is incumbent on all members, not just your Organizer.

Simple Recruitment Ideas:

- Recruitment Tables at Festivals, Church Bazaars, Street Fairs
- Recruiting Posters at Churches, Pubs, Libraries, Colleges
- Division Sponsored Events: Bring the Public to You
- Advertise. A good advertising tool is a T-shirt adorned on the back: "Irish? Catholic? See Me." This will have potential members approach you; be prepared to talk up the AOH and get the person's contact info. (This idea is the brainchild of the Brothers of the Comm. John Barry Division 1 of Gloucester County Div. 1 in New Jersey) This idea works on lawn signs, too.



New Jersey Hibernian Tom Minh "models" a shirt many Hibernians are using to help with recruiting efforts. Photo by NJ State President Larry Prella.

## Ohio



### PROJECT ST. PATRICK DONATION

Representatives of the Ohio AOH presented a \$500 check for a Project St. Patrick scholarship, named for Father Stephen D. Hayes, following the Gaelic Mass at the Dublin Irish Festival in Dublin, Ohio. Included in the presentation were AOH Ohio State President Ron Hagan, AOH President Ed Norris and LAOH President Megan Malloy Kelly.



## political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Anyone who studies history quickly realizes that rarely, if ever, do crises emerge spontaneously. We can often see that events prior to the crisis seem to point to their inevitable occurrence; the classic history exam question, "List 3 causes of the (fill in the conflict here)." With 20-20 hindsight we smugly say, "How did they miss the warning signs?" and assure ourselves that this will not happen on our watch because we will not forget the past. The current situation in Northern Ireland is now challenging this belief and us.

It was reported on September 28 that four Catholic families were forced to leave their homes in the Cantrell Close community, part of the "shared communities" housing scheme, because of threats of violence directed toward them by the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) had visited these families to tell them their lives were in peril if they didn't comply with the demands. Frankly, I cannot conceive the NYPD or any other police department acting as messengers for violent extortionists or surrendering the streets to racketeers so easily; instead of suggesting that innocent families should move for their safety they would make it a priority to relocate the thugs to a prison.

As Hibernians and Irish Americans, we should be asking where the U.S. media is on this. As commentator Brendan Hughes pointed out, if we replaced "Catholic" and "Northern Ireland" with "African American" and the "United States," or if these events transpired in the Middle East it would be an international scandal commanding international headlines. We should ask ourselves why the issues of Ireland and its people are not accorded the same attention and priority. Is it because injustice in Ireland is not news or because discrimination against Catholics does not fit the preconceived narratives of the media? We have to question why the U.S. media in their reporting of Northern Ireland seem to continue to use keyboards without the letters U, V and F.

Twenty years after the Good Friday Agreement promised peace in Northern Ireland based on parity of esteem and respect, we are seeing the clock wound back to 1969. Despite the best and continuing efforts of the British spin machine to portray it as so, conflict is not endemic in Ireland; it has always had at its root the basic and fundamental human desire for freedom and justice. It was discrimination in housing and economic opportunity, and the failure and outright hostility of the government to address these issues, which led directly to "the Troubles." Even prior to this outrage at Cantrell Close, it had been reported that Catholics in Northern Ireland wait six months longer than other members of the Northern Irish community for housing. Analysts agree that Brexit will have seismic effects on the UK economy and the negative effects will be felt disproportionately in Northern Ireland. We are seeing in 2017 the convergence of the same factors that gave rise to three decades of violence in 1969. Should we not be concerned they will likely yield the same results?

As Irish Americans it is imperative that we heed the warning signs in Northern Ireland if we do not wish to see the U.S.-brokered peace process collapse. Progress to peace and justice in Ireland has only come when the U.S. has made clear it is watching the events in Ireland. As of this writing, while there is a commitment to appoint a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland there is none in place. If we do not want posterity to ask of us, "How could they have missed the warning signs?" then we need to educate our elected officials that peace in Northern Ireland is a work in progress and we need a U.S. Special Envoy who will drive the peace process to a just and lasting conclusion.

## Alabama



The Father Tracy Division participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation efforts to help find a cure for childhood cancers.

### Huntsville Hibernians help raise \$40,000 to conquer childhood cancer

The Father Tracy Division was humbled by all of the support from the shavers, shavers and other volunteers. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-powered charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancer and give survivors long, healthy lives. One PhD researcher who received a grant from the foundation not only spoke but had his head shaved with other adults who survived childhood cancer.



## rituals & degrees

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

Continuing with the descriptions of our Major Degree Team namesakes, we will focus this issue on our team from Bexley, Ohio, namely The Sons of Milesius.

History tells us the Milesians were the final race to settle in Ireland. Thus they represent the Irish people. The Milesians are Gaels who sailed to Ireland from Hispania after spending hundreds of years travelling the earth. When they landed in Ireland they reportedly contended with Tuatha De Danann, who represented the pagan gods. The two groups agreed to divide Ireland between them. The Milesians took the world above, while Tuatha the world below, that is the Otherworld or the Underworld.

The history from which this is derived was probably first written in the 11th Century AD by Christian monks, and purports to be a history of Ireland and the Irish (the Gaels). While modern scholars believe much of this is in fact pseudo-history, the tales of Milesius, his travels and his victories seem to be quite valid.

Milesius was a very valiant champion, a great warrior, and fortunate and prosperous in all his undertakings: witness his name of "Milesius," given him from the many battles (some say a thousand, which the word "Milé" signifies in Irish as well as in Latin) which he victoriously fought and won, as well in Spain, as in all the other countries and kingdoms he traversed in his younger days.

Milesius bore three Lions in his shield and standard, for the following reasons; namely, that, in his travels in his younger days into foreign countries, passing through Africa, he, by his cunning and valor, killed in one morning three lions; and that, in memory of so noble and valiant an exploit, he always after bore three lions on his shield, which his two surviving sons, Heber and Heremon, and his grandson, Heber Donn, after their conquest of Ireland, divided amongst them, as well as they did the country: each of them bearing a lion in his shield and banner, but of different colors; which the Chiefs of their posterity continue to this day: some with additions and differences; others plain and entire as they ad it from their ancestors.

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

**The Digest regrets that, due to space limitations, not all the submitted content could be used in this issue. We will use in the next issue whatever couldn't fit in this one. Again, our apologies.**  
— John O'Connell, Editor



## veterans affairs

by Jim Green  
Chairman

The summer of 2017 has now faded into history and we move now into the more active months of AOH activity. But before moving on, I wanted to salute brother Rich O'Malley (PA Veterans Affairs chairman and Vietnam veteran) for organizing AOH veteran and non-veteran volunteers for completing an all-night Vietnam Veterans MIA Vigil at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Pittsburgh, PA. The vigil was in danger of being cancelled because our aging Vietnam veterans no longer had enough volunteers to stand with the flag all night. So brother Rich enlisted enough brothers, including myself, to complete the vigil. Kudos to Rich and all of the Hibernians that did their part to honor our veterans.

There was an AOH press release published on the front page of the Irish Echo regarding our support to have a U.S. Navy destroyer named in honor of LCPL Patrick Gallagher, an immigrant from Ballyhaunis, County Mayo. Patrick was killed in action in Vietnam and received the Navy Cross for heroism.

Brother Tom Meehan of Philadelphia has been giving the new veterans hotline a workout, and has kept in touch with me regarding the effectiveness and response times he's gotten. The good news is that he is getting answers and support. The bad news is that the help line is still not available 24/7/365 as they are intending. But they're working toward that. They are also looking to hire qualified veterans to help answer the calls. Stay tuned.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for future communications from the National Board about retrieving contact information on your division's veterans. I'd suggest reaching out to division brothers now and trying to get a list of your veterans in advance of the rosters coming out from the National Board after the first of the year so you have it ready. That information will be extremely valuable for improving communications directly with Hibernian veterans regarding benefits and other information. Thanks in advance for your help with that.

There's so much more that I'd like to share with you, including information that I receive from many Veteran Affairs chairmen around the country, but my allocated space here is limited. That's why I'm so optimistic about using the direct communication. As always, God bless you and your families and God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

When you read this, Brothers, I am sure your immediate thoughts will be on Christmas and the coming New Year; may they both be blessed for you and yours. However, it will also mean that March and Irish American Heritage Month 2018 will only be a few months off. I would like to challenge you and your Divisions to make it a time of action and not miss the opportunity to promote out Heritage and the Order.

We as an Order support many noble causes, and well we should in fulfillment of our motto and our faith. However, are we not sometimes guilty of the cobbler so busy making shoes for his customers that his children are running around barefoot? Are we investing in promoting our heritage, and by extension the future of the Hibernians? What is the future of our Order if the current generation of Irish Americans grows up disconnected from their culture and with no knowledge and pride in their forebears?

There are concrete steps your division can take:

- Ensure your state board works with your state government to ensure that March is proclaimed Irish American Heritage Month in your state.
- Contact your local media, remind them that March is Irish American Heritage Month and ask how they plan to cover it. Volunteer your assistance in helping them cover it as a story. What an opportunity to not only promote IAHM but also your Division and the AOH.
- Similarly, contact your local schools and libraries and ask how they will observe Irish American Heritage Month.
- Make sure your website is up to date for March. Digressing a bit, but a website that says that the next meeting will be in 2014 gives a poor impression. People will be googling everything Irish in March, make sure your content is up to date and recognizes March as Irish American Heritage Month.

It is anticipated that again this year the National Website will feature Irish American Heritage themed articles throughout the month of March on the National Website and Facebook page. Make sure to like and share these articles and help get the word out on the accomplishments of the Irish in America.

We often talk about keeping the tradition alive. One of the greatest of Irish traditions is remembrance and a true connectivity to those who came before. We owe it to those great Irish men and women who came before us to remember their achievement and sacrifices and not let them be expunged from history. If we let Irish pride degenerate into something no more substantial than a St. Patrick's Day T-shirt, then the prospect of our heritage and Order are not bright. Let's put as much energy in investing in our heritage as we do in so many other noble causes and make sure the cobblers children have a sturdy set of bróga that will keep our heritage alive into the future.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

*This is about why I myself am a member of the AOH. The interlinear translation can be found at [tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com](http://tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com).*

Cén fáth go bhfuilim féin i mo bhall d'Ord Ársa na nÉireannach? Nuair a chuir mé faoi sa chomharsanacht mar a bhfuilim, bhí a fhios agam go raibh Scoil Gaeilge Ghearóid Tóibín ann, agus bhí an-suim agam inti. Chuaigh mé chun Gaeilge a fhoghlaim ansin. Agus bhí a fhios agam freisin go mbíonn an scoil ag halla an AOH. Ní bheadh an scoil ábalta mórán a dhéanamh gan tacaíocht ó rannóg a dó sa Bhablóin. Bhí aithne agam ar dhuine (Pat Donnelly, ar dheis Dé go raibh sé) i mo pharóiste agus fuair mé amach gur ball den AOH é féin. Dúir sé go mbeadh sé sásta urraíocht a dhéanamh orm, agus go mba chóir dom bheith páirteach san ord, eagraíocht Chaitliceach a thacaíonn leis an teanga (sin a raibh ar eolas agam ag an am). Bhí mé cáilithe, agus mar sin, rinne.

Tá an-suim agam i mo shinsir as Éirinn, agus sa saol a bhíodh acu. Bhí sinseanathair mo mháthar i gcogadh cathartha Mheiriceá. Ba as Contae an Chláir é. Bhí suim agam sa stair, agus i dteangacha, i gcónaí, agus sa cheol, freisin. Mar gheall ar an teanga go háirithe, thosaigh mé ag foghlaim faoi stair agus faoi cheol na hÉireann, agus fuair mé mórán den eolas sin ón AOH. Fuair mé aitheantas ar bhaill eile, agus daoine deasa a bhí iontu, agus suim i gcultúr na nGael acu cosúil liomsa – agus bhí i bhfad ní ba mhó eolais acusan. Agus is Caitlicigh sinn uile, leis an dearcadh sin ar chúrsaí an tsaoil – rud atá an-tábhachtach dom. Ní bhíonn sé éasca daoine a fháil a bhfuil an méid sin i gcoitinn acu leat. Is iontach an rud é go mbíimid ann chun tacú lena chéile.

Ní bhímse an-ghníomhach leis an ord, faraor, ach amháin ag obair mar gheall ar an teanga, mar chaithim a lán ama leis sin, agus tá post lán-aimsire agam. Ach uaireanta bíonn deis agam, agus bainim sult as i gcónaí, go háirithe nuair a bhíonn Aifreann i gceist. Is maith liom go mbíonn fáilte roimh an gcolún seo agus go mbím ábalta mo chuid a dhéanamh don ord anseo.

Bíonn comhluadar deas ag an toglann (beár) atá ag ár rannóg, agus seinm ceol Éireannach go minic ansin freisin. Uaireanta bíonn teagmháil againn le baill an AOH ó rannóga eile, agus is iontach gur eagraíocht náisiúnta atá againn, mar bíonn cairde againn ar fud na tíre. Tá sé go breá nuair a bhíonn deis againn teacht le chéile, agus tá sé go breá go bhfuil an nuachtán seo againn. Tá sé go breá go bhfuil an mórshuíl is sine againn i gcathair Nua-Eabhrac gach Lá 'le Pádraig, mórshuíl Caitliceach. Bíimid ann dá chéile i gcónaí, fiú ag deireadh ár saoil. Ní bhíonn duine ná eagraíocht gan locht. Ach táim bródúil as gach rud maith a dhéanann an t-ord seo againn. Agus is iomaí rud sin.

## TEXAS - continued from page 2

In addition to Austin AOH members who helped with logistics, the AOH Western Florida Division in Ponchatoula, La., donated \$500 and the Austin AOH division planned to send proceeds from their Sept. 15 fundraiser, "Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day," for relocation of evacuees. Joe Casler, AOH Louisiana state president and secretary of the Hibernian Charity, also raised money with friends from New Orleans to bring relief supplies to Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas.

The relief effort went on through September as Berry was deployed with other APD officers to Houston for two weeks to assist local police, who were working seven-day, 12-hour shifts. Blue Line Relief provided such things as new boots for police in Vidor, near Beaumont, whose footwear was ruined from slogging through high water, handcuffs to replace pairs that had been rusted shut, vitamins and bug spray. "First responders have to stay in the fight but don't like to ask for help," Berry said, so other first responders stepped up. "The looks on their faces that 'You didn't forget about us,' made it worthwhile."

Berry said it was gratifying to see everyone pitch in to help and he hopes to incorporate Blue Line Relief as a tax-exempt non-profit organization to continue disaster relief activities. As we went to press they were considering how to help in Puerto Rico.

Kevin Buechler, president of the Msgr. Richard McCabe Division in Austin, credited Sentinel Berry with seeing the need for direct service and proceeding in the spirit of Christian charity. "We got involved helping those who were helping others in the area affected by the hurricane, and we got so much positive response that we were all glad to have the opportunity to participate," fulfilling the charitable mission of AOH, Buechler said.



Helping prepare cots for shipment to the coast were Sean Fitzpatrick, AOH member Malachy Gossett, Kristin Moreno, Emmet Brewer, Austin Division President Kevin Buechler, Vice President Nolan Maloney, Chris Wade, Austin AOH Marshal Nevic Donnelly, Financial Secretary Joel Brewer and Anne Buechler.



## California



Vice-President John McNally and his wife, Sally McNally, with Marisa Montgomery.

### 'Halfway' party

The Easter Rising Division 1, Ventura County, CA, celebrated their second annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Irish Party on Sept. 9. Entertainment featured Shepherds Pie Irish Band from Santa Barbara with Dublin's own Willie Quinn doing the vocals. And there were dancers from Los Angeles Gaelic League who, after demonstrating traditional Irish jigs and reels, managed to get participation from many in the sold-out crowd. In addition to great craic, the Division was able to contribute \$1,500 from the proceeds to Our Lady of Assumption Parish Building Fund.



## pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh  
Chairman

### Respect Life Month: News From Abroad

Since beginning these columns, I have tried to highlight a variety of pro-life issues that I felt deserved special attention from our Order. While this belief seemed to be sustained by recent/current events, a brother from my state board repeatedly asked me to focus on events overseas. I'm so glad he did.

#### Ireland

For more than 30 years, the American Pro-Life movement has been able to hold up Ireland as an example, a model to which we aspire. Having enshrined the unborn's right to life in the Irish constitution, through passage of the 8th amendment in 1983, Ireland has remained one of the world's most pro-life countries.

Since that time, there have been numerous attempts to weaken, or overturn entirely, the protections afforded to the most vulnerable among us. However, after the recent Citizen's Assembly proposal to amend the Irish constitution, Taoiseach Varadkar's announcement of a national referendum next year to decide the issue of "repeal or replacement" has created a true watershed moment for the 8th amendment. Already abortion proponents in Ireland and abroad have mobilized to push their agenda.

Although Leinster House, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have all declined to endorse the Assembly's repeal proposal, one could be forgiven for concluding there is a subtle narrative being crafted that the constitution should be amended to some degree. I have doubts when I read ambiguous "wait and see" statements from politicians, take into account the positions held by Taoiseach Varadkar (as former Health Minister) and Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, or see that both leading parties have promised TD's an "open" vote when the referendum reaches the Dáil.

Much of the financial, strategic and PR support for the "Replace" campaign comes from international sources. Brother Kevin Jones (Colorado) was instrumental in uncovering the massive financial ties between the abortion rights campaign and international funding from U.S., British and European sources. If you haven't already, make Brother Jones' articles on the link between George Soros' Open Society Foundation and Irish abortion proponents a must-read for your members. (Articles can be found on the Catholic News Agency and National Catholic Register websites)

#### Central/South America

Brazil, ground zero for the Zika pandemic, has traditionally been a country with strong pro-life legislation until last year when its Supreme Court expressed a controversial opinion. As the Brazilian legislature worked to strengthen its preexisting pro-life laws, the Supreme Court decriminalized abortion in the first three months of pregnancy in a November decision. While the opinion applied only to the case being heard, the precedent it sets will most likely set up further conflict between existing law and future legal proceedings.

Just last month the National Congress of Chile voted to decriminalize abortion in rape cases during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy, citing a need to change current law on "compassionate grounds." The United States can provide our southern neighbors with a warning about the slippery slope they find themselves on.

#### Respect Life Month

October has annually been proclaimed "Respect Life Month." This year's theme, "Be Not Afraid," is especially poignant as I ask you each issue to go out and advocate for the most vulnerable amongst us.

I challenge all Divisions and Boards to once more consider sponsoring a mass with the intention, "To Jesus in his divine mercy for protection of all unborn Children and all souls harmed by abortion." Brothers and Sisters be not afraid to reach out, to care, and most importantly, to forgive those who have been touched by the evil of abortion. Instead, let us be guided by our own thanksgiving for God's endless mercy in our lives, just as St. Peter was when Jesus told him to, "Feed my lambs, Tend my sheep, Feed my sheep."

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## notre dame fund

by Ned McGinley  
Chairman

We have just returned from a visit to the campus of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. As a bonus, we were able to visit with 88-year-old Father Patrick Sullivan, C.S.C., the AOH National Chaplain from 2002-2006 and again in 2009 who is an assisted-living resident at the Holy Cross House near the Moreau Seminary near the lakes at UND.

On this weekend every autumn we, the AOH/LAOH Notre Dame Committee, meet with representatives from two departments: The Cushwa Center for Catholic Studies and the Student Financial Aid Program at UND. This program has been ongoing since the 1960s and we are treated like huge donors by the Cushwa Center, which uses our donated funds to present the Hibernian Lecture Series each year. This year's lecture, "The struggle for Ireland's Soul: Catholics under the Penal Laws," by Ian MacBride (University of Oxford), was especially interesting to our Committee of active Hibernian brothers and sisters. Almost 30 members of the LAOH were present as well as more than a dozen AOH members. Besides our group there were academics and other visitors. The lecture will be available on our AOH.com web site ASAP.

Cushwa Center Hibernian Fund Report  
September 22, 2017  
Endowment Overview

Book Value (How much we have actually contributed) — \$172,815  
Market Value (How NDU has invested our money) — \$1,207,108  
2016-2017 Expenditures — \$48,824  
2017-2018 Projected Investment Income — \$49,500

What Notre Dame has done as stewards of the Hibernian funds is nothing short of awesome. Allowing us to educate hundreds of thousands of Catholics worldwide on the contribution of Ireland and her diaspora to our Catholic faith. This is a perfect message for the AOH/LAOH to sponsor. We will publish the financial reports on our new Web Page.

The Hibernian Scholarship Fund has much the same record. They have supported 80 students with over \$800,000 in Scholarships.

Admission to NDU is need blind, which means that how much money you need to go to the university will not be part of the admissions selection process and you will receive all the money you need to matriculate to UND.

Office of Financial Services  
Book Value (How much we have contributed) — \$207,768  
Market Value — \$1,239,820  
Total Projected Earnings 2017/2018 — \$58,691

We will publish the Financial Report on the AOH.com Web Page.

We badly need our sons and daughters and grandchildren to apply for Admissions to the University of Notre Dame so that these funds we have at Notre Dame can be used to pay for their higher education.

Father Sullivan C.S.C., Past National Chaplain and a professor at Notre Dame, as well as King's College, is now 88-years-old but his legs are infirm. AOH National President Judge Jim McKay, VP Danny O'Connell, Secretary Jere Cole and I spent time with him at Holy Cross House. He was overjoyed, as were we. More than a few tears were shed. Please keep Father Pat in your prayers.

Ned McGinley AOH Hibernian Fund at UND Chairman. Nedaoh1@aol.com, 570-905-5715

## Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Board held their Fall Meeting at the Home of Division 36 in Worcester. Vice President Jack Lahey announced that within the next several months the site of the 2019 State Convention would be selected.

An AOH New England Wide Membership Workshop and Seminar given by National Organizer Tim McSweeney and National Director Liam McNabb will take place at Division 36 in Worcester on October 21. Mass State Board Organizer Dick Wall is coordinating this event.

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

Division 1 Holyoke: The Division will host its Fourth Fall Foliage train ride on October 14 and plans are in the works for the Divisions Christmas Gathering on December 4.

Division 8 Lawrence: To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs, Division 8 will host a tribute to these men on the weekend of November 25 & 26. Plans call for a concert featuring Derek Warefield & the Young Wolf-Tones, a Memorial Mass, Wreath laying Ceremony and Reception.

Division 14 Watertown: Division 14 held a Night at the Red Sox in September, a Family Feud Game Night in October and they will hold their Annual Turkey Shoot in mid-November. Proceeds from the Turkey Shoot benefit local families in need during the holiday season.

Division 19 Lowell: Division 19 held a Night at the Races fundraiser on September 15 and a Concert featuring Deidre Reilly on October 14. Monies raised from these two events will benefit the Divisions Charity Fund.

Division 36 Worcester: Division 36 held a host of events recently. The Canal Diggers Road Race took place on September 9; a Music Festival on September 16 and a Paint Night on September 26.

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



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

Students in grades 6-12 are gearing up for next year's National History Day theme of CONFLICT AND COMPROMISE. I'm sure many can think of a topic to fit that theme. For example, there's Ireland's War of Independence led by Michael Collins and the Treaty that created the Irish Free State; there's the Good Friday Agreement that brought an end to much of the violence in Northern Ireland; there's also Daniel O'Connell's legislative victories that brought relief from the Penal Laws. In any event, the AOH and LAOH will be at the University of Maryland to judge the finals and award two round trips to Ireland to the winner and scholarship assistance to the second place winner.

Congratulations to AOH Division 8 and LAOH Division 8/9 of Suffolk County on their Golden Anniversary of keeping the traditions alive in the Centereach-Selden area of Long Island, NY.

Congratulations also to the Beltway Bulldog, Jack O'Brien, on his latest achievement. Jack saw that a roadside marker, designating the spot where a tragic shipwreck occurred, was missing, and set about having a new one erected. The marker told of the ship Faithful Steward bound from Derry to Philadelphia with 249 immigrants aboard, which ran aground in a storm near Indian River Inlet, Delaware, on the night of September 1, 1785. The panicked passengers remained on the deck all night, only 200 yards from shore, but there was no lifesaving service at the time. On September 2, the ship broke to pieces. Lifeboats put into the water drifted away before they could be manned. The only chance of survival was to swim ashore or cling to pieces of the wreck. By dawn, only 68 of the 249 passengers made it to shore. Local inhabitants plundered the bodies of their goods. Among the cargo on the ship were 400 barrels of English half pennies. For 135 years, as the barrels rotted, half-pennies washed up on the beach as storms cast coins across the sandy bottom giving the area the designation 'Coin Beach.' A memorial plaque marking the spot of the wreck had been destroyed by a car years ago and brother O'Brien decided that a new one should be erected. Upon notifying authorities of his intention to erect a new marker, Jack was surprised to find that the marker and the wreck had been forgotten. That made him more determined and he erected a new one. A new steel plaque now stands on the site as a reminder of the tragic end of so many of our people. Well done, Jack.

In a noteworthy turn of events, an Irish plaque honoring George Washington has been hung inside the Washington Monument. The bronze plaque features the wording of the 1916 Proclamation and commemorates Waterford-born Thomas Francis Meagher, who commanded the Irish Brigade in the American Civil War. The plaque was gifted by the people of Ireland and coordinated by Senator Mark Daly of Seanad Éireann, Ireland's spokesperson for the Irish Diaspora. Though memorials are now accepted only in very rare circumstances, the Irish plaque will be located among the 193 commemorative stones donated to honor George Washington on the monument's interior walls. "For more than 160 years, American states, organizations and even foreign governments have honored the ideals of General George Washington with commemorative gifts to the Washington Monument," said Gay Vietzke, superintendent of the National Mall. "We are honored by this gift from the people of Ireland that continues this tradition."

Construction of the monument began in 1848 and most stones were donated between 1849 and 1855. However, it stopped for a period of time. What many may not know is that it was not just the Civil War that interrupted construction, but a nativist anti-Catholic movement. In 1853, Pope Pius IX sent a block of marble from the ancient Temple of Concord in Rome, on behalf of the Holy See. The gift triggered an anti-Catholic backlash. Members of the Know-Nothing party stole the papal stone in 1854, smashed it into pieces and threw the fragments into the Potomac. They then took over the project for several years, did some shoddy construction work that was later removed and presided over the loss of project funding. After the interruption of the Civil War, thanks to the efforts of President U.S. Grant and a government takeover of the project, the Washington Monument was eventually completed and dedicated in 1884. The current welcome provided to the Irish Plaque corrects an ancient wrong and they are to be commended.

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

# Echoes of Irish History — 1917

by Mike McCormack, National Historian

As 2017 ends in this Decade of Centenaries, we reflect on the Ireland of 100 years ago. The Easter Rising was over and the public, unaware of the patriots' plans, were indignant that a Rising should occur when Home Rule was in the offing. But when they learned Parliament altered Home Rule to divide Ireland, a sense of admiration emerged for those who took on a superior military power for the cause of freedom. The secret executions of the leaders, the destruction of Dublin and many homes by indiscriminate British shelling and the continuing oppression under Martial Law moved public opinion to understand the motives of the patriots.

Newspapers reported Masses for the executed leaders and people wearing black arm bands and tri-color ribbons. The unrest disturbed Parliament into declaring a partial amnesty for the more than 3,500 they had arrested, even though only 1,600 had been involved. Some returned in August and some in December 1916, arriving to cheering thousands. Many innocents, angered by their unjust imprisonment, were encouraged by public support, and the second phase of the quest for independence began to take root. In early 1917, the released internees began a campaign to release remaining prisoners.

As Easter approached, to stem the rising tide of nationalism, commemorations of the Rising were forbidden. Edward Dolan, a member of the American-affiliated Hibernian Rifles, stated: *On the anniversary of the Rising in Easter 1917, I was mobilized and remained on duty that night in 28 North Frederick Street (Hibernian Hall). I assisted in posting up copies of the 1916 Proclamation and the erection of the Tricolor on the roof of number 28. The Proclamation was posted around the city with strong glue making it harder for authorities to remove.* In May, a reorganized Sinn Fein party ran imprisoned Joe McGuinness as a candidate in a Longford by-election and he won. Faced with the fear of another prisoner being elected in an upcoming by-election, the British announced a general amnesty. In June 1917, the last of the prisoners arrived home to an enthusiastic reception.

The involvement of women in a fight for independence in a British male-dominated colony was unusual, but the women of Cumann na mBan proved themselves determined and it was a mistake by the British to overlook them. After the Rising, they not only rebuilt Cumann na mBan, but under Kathleen Clarke, widow of the executed leader, they established a national chain of Aid Offices to assist families of those imprisoned.

When the released patriots returned, Kathleen, to whom the assets of the IRB had been entrusted, chose Michael Collins to receive them, and the chain of Aid Offices became recruiting offices for a new independence movement, with Tom Ashe as IRB President and Collins as Director of the Volunteers.

The British suppressed anti-government activity and, in August, Ashe was arrested for a speech 'calculated to cause disaffection' and sentenced to two years. A hero of the Rising, he won a major victory in Co. Meath, making him a marked man to the British. When his demand for prisoner of war status was denied, Ashe went on hunger strike. The prison staff tried to force-feed him by shoving a funnel down his throat and jamming it with food, killing him as a result. An inquest jury condemned the prison staff for an inhuman and dangerous operation performed on the prisoner, and other acts of barbaric conduct. Ashe's death on September 25 further increased Republican recruitment. His body lay in state at Dublin City Hall before being carried in huge procession to be buried with honor in Glasnevin. Another block of turf had been added to the fire of public indignation.

On October 25, delegates of the IRB, Volunteers and others, representing more than 250,000 members, met at a Sinn Fein Ard Feis and reiterated: *the Irish people deny the right and oppose the will of the British Parliament and British Crown or any other foreign government to legislate for Ireland and to use any and all means available to render impotent the power of England to hold Ireland in subjection by military force or otherwise.* The British knew about the meeting, but allowed it, feeling that with so many Irish groups involved, they would split in typical Irish fashion. They were wrong again!

The new Sinn Fein took over as the primary political party with the reorganized Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and Hibernian Rifles as its military wing – now recognized as the Army of the Irish Republic. Martial Law kept tensions high and, beneath it all, a new strategy was developing. The Easter Rising may have failed, but its legacy would inspire a War of Independence and 100 years ago, its formation was underway!

## Illinois



Division helps the needy: Members of Division 1, St. Clair County, IL prepared to go out on their newly adopted mission of serving dinner to the needy in St. Clair County on the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Bus. From left, Charlie Cullen, John Sheahan, Division President Mike Tiernan, Mike McAnally and Past Division President Patrick Hickey.



Illinois State Board meeting: National President Judge James McKay, Past National President George Clough and National Director John Wilson joined the newly elected officers of the Illinois State Board at their biennial meeting. From left, Daniel Haney, state secretary; Sean O'Dowd, state treasurer; George Clough; Robert Simpson, state president; Judge McKay; John Donovan IV, state vice-president; and John Wilson.

# New York

## Spotlight on Suffolk County

Proud of being the largest county in the largest state in the Order, Suffolk County has been living up to the charitable portion of the Hibernian motto.

St. Patrick's AOH/LAOH Div. 2, Babylon, held a Taste of the Town featuring donations from local restaurants offered to the public as a fundraiser. More than \$7,000 was raised for the Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition.

The Tom and Katty Daly Clarke Divisions 8 and 8/9 in Centereach-Selden organized a screening at their Hibernian Culture Center for donors to a bone marrow transplant for a 3-year-old boy recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His family had been trying for weeks to find a location that would host a bone marrow drive to save their son's life when Div. 8 donated their Center and a call was put out. The nurses, who set up the swabbing procedure, couldn't believe the response. More than 16,650 responded before they ran out of swabbing material and had to refer the rest to their web site; another 500 responded on line. The Hibernian Riders Motorcycle club and members of the AOH, LAOH and local school district were on hand to offer their marrow for the transplant or just make a donation. It was, they remarked, an all-time record for such an event. Many of the volunteers were teachers from the Smithtown School District where the boy's mom is a teacher. A representative from the organization that coordinated the drive stated that this was the most successful one ever. Again, the Hibernians were there for the community. Div. 8 had also just hit a high mark with 5,000 pounds of donated groceries to St. Margaret of Scotland parish food pantry.

The Mary & Joseph Thompson Div. 5 also ran a successful food drive for St. John the Evangelist RC Church in Center Moriches. Rec Secretary Ed Kelly wrote: *"As I was setting up in front of the supermarket, I noticed a man watching me; he was dressed in an old shirt and bright red jogging pants about two sizes too large for him. He leaned his bicycle against the building where he had just finished returning bottles for deposit. He looked hot and tired, which wasn't surprising as the temperature was in the 80s. He called me over and said, 'Thank you'. I said, 'For what?' He had overheard me telling someone that the drive was for St. John's food pantry and some of his only meals came from there. He said he once owned a house nearby but lost his job and couldn't find work. He then suffered an illness and was unable to pay his bills. He lost everything and was now living in a tent, hidden in the woods nearby. As he spoke he kept his head down, almost in shame, but never broke eye contact with me. I felt that, while he knew he was down, the fight wasn't out of him yet. He said that he continues to save money wherever and whenever he can and hopes to be able to afford an apartment some day. After he finished, I found myself searching for something to say but nothing seemed right. I just shook his hand and watched as he climbed on his bicycle and rode away. It's a powerful thing when homelessness is standing right in front of you. This man wasn't a statistic or a passing thought of who might benefit from the donations we collected. This was a real person showing gratitude for something that many of us take for granted — a simple meal. As Irishmen and Hibernians, we know something about hunger. Our ancestors endured horrific conditions and suffering. For many of us, if it weren't for their sacrifices, we wouldn't be here today. And that is why Division 5 is so proud of the work its members do to help feed the less fortunate."*

We're kind of proud of them, too, and all Hibernians who help their neighbors, as Suffolk is now taking part in the AOH NY State and National Board Charitable Fund for the relief of our neighbors in Texas and Florida.



Helping at the Taste of the Town were, from left, Chris Thompson, Frank Nappe, Jim Mannix, John Hurley, Tom Thompson, Larry Hurley, Dennis Curtin.

## Auriesville Shrine Pilgrimage a Success!

Members of the AOH and LAOH gathered on Sept. 24th at the "Shrine of our Lady Martyrs" in Auriesville, NY for Mass and picnic lunch. Mass was celebrated in the Shrine by Fr. Daniel Quinn, NYS AOH Deputy Chaplain, and was followed by a picnic lunch that also featured a performance by the Farrell School of Irish Dance. The event was organized by AOH and LAOH Divisions of the Capital District and was well attended upstate Hibernians as well as a full bus from downstate with Hibernians from Queens and Nassau Counties.



Event Organizers, from left, Phil McManus (Queens), A. Warren Scullin (Nassau), Ed Rice (Queens), Peter Durkee (Past NYS President, Rensselaer), Mary Beth Durkee (NYS LAOH Vice President, Rensselaer), Fr. Daniel Quinn (NYS AOH Deputy Chaplain) and Owen Cole (NYS AOH District Director, Schenectady).

# Pennsylvania



AOH represented at consul general's discussions on the North: The Consulate General of Ireland's office in New York City hosted discussions on Northern Ireland affairs by Minister Simon Coveney on September 21. The AOH was well represented as those in attendance included two past chairmen of Freedom For All Ireland, Immediate Past National President Brendan Moore and current National Treasurer Sean Pender. Pictured, from left, Consul General Ciar'an Madden, Katie Hosie, Pennsylvania AOH President Joe Hosie and Deputy Consul General Anna McGillicuddy.

# Virginia



Virginia Elected State Board for 2017-'18: Virginian Hibernians convened their 21st Biennial Convention in Virginia Beach in September. Honored guests were AOH National Treasurer Sean Pender, National Director Denny Parks and keynote speaker Ruan O'Donnell. Among other important issues, the delegates voted for the 2017-2018 state board and elected, from left, President Bill Halpin, Vice President Jay McCarthy, Secretary Brian Kiernan and Treasurer Bob Fay. Following Mass, Brothers Pender and Parks installed the new board. Conventioneers adjourned to a dinner and entertainment. AOH major degrees were exemplified the following morning. Keynote speaker O'Donnell gave an informative talk on the critical decade following the Easter Rising and inspired deeper individual research into the personalities and activities of this important period.

# To the editor...

## Give Ballymurphy chance for truth

Dear Editor:

It is said everyone deserves their day in court. Why are the "Ballymurphy Massacre" families waiting for their day in court 46 years after the killing of their loved ones? Why is Arlene Foster's permission needed to get court inquests and a chance for truth?

The "Ballymurphy Massacre" was set in motion when British Prime Minister Edward Heath greenlit Brian Faulkner's call for Internment. Faulkner's Ulster Unionist Party ran Britain's Orange State for nearly 50 years. Internment or mass arrests and indefinite imprisonment of suspected Republicans without charges or trial was their answer to periodic Irish resistance.

## Internment

On Aug. 9, 1971, British troopers rampaged across the north, broke into homes, terrorized families, jailed hundreds without charge and began a catastrophic Internment policy lasting four years.

Mass arrests and home invasions were step one. They selected men held without charge, hooded and brutalized them with techniques which have Britain charged with torture in the European Court.

The massacre began hours after the first days' raids ended. British paratroopers barracked in Ballymurphy came out and opened fire without warning.

A Catholic priest, waving a white handkerchief, Fr. Hugh Mullan, 19-year-old Francis Quinn, mother of 8 children Joan Connolly, were each shot dead for going to help wounded victims. Daniel Teggart was felled by a bullet to the leg, then shot a total of 14 times as he lay on the ground. Noel Philips was also shot dead that first night. Joseph Murphy was wounded, and taken into custody. Before his death on August 22nd, he whispered that he had been shot a second time while in the Para's barracks. The second bullet was found after his body was exhumed for an autopsy.

Edward Doherty, John Laverty, Joseph Corr and John McKerr were murdered over the next two days. An eleventh murder victim, Paddy McCarthy, died of a heart attack, when troopers placed an empty gun inside his mouth in mock execution.

## Cover stories

The Ballymurphy Massacre did not end with taking 11 innocent lives, or taking parents from 57 children. The British also massacred the truth. Cover stories were crafted. Victims became posthumous gunmen. British Royal Military Police made their troopers innocent and the dead guilty.

No eyewitnesses could challenge the official story line. Lawyers could not ask why no British casualties, nor weapons recovered from so many dead IRA gunmen. The BBC and newspapers relayed this British version.

Brigadier General Frank Kitson had written "Law should be used as just another weapon in the government's arsenal... little more than a propaganda cover for disposal of unwanted members of the public". (Low Intensity Operations). As a secret British Ministry Memorandum, uncovered by Relatives For Justice put it, the British "Army should not be inhibited in its campaign by the threat of Court proceedings."

British troopers would have undeclared immunity. The families of murdered "unwanted members of the public" would not be allowed to "inhibit" Britain's campaign with court proceedings. They would have to swallow their grief and take it. It worked so well in Ballymurphy that the British decided to try it again five months later, with the mistake of too many witnesses on "Bloody Sunday."

## Relatives For Justice

More than a quarter-century later, Relatives For Justice organized a conference for

forgotten victims of the Troubles. Afterwards, still grieving families vowed to fight for truth. In 2011 they won the legal right to reopen inquests. They would get their day in court and chance for truth! They are still waiting. Eighteen months ago, British Chief Justice Declan Morgan met the Ballymurphy families, among others, about delays in legacy inquests. Morgan said Britain was legally obligated to hold these inquests. He planned to deal with all 50 legacy inquests within 5 years, given cooperation and some funding.

On September 5, Morgan went public with his "deep frustration" at getting nothing. The funds are there said the British, but need agreement and Arlene Foster's permission for release. Democratic Unionist Party head Arlene Foster refused. She says it would divert money from "innocent victims." After all, Foster assumes, if British troopers killed the Ballymurphy victims, they must have been guilty of something.

Once the British ruled through the UUP, and blamed them for the injustices of the Orange State. Today they give nationalists a say, but impose sham requirements for agreements amounting to a DUP veto. The British are not worried about the victims being proven innocent. They worry that the truth may point to the guilt of those who fired the shots and those who gave them immunity to do so. They think unionists can always cancel out nationalist demands. The British do worry about American pressure. Will Irish-Americans help get the "Ballymurphy Massacre" families their chance for truth?

*Martin Galvin*

*New York State Freedom For All Ireland chairman*

## What winning the NYS AOH scholarship means to me

To the Hibernian Digest Editor:

My name is Sean Patrick Cummings and I am in my second year at SUNY-College at Brockport studying Computer Information Systems. Winning the 2016 NYAOH Scholarship was the capstone of my senior year in high school. It gave me a sense of high academic achievement, but more importantly it bolstered my pride and left me with a sense of celebration in being an Irish-American. In terms of monetary assistance, the funds help me purchase the many textbooks I need to complete my studies each semester. At every opportunity, I spout the praises of the



Order and the many opportunities membership has to offer to those of my age and at the beginning of their college years and careers.

I am an active member of Division 2, Orange County Ancient Order of Hibernians. I joined the Order in November of 2014 just after my 16th birthday and completed my Major Degree the following year. In addition to the camaraderie and the many social events, I enjoy our division's community service initiatives such as assisting local food kitchens, delivering dinners to the less fortunate and raising funds for veteran's causes. This sense of service is in me now and I continue to participate in similar activities while away at school. Service to others is a fulfilling and rewarding experience and something I will continue into my adult life and future career.

I am also a member of my college's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and plan a career in the U.S. Army. My academic goals are to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems and to use the knowledge (made possible in part though the generous assistance of the NY-AOH), as a commissioned Second Lieutenant assigned to the Cyber Command helping to protect our great nation on this new and critical front.

*Sean Patrick Cummings*

# New York

By James McGlashin

## New Division forming in New Rochelle — The Pelhams

I am proud to inform you of the formation of a new division in New Rochelle/The Pelhams, Westchester, NY: the Thomas Addis Emmet Division. Answering the call to get new members, our Brother and New York State Secretary John Manning, from my home Division 21, asked me how to attract new members into our Order. I suggested forming one around Iona College, the school where I am a senior, and a school with a historically large Irish Catholic presence. We immediately set to work with Brothers Dan Dennehy, National Director and Westchester Organizer, Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch, Past County President, and Brian Duffy, current County President. Through the consistent dedication of so many members around Westchester we have succeeded in getting the numbers for our new division — a division of many college students as well as adults from the wider New Rochelle/Pelhams community. Our first meeting was to be held at the Pelham Funeral Home, 64 Lincoln Ave., Pelham, on October 16.

The AOH's newest division is going to be named after Thomas Addis Emmet, brother of the slain 1803 Rebellion leader Robert Emmet. Following exile for his part in the 1798 Rebellion, Thomas Emmet was exiled to America where he became a Catholic, and New York State Attorney General. His descendants have made many contributions to our country, through the arts, the military and in politics while consistently supporting Irish Republican efforts, from Judge Robert Emmet (founder of the GOP) running the Directory established to aid the 1848 Rebellion, to Dr. Thomas A. Emmet (world's first gynecologist) organizing efforts to aid the dependents of the 1916 rebels.

Several of the Emmets are buried in New Rochelle, including Medal of Honor recipient Col. Robert T. Emmet, who met with Lord Balfour in 1917 to encourage Irish independence.

I have started an independent fundraiser for the restoration of their graves as I see to it that their plot is made a landmark; this effort has been sponsored by the AOH, American Legion and Iona College — if you would like to contribute online, the link is [www.gofundme.com/emmet-graves-restoration](http://www.gofundme.com/emmet-graves-restoration). There will also be a fundraiser on Veteran's Day, November 11th at the Heritage, 960 McLean Avenue from 6pm-9pm for anyone interested. Feel free to contact me at [jmclashin1@guels.iona.edu](mailto:jmclashin1@guels.iona.edu) if you would like more information or if you can help with selling raffle tickets. Additionally, could any and all Hibernians that are former Iona Gaels please email me!



Members of the new division in Westchester County pose with National Director Dan Dennehy, top row, far left, and other county and state officers.

# Connecticut

As the summer of 2017 turned to autumn, the pace of Hibernian activity in Connecticut began to increase. On the last Saturday of August, the 7th annual AOH Connecticut Softball Bash was held in Milford and in the words of Chairman Jim Murray, "2017 turned out to be our best turnout yet," with AOH representation from Danbury, Bridgeport, Meriden and New London. Weather was great, camaraderie even better only to be topped by the funds raised for St. Catherine Academy.

St. Catherine Academy is a state-approved, private special education school in Fairfield, Connecticut, serving students of all faiths who are impacted with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities. A total of \$1,500 was raised. Danbury won two of the best of three series and retained the trophy until next year's rematch in New Fairfield. New London Hibernians showed their impartiality by providing two players for each team.

The annual Hibernian-sponsored Greater Danbury Irish Festival was successfully held under blue skies at the Ives Center on the campus of Western Connecticut University. Bill Knowles and AOH State Vice President Brenden Walsh chaired this event, which drew enthusiastic crowds the weekend of September 15.

Both New London and Waterbury held halfway to St. Patrick's Day parties in September. However, each was different. New London had a picnic while Waterbury had a social at their Hall. Waterbury Hibernians held their annual family picnic on the first Sunday in October where beautiful, handcrafted corn hole boxes decorated with AOH logos were the featured prizes. Corn hole is a game that had caught on among some Connecticut Divisions along with the card game known as Setback. Either perhaps might be promoted as a state-wide interdivisional activity.

On September 16, State FFAI Chairman Joe Flaherty, assisted by others from the Hibernian and Irish Community of Connecticut and Massachusetts, held the 36th Commemoration of the 1981 Hunger Strike. The event was held at Bobby Sands Circle in Hartford and was well attended by many who are dedicated to the complete independence of all of Ireland.

The Hibernians of Bridgeport held their annual tailgate party in September. This year it was held at the Yale Bowl.

Many in Connecticut and elsewhere have dedicated many hours of their lives in support of the AOH. Stamford held a Good Fellows Party for longtime stalwarts George Sheridan and Pat Queally at the Stamford Hibernian Hall.

State President Tom McDonough conducted a successful State Board meeting at the Meriden AOH Hall on September 30 where an important resolution sponsored by New Haven County FFAI Chairman Peter McManus was adopted by the State Board. The resolution called for the U.S. government to stop supporting British Rule in Ireland and in addition called for an end to partition and the creation of a 32 County Federal Irish Republic!

The Irish of Waterbury were saddened in July with the death of Edward "Mike" Bergin, at age 75. He was a member of the AOH for close to a half century and the longest serving mayor of the City of Waterbury. Our condolences to his wife, Jo Ann, sons, Michael and Patrick, and his six grandchildren.

Check out Sacred Heart University's. [digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_hiber](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber)



**Newly elected Connecticut State Board Officers, from left, Treasurer Frank Kearney, Jr., VP Brenden Walsh, President Tom McDonough, Chaplain Monsignor James Coleman, Past President John Weihn with his new sash, and State Secretary Scott McNulty.**

Photo by Bill Sullivan.



**The 36th Commemoration of the 1981 Hunger Strikers at Bobby Sands Circle in Hartford, Connecticut.** Photo by Peter McManus

# New Jersey

## Fall Festival a huge success

The 26th Annual Irish Fall Festival sponsored by James J. Reilly, AOH Division 1, took place September 21 through September 24 in North Wildwood, NJ. This is the largest Irish festival on the east coast and fosters and preserves Irish culture and heritage. The event included a golf outing, a 5K run, free live entertainment, Irish dancing, a bag pipe exhibition, a parade and over 125 craft and food vendors.

The success of this event has been overwhelming and continues to draw more and more people each year, with an estimated crowd in excess of 200,000 people. Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Diocese of Camden, was honored as the 2017 parade Grand Marshal.

We would like to acknowledge and thank John O'Connell, Editor of the National Hibernian Digest, for joining us this year at the Irish Fall Festival.

As a result of this extremely successful fund raising event, the AOH achieves significant charitable accomplishments. These contributions reflect the loyalty and ideals that have helped to strengthen our families, community and national character.



**At the Festival were, from left, NJ AOH State President Larry Prella; Cape May County Division 1 members Dennis Reilly, Mike McLaughlin and Larry Conti; Division 1 President Mike Maguire; and Lou Cole, Division 1 recording secretary.** Photo by John O'Connell, Editor

# Indiana

## The Hibernian tent at the Indy Irish Fest

The Kevin Barry Division 3 participated in the September Indy Irish Fest, with its AOH tent at historic Military Park in downtown Indianapolis.

The Irish Fest, in its 22nd year, is an opportunity for Indy's Irish, the second largest ethnic group to settle in the Indianapolis region, to share their heritage through music, dance, cultural activities and family fun. The entertainment includes international, national and local talent. One group — The Irish Airs — have been a part of the Irish music scene in Indianapolis for more than 25 years. Led by AOH member Brian Cunningham, from Dublin, they are the only band to perform at every Indy Irish Fest.



**Steve O'Connor, left and Ed Cahill in front of the AOH tent at the Indy Irish Fest.**

The AOH tent, under the direction of Ed Cahill, was manned by Hibernian volunteers, who work hard, have a great time and know their efforts help to finance Hibernian charitable gift-giving throughout the year. As part of the festival, AOH sponsors the Earl Myers Memorial Raffle with Notre Dame Football tickets as first prize, honoring the man who donated those tickets for many years. This tradition continues thanks to his family and Mike Fleming who continue to secure the football tickets. The tent raffle was coordinated by Steve O'Connor.

The Fest was blessed with beautiful weather, large crowds, great music, superb food and the best volunteer help. Ed expressed thanks to all volunteers with especially those who set-up and tear-down the AOH tent.

An additional AOH thanks to Fatima Retreat House for its raffle gift, Chuck McGinley for donating Irish crystal, and Pat Miles and John Hegarty for contributions to the volunteer refreshment fund. Division members of note are Bob McCurdy for food preparation and Jim McGinley and Chris Meehan for negotiations with the Irish Fest.

Ed's final thought was of appreciation for Hibernian efforts making the AOH tent a great success at the Fest. — Jim Lynch

# Missouri

## St. Joseph, MO memorial hedgerow Mass

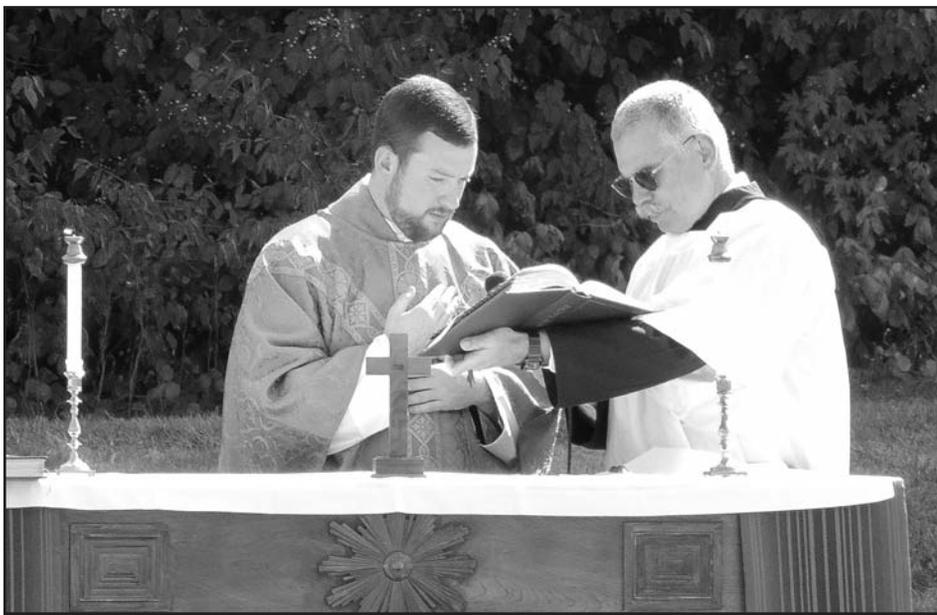
Recalling the difficulties of Irish Catholics in the practice of their faith in an earlier time, more than 150 attended the 4th annual Hedge Row Mass sponsored by the St. Joseph Division on Sunday, September 10.

The outdoor Mass, in 90-degree temperature, helped remind congregants of the difficulties faced by their ancestors in maintaining their faith while Ireland was under English subjugation. Catholic religious ceremonies and education were forbidden, but priests offered Mass to the faithful in any possible locale – hidden in the hedge rows among them.

Father Jack Fitzpatrick, son of Hibernian Bob Fitzpatrick and his wife, Toni, was again celebrant for the Mass. He was assisted by Deacon Jay Pflugradt. In his homily, Father Jack reminded congregants of the challenges that faced their ancestors and called on them to strengthen the practice of their own faith today.

Names of deceased members of the chapter were read during a memorial ceremony, and the Mass concluded with recitation of the Prayer of St. Patrick. Following the Mass, a corned beef and cabbage luncheon was served in the adjacent club rooms of Knights of Columbus council 5067.

Shane McDonald was chairman for the event. Pat Casey is president of the St. Joseph Division.



Father Jack Fitzpatrick was assisted by Deacon Jay Pflugradt.

## KCMO Pearse Division answers the recruitment call

Taking to heart the charge by the national AOH to develop strategies for expanding Hibernian membership, four members of the Kansas City MO Pearse Division were toasted in August for their decision to take the important step toward marriage.

Prior to the membership meeting toast of the four engaged Hibernians, Kansas City and St. Joseph diocese Bishop James Johnston provided a special blessing to the four members and their future spouses. The bishop recognized the courage it takes to make a very public commitment to “love, honor, and cherish” one person for the rest of their lives. In front of the gathered members of the Pearse Division he congratulated them and wished them all the best in their lives together and asked for God’s help and guidance as they embark on their futures together.

Following the Bishop’s blessing and the dismissal of non-members, the Hibernians provided the four young members their wise counsel (“yes dear” is always the best, and safest, response to a question or suggestion). The four then shared a toast of Jameson before the meeting’s work was begun.

Weddings will begin in early September and run through the early summer of 2017. The expectation is the four will soon begin the process of expanding the AOH membership rolls.



Kasey O'Connor, Zach Daughtrey, John Maloney, and Brad Heydon acknowledge and salute Pearse members during the toast in honor of their impending weddings

# Ohio

## Irish bishop promotes mission during Ohio visit

Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan, of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, Ireland, spent two weeks in Ohio this August to celebrate Mass during the Dublin Irish Festival and later at St. Mary’s Church in Delaware, Ohio.

During his visit to Tara Hall, home of the AOH Patrick Pearse Division 1, he delivered a message about Holy Family Mission. It is an exciting and new missionary outreach to young people in Ireland and a response to a deep need and desire in young people to be formed in their faith and assist in the renewal of the Church.

“I have seen firsthand the joy of the young people, it is a living testimony to their search for Jesus and His desire to spread this joy to others. Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh, is a place where people come to experience that joy,” stated Bishop Phonsie.

HFM is a residential Catholic community for young people aged 18-30, who desire to know, live and share their faith and become effective disciples in the world. This enables them to share their hope with others as youth missionaries, or with their own families and faith communities.

Bishop Phonsie inspired those in attendance from the AOH and LAOH during his presentation, as he recounted why the Glencomeragh House, of County Waterford, was given as a retreat house and how HFM has reached so many youth. He also reminded the crowd that there is much more to do.

The Patrick Pearse Division 1 and LAOH Countess de Markievicz Division 1 leadership are exploring ways to promote this worthy cause. The HFM message will be shared with Hibernians statewide and nationally.

If you would like to know more about the Holy Family Mission, visit their website at: [www.holyfamilymission.net](http://www.holyfamilymission.net)



## Virginia



Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, left, Ambassador Mulhall, VA AOH VP Jay McCarthy, Mrs. Mulhall, VA AOH President Bill Halpin, Alexandria City Councilwoman Del Pepper and Mr. Pepper.

## Irish Festival in Alexandria

The annual Ballyshaners Irish Festival was held on a late Sunday in August in Alexandria, Virginia. Numerous vendor and Hibernian tents lined the perimeter of Waterfront Park and featured Irish wares, crafts and jewelry as well as food and beverages. Musicians and Irish dancers performed throughout the day. Ireland’s new ambassador, the Honorable Dan Mulhall, and his wife, Greta, attended despite only being in the United States for four days. Ambassador Mulhall commended the Irish diaspora in America for keeping the relationship between the United States and Ireland vital and productive.

# Why I am a Hibernian

## Inspirational thoughts from your brothers



Like a lot of men of Catholic faith born of Irish birth or descent I decided to become a Hibernian because men I respected were members of the local Division, including my Dad. When I first joined all I really focused on were the social aspects of the Division, but as time went on I soon realized what it is to be a Hibernian when I became more involved in all the **Religious** and **Charitable** aspects of the organization. Since becoming a Hibernian I have grown in my faith and learned what it means to be a good family man and to give back to community. I feel blessed to belong to such a great organization that adheres to its faith and love of family and community.

Joe McCusker  
Treasurer  
AOH Massachusetts State Board



I am the only brother in Nebraska who can say that I am 4th-generation of active AOH in my family. I have been active since I joined in 2003 after my graduation from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I have seen that our division is at its best when we unite together for a worthy cause. These worthy causes are the times when I am able to reflect on the impact that our division has made and I can proudly say this is why I'm a Hibernian. I have witnessed **the difference that we have made in special needs children** at the Madonna School in Omaha, the thousands and thousands of pounds of meat that we have **donated to homeless shelters**, and the impact that a **donation from the division makes at a women's shelter** — just to name a few.

Mike Addy  
Financial Secretary  
Fr. Flanagan Division, Omaha, Nebraska

I joined the Hibernians after meeting the Herbert-Cady Division at the Old Town Alexandria [Virginia] Irish Festival. The Brothers representing the Division were enthusiastic about the organization and welcomed me with open arms, asking me about a heritage I at the time knew little about.

With encouragement from my **new-found Brothers**, I found I come by my Irish **ancestry** honestly, with my mother claiming O'Donnell heritage and my father the heritage of Owen Rewick, who was born in Ireland in 1742 before immigrating to the United States, at the time a collection of British colonies. Owen, suspected of being a British Loyalist or spy at the outset of the American Revolution, served a sentence in Newgate Prison before being permitted to join the Continental Army as part of the Third Regiment of the "Connecticut Line" and fight for his adopted homeland.

Joining the Ancient Order of Hibernians is an **opportunity to meet**

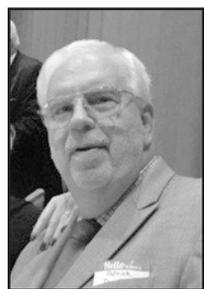
**with other Irish-American Catholics**, learn more about the contributions Irish men and women have made to this country, and remain **engaged in your local community through social and service projects**. I joined the Hibernians for the simple reason that I knew my family was Irish, but I truly became a Hibernian because of the kindness, charity and friendship of my Brothers. While family names may change, like Rourke became Reurk, then Rewick, Ruick and Ruic, the core tenants of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, namely a dedication to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity remain, and act not just as a reminder of ideals we historically aspired to, but as a guidepost for the future.

Devin Ruic  
Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division  
Alexandria, VA



My brothers and family in the AOH have always been there for me. Their commitment to **building stronger Irish American communities** has taught me the value of True Christian Charity and reminds me that God is inside us. Now it's the my generation's job to lead the next generation of Hibernians into a new era for the AOH and make us stronger than ever before.

Dom Bessom



I joined AOH in 1978 in Youngstown, Ohio (Mahoning County), when the war in the north of Ireland was blazing. I had already joined other groups whose purposes were specifically to aid the freedom struggle. My uninformed 'rebel' image of AOH had not been positive. I joined to find recruits for direct aid to the struggle. Mahoning County at one time had more than a dozen divisions, but was then down to one with 10 to 13 members. I found precious few 'rebels', but quality ones. I also found that **AOH keeps alive all things Irish** in this country, and that the AOH national board was hand in hand with other supporters of the struggle. As the struggle in the north waned, the other groups did also. The AOH endured. If you want to support Irish Catholicism, Irish history, Irish music, Irish politics, immigration, those and more are all here in the AOH.

Patrick J. Donlin, Sr.  
Trumbull Co. (Warren) Ohio  
Sean MacBride Div. 1, FFAI Chairman

Having moved around a lot as a kid, my grandmother's house in Youngstown, Ohio, had always been a constant, familiar place. There, like many of my Hibernian brothers, is where I learned that being of Irish decent and specifically being Irish-Catholic was unlike any other cultural experience I would encounter. I didn't know it at the time but the shillelagh

hanging on the wall, a colorful porcelain statue of St. Patrick displayed on the hutch, a collection of leprechaun decanters near the giant 1950's record player where tunes from the Clancy Brothers would fill the house during the holidays were not all normal things in every American home. Not everyone watched Notre Dame football with dad and uncles on Saturdays in the fall or went to Mass on Sunday an hour early so Papa could get his seat?

As I came of age, I went to church less, learned other family traditions my friends had or sadly, lacked. We built new traditions that centered on whatever was cool at the time — for me it was the music scene in Richmond, VA. I then moved away to college just outside of Washington, D.C. and ultimately landed in Austin, Texas, to start a family.

Those first years in Austin were hard. My wife was not yet finished with school and on the weekends we weren't together, I was searching for something bigger to get involved in. Something to do, people to hang out with, goals to achieve. It was then that I learned from my grandma about my great-grandmother's involvement in the Ladies AOH. She told me stories of campaigns to elect O'Brien for Sheriff, Carney for Governor, Kennedy for President, and issues that talked about Irish unification. From there, I knew I had to join and create an AOH in Austin. If not for anything else but a familiar camaraderie I missed from college.

Today, the Fr. Richard McCabe Div. 1, of Austin, is alive and well with membership growth swelling year over year. Men come together from all walks of life to work locally on division-specific projects and share their similar cultural experiences. That's all our members need and seek out — **a place to be accepted and something to do for the greater good**. That's what the Hibernians of the AOH offer: Friendship, Unity, and Charity.

Grandma sold her house in Youngstown in 2009 and unfortunately passed away in April 2017. While it was my great-grandmother who was involved in the LAOH it was my Grandma who got me involved in the AOH and I'll be eternally grateful for what was a casual "check in" conversation that changed my life. Will you join us?

M.P. Joyce

I decided to join the AOH in honor of my grandfather, James O'Leary, from Co. Kerry, who was very involved with the AOH in the Bronx, New York. I often saw

the **brotherhood and family aspect** that the AOH brought to our community. Watching grown men pray together is a powerful thing as a child.

The reason I stay active is for those same reason. I want my three children to grow up knowing the Irish culture, being comfortable in their Catholic faith and experiencing the feelings of belonging. It was easy for me to feel part of the Irish **community** because my father emigrated from Co. Kerry. Also, I grew up in a predominantly Irish-Catholic immigrant neighborhood. My children are growing up in rural Virginia, which is a much different environment. They do not have the constant reminders that they belong to a larger Irish community. The Hibernians remind them of that **heritage** and do it in a family friendly way — for which I am thankful.

Shane Quinlan  
General Thomas F. Meagher Division  
Virginia



I am a Hibernian to demonstrate the pride and belief in my Irish ancestors through tough times in Ireland and after first coming to America. My grandfather came to America from County Wexford and my grandmother from County Clare.

My mother always told me stories about the "old country" and about the countryside there. She encouraged me to join the AOH, but passed away before I committed to join. I love the experiences thus far. I'm blessed to be a part of the AOH.

Tom Binegar Why I'm a Hibernian

I'm proud of my Irish heritage and proud to be an Irish-American. I grew up surrounded by "Irishness" and Catholicism. This was instilled, in part, by my grandfather, a first-generation Irish-American, and my father, who was very active in our Irish community. The Hibernians provided opportunity to **socialize** with men with similar backgrounds. Membership provides the opportunity to learn more about my heritage and **inspired** me to research my family through DNA and related research. This helped me understand who I am as an Irish-American.

Bill Halpin  
Vice President, Virginia State Board

## '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.

# Ladies Hibernian News

## AOH-LAOH Presidents' Testimonial Weekend

National AOH President James F. McKay III and National LAOH President Patricia A. O'Connell welcomed many AOH-LAOH members and guests on Friday, October 13, 2017 to "A Musical Night in Old New Orleans in the St. Charles Room on the Third Floor at the St. Charles Hilton Hotel. Music was featured by Tim Laughlin's New Orleans All-Stars. On Saturday, October 14, 2017 the AOH National Board and the LAOH National Board hosted their 2017 Interim Board Meetings where many business items of each organization were addressed.

Prior to the Presidents' Testimonial Dinner, Mass was held at St. Patrick's Church concelebrated by the AOH National Chaplains. Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi challenged all Hibernians and guests to invite someone to become active in bringing Christ to another person.

A well-planned, delicious Testimonial Social and Banquet was held at the Intercontinental Hotel where once again, music was provided by Tim Laughlin's New Orleans All-Stars. Both National Presidents were recognized and honored for the Leadership they model and support by their AOH-LAOH membership.

Niall Burgess, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland, was the honored recipient of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award presented by AOH Vice President Daniel O'Connell and LAOH Vice President Carol Sheyer. Mr. Burgess in his comments thanked the AOH-LAOH membership for recognizing his long-standing support of working with the Hibernians in Irish-America and the continuing need that both our countries of Ireland and the United States must continue to strengthen on behalf of the Irish diaspora.

## President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



Now, as many of us are enjoying the change of seasons, I ask you to take a few minutes from your schedule to re-commit yourself to those words that each LAOH member states as she is initiated into the LAOH organization from the LAOH approved Ritual, "...I do solemnly promise to obey the Constitution, Ritual and Bylaws of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc...I will be faithful to the members of the Order...I will uphold the interest of the Order, dedicated to St. Brigid. To this, I pledge my sacred word of honor." These words along with the rest of the words from solemn obligation that is repeated each time a new candidate becomes a member provide us with the knowledge, skill set, and values to live our motto, "Friendship, Unity, & Christian Charity."

I join with the many Division Presidents who are asking each member of their Division to carefully consider how you can "step-up" and be considered as a candidate for an office as you have your Division elections during the October 1 through December 31 period. Let me remind you that in each of your Divisions there are members who have served in these offices who can be of assistance to you as you consider how you may serve the Division. As I have said many times, "you learn by doing" and "by doing you learn."

On behalf the LAOH National Board, I congratulate the many skilled and gracious women who have answered the request to serve at the State Board Level, the County Board Level, and the Division Level as these elections have either recently taken place or shall take place soon. On behalf of the National Board, I thank you skilled and gracious women who have completed your Term of Office or who shall soon complete your Term of Office. The Leadership Teams at each Level within the organization working with its membership at each Level serves as the important link in building a committed organization focused on the purpose of the LAOH as stated in our Constitution: (1) To promote FRIENDSHIP, UNITY, and CHRISTIAN CHARITY, (2) To foster and sustain loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and foster and sustain loyalty to the United States of America among its members, (3) To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, and (4) To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people and to promote Irish culture."

Yes, we are an organization comprised of Irish, Catholic Women. We must work together to encourage candidates to join our organization and through our modeling and support, we can sustain our membership to achieve our committed purpose. May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, continue to bless us as we work to live our Mission as stated in our Constitution, "...to strengthen our Roman Catholic Faith, our Country, and our Communities; and perpetuate the religion, history, culture and traditions of our Irish heritage."

As we approach the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls, let us remember in our prayers our many cherished members who rest in peace having answered God's call. We pray for the families of our deceased members who share so many meaningful memories. May we give THANKS to our heavenly Father as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends.

## National LAOH Treasurer

by Marilyn Madigan

### Fall Escapes

For the past 9 years, my friends and I have traveled to Cape Cod. On the way, we have stopped in Hibernian Halls in Albany, Binghamton and this year Schenectady. Our Hibernian Brothers and Sisters are very hospitable. I always love meeting my Brother and Sister Hibernians and spending time with them.

This fall Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, granddaughter of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, is repeating Hanna's Tour of the United States in 1917. Hanna Sheehy Skeffington is one of the most Famous Irish Suffragettes. Her husband Francis, a pacifist, was murdered during Easter Week 1916. In 1917, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington traveled to 21 States from coast to coast to tell the story of the murder of her husband by a British Officer. During the tour, she raised awareness and support for Irish Independence. The story of the tour is mostly unknown. I had read about the tour in a book about Irish Republican Women touring the United States. I was disappointed that the tour did not include Cleveland. The tour was scheduled at Boston College and the Irish Center in Canton during our annual trip to the Cape. My friends and I decided to go to the lecture at the Irish Center.

I was honored to be able to speak with Micheline. During her grandmother's tour, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians of Butte Montana hosted a banquet in honor of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington. A century later, I presented her the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Honor Our History pin that Commemorated the Women of 1916. Three nieces of Elizabeth O'Farrell were also in attendance. It is a small world. One of the nieces, I had met in Dublin during the Commemorations. She had noticed the Honor Our History Pin and when I heard her aunt was Elizabeth O'Farrell my pin was given to her. She treasures the Pin and is in a place of honor with other 1916 Collectables. What a night.



## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	mmsgrgray@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

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

# Missions and Charities

by Mary Ann Lubinsky

Right now I am preparing to travel to New Orleans for the LAOH Interim Board Meeting and the AOH-LAOH National Presidents' Testimonial Dinner. I am looking forward to seeing many of you from across the country at these great events!

I am hoping to have information with me at the meeting regarding the Columban Fathers proposed brick garden with a section set aside for the LAOH. I will email it to the State Missions & Charities Officers when I receive it so that they can forward to all of the divisions in their respective states.



I would like to address a problem we are having. Every month I receive a letter from Father Tim Mulroy, Director of the Columban Fathers, with a list of our members who are directly sending money for Mass Stipends and donations to the Fathers. As a National Officer, I have access only to the email addresses of my State counterparts and must depend on them to help with this and similar problems. I have reached out to several State M&C Officers to ask their assistance in contacting these members to inform them that these monies are not counted as LAOH. Only funds sent to me for deposit in our Missions and Charities account are actually credited to the LAOH. Some of these members are still sending \$5 for the Mass Stipends even though the minimum was raised to \$10 effective January 1, 2017.

Speaking of Mass Stipends, there are still many members out there who do not realize that Mass Stipends are for Mass cards and should be listed as such on the Report Form. Only actual monetary donations to the Columban Fathers (when there is no Mass card) should be listed in the Columban Fathers Donation column. An updated Report Form with highlighted information will be sent to the State Officers for forwarding and is also available on the LAOH website at [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) under Missions and Charities. Please get in the habit of checking the website for any updates.

Once, again, I am looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans and in 2018 in Louisville!

## Pennsylvania



**Pictured left to right: Mary Ellen Myers, Division Catholic Action; Colleen Bowers, National LAOH Catholic Action and Division Treasurer; Eileen C recipient; Joy Short recipient and Division Missions & Charities; Maggie Cloonan, Division 11 National Life Member; Shirley Murphy, PA State Treasurer, Division Vice President and National Life Member; Sr. Louise Grundish, SC, Division Chaplain; Bernadette Kime, Division Historian and Maria Gallagher Division Mistress at Arms.**

Members of PA Allegheny County Division 11 attended the annual Lady of Knock mass at St. Stanislaus Church in Pittsburgh. Also recognized at the mass were two members who received their Golden Rose Award – for members who have belonged to the LAOH for 20 years or more.

## Michigan

It is with sad hearts that Michigan Hibernians bid goodbye to Sue Lauster on September 12, 2017, after a valiant 10 ½ year battle with cancer. It was her husband Dick Lauster, a member of the Steven Walsh Division in , Mi that introduced Sue to the wonderful sisterhood/brotherhood of the Hibernians. She joined the Rose Kennedy Division and served as their President for six non-consecutive terms through the years as well as nearly every other board position. She served as the Michigan State President for 4 years, again holding various offices on the State Board. She was appointed National Secretary in 2013 when the elected secretary stepped down from that position. Sue was the Hibernian Woman of the Year in 2008, received her Life Membership in 2014 and was a member of the St. Brigid Degree Team. She attended many National Conventions both with Dick and after his passing. Very few LAOH/AOH events were missed by Sue even during her illness. Sue was a true Hibernian and we will miss her dearly. May the soul of our beloved "sister" rest in peace.

# National Irish Historian

by Dee Wallace

What a blessing to have our 2017-2018 Irish History Writing Contest information out to all State Irish Historians that have put the material and information into the hands of the teachers of each respective school. The topic this year is "Expressing Irish History through Music".

I believe that the most important goal of the Irish History Contest is that we continue to share our proud Irish and Irish American History. The students that are entering this writing contest should have fun with this subject and let the topic take you where it may.

We are very proud of our history though it has taken many turns throughout our lifetime and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians have archived our history in places such as the University of Notre Dame, Catholic University and the Irish American Historical Society. Also the John J. Burns Library at Boston College has one of the largest collections of Irish History. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians has had our material archived there since 2006. So much of our history has been forgotten or has been put on the back burner but with our Irish History Writing Essay Contest, our students are bringing our history back to life.

As we live our motto, Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity and as Father Tim Mulroy, Director of Columban Fathers (whom the LAOH support) and the Columban Mission Magazine he once wrote, "Since its foundation in the 19th century, the LAOH has continuously supported people on the margins of society who cherished the dream of a better life. The LAOH has provided greatly needed support to poor immigrants from Ireland so faced many hardships and obstacles including discrimination because of their Catholic Faith." Our students who participate in this Irish History Writing Contest bring forth a lot of the painful struggle and agony and hardships by the people of Ireland for liberation a century ago.

## Kentucky



**LAOH Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1 hosted an Irish Tea Room selling Irish tea, coffee & homemade Irish desserts at the annual Louisville Irish Festival held at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky.**



**LAOH Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1 received the Spirit Award from Saint Joseph's Children's Home for their volunteer efforts at the St. Joseph's Children's Home Annual Picnic. The Ladies were recognized for having a fun and positive spirit while bringing in record breaking funds at their booth for the children's home!**

# New York



LAOH Division 6 Greenpoint Volunteers: Bridie Mitchell, Jessica Darragh, Kathy Ferguson, Gina Sheehan, Mary Hogan, Sr. Miriam Daniels, Bridie Buckley, Tara Atson, Aileen Cahill, Claire Hulton.

## “Walk A Mile in Their Shoes”

The LAOH Div. 6, Greenpoint Brooklyn sponsored a charity walk to benefit Pieta House USA. The “Walk a Mile in Their Shoes” event was held on Sept 10th, 2017 National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day in the USA in McCarren Park, Brooklyn. This Walk sponsored by the LAOH was a huge success. Volunteers from

the LAOH and walkers from all over including Msgr McClancy HS Girls Basketball Team helped raise over two thousand dollars for Pieta House USA. Pieta House is a Suicide Prevention and Awareness Center located in the NY Irish Center in Long Island City, NY. The Center provides free counseling sessions to anyone in need.



Joint LAOH/AOH membership Booth at Great Irish Fair (GIF), Coney Island, Brooklyn. Sitting-Chaplain, Sr. Virginia Lake, CSJ; Arlene Miranda. Standing: Rose Coulson; Mary Hogan (Honoree & National Organizer); Nicole Malliotakis; Cathy Doherty. Background- Danny Chiarantano, Joe Glynn

## Great Irish Fair

Mary Hogan (LAOH Past National President) was the 2017 recipient of the “Round Tower Award” at the Great Irish Fair (GIF). The Round Towers of Ireland stand out in the countryside like the Gothic Cathedrals of Europe. They represent the spiritual aspirations of Irish monks and their defense of the Faith against centuries of persecution. THE ROUND TOWER AWARD is presented to honor a person who exemplifies the strength, courage and the missionary spirit of the Irish monks

who built the Round Towers. GIF Chairperson Marty Cottingham spoke of Mary “You are most deserving of this distinction because of who you are and what you do for the community.” Mary was selected for this honor for her work with the LAOH and as Chairperson of the Brooklyn St. Patrick’s Parade and for her many years of volunteering at the GIF and many other charitable causes. The Brooklyn Hibernians for decades have participated in this Fair; the Fair raises money for Catholic Schools in the Brooklyn Diocese. It is also a great opportunity to recruit new members.

## Burgess Wins Sean McBride Award



The Executive Board of the National AOH congratulated Niall Burgess on his award, from left, National Secretary Jere Cole, President Jim McKay, Burgess, V.P. Dan O'Connell and Treasurer Sean Pender. (Photo by Pat Garin.)



The Honorable Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the United States, eloquently introduced the Hibernians' Sean McBride Award recipient Niall Burgess. (Photo by Pat Garin)



Past National President Ned McGinley shares a few laughs with Niall Burgess, Ireland's Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs. (Photo by Pat Garin.)



National AOH President James McKay III congratulated Niall Burgess, the Sean McBride Award recipient. (Photo by Pat Garin.)



Niall Burgess, Ireland's Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and former Consul General of Ireland in New York, delivered an outstanding speech after having been awarded the AOH-LAOH McBride Award in New Orleans on Oct. 14. (Photo by Pat Garin.)



National Digest Editor John O'Connell, left, and Hibernian Digest printer and New York Hibernian Ken Granville were among the hundreds who enjoyed the Friday evening "Musical Night in Old New Orleans" event on October 13 during the Presidents Testimonial Dinner weekend. (Photo by Darryl Schmitt.)



National Digest Editor John O'Connell had the pleasure of meeting, in person for the first time, LAOH Assistant Digest Editor Sandra Smith at the Presidents Testimonial Dinner in New Orleans on October 14.



Enjoying the Friday evening musical event, John Fitzmorris III, National AOH Catholic Action chairman, left and retired Judge Jimmy Kuhn, National AOH Legal Counsel and LA State President. (Photo by Darryl Schmitt.)

# Presidents Testimonial Weekend



Judge McKay's family was happy to join him for the exciting testimonial dinner. Back row: Austin, Marie, Jim McKay; bottom row: Cecelia, Fionn, Vivienne, Zoe and Lily McKay. (Photo by Pat Garin)



Marie and Niall Burgess, left, National AOH Chaplain Thomas Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile; AOH Vice President Dan O'Connell; and National LAOH President Patricia O'Connell on the dais at the Testimonial Dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



AOH National Rituals Chairman J J Kelly and National Historian Mike McCormack after Mass at St. Patrick's Church. (Photo by Pat Garin)



President Patricia O'Connell thanked everyone for coming to the Testimonial Dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



Past National President Brendan Moore and Neil Cosgrove, National Chairman of Political Education, Irish-American History Month and Anti-Defamation committees, at the dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



Tim Laughlin's New Orleans All-Stars entertained the guests at the Presidents Testimonial Dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



President Patricia O'Connell enjoyed opening her testimonial gift presented to her by Vice President Carol Sheyer. (Photo by Pat Garin)



National President Judge James F. McKay III addressed the guests attending the Testimonial Dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



National Webmaster Jeff Nisler and New York State Hibernian Jim Sullivan at the Presidents Testimonial Dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)



National Vice President Daniel O'Connell formally introduced the national president at the dinner. (Photo by Pat Garin)