

## Kentucky Hibernians prepare for National Convention



Kentucky Hibernians are working hard to get ready for the national convention in Louisville in July.

It was December 1, and while most Hibernians around the country were getting everything ready for Christmas, the Louisville Hibernians — led by local chairs John and Julia O'Dwyer — were leading the local team to prepare for the AOH-LAOH National Convention in July.

That's right, we have the good fortune of having a husband and wife team leading the way for another successful Louisville Convention and you won't want to miss a day of it. As our Kentucky brothers and sisters work hard on the advance work you may wonder how you can make their life easier. It's simple, get your packages and rooms booked as soon as possible. The earlier they know how many are coming to this year's extravaganza the better.

The convention will begin Wednesday, July 11, with the opening Mass followed by the Taste of Louisville Icebreaker, sure to bring back the memories of conventions past. Thursday's joint session will be the start of convention business, including proposals for the 2022 convention site. If you are interested in presenting a convention bid for '22, contact Danny O'Connell, AOH National Vice President. Following the joint-session both the AOH and LAOH will get down to the business as hand.

Friday, July 13, brings nominations of national officers to the forefront, followed by a great evening Irish Night event. The O'Dwyer's have a great night of Irish entertainment planned that

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## 'New Energy' needed in Brexit crisis

By Neil Cosgrove

In the "Through the Looking Glass" world of British policy in Northern Ireland, inactivity has been occurring at a frantic pace. Eighteen months since deciding to leave the European Union and eight months after triggering Article 50 committing the UK (and an unwilling Northern Ireland electorate) to leaving the EU by April 2019, it is clear that the British government still has no plan. They continue to attempt to hide this fact in a cloud of diplomatic doublespeak of "frictionless borders" and irrelevant trivia on the history of "the Common Travel Area". As regards the CTA, it is interesting to note while Westminster constantly repeats they have "no desire to return to the borders of the past," they forget those "borders of the past" existed in the "Common Travel Area" era, which they cite to dismiss fears over a hard border. Drawing inspiration from H.G. Wells, attempts have been made to hand-wave the possibility of a border with miracle technology; proposals ranging from license plate readers to permanently moored blimps.

Despite best efforts to repackage wishful thinking as a plan, the Republic of Ireland and the European Union have not been taken in by this British blarney. Dublin, with the commendable backing of the European Union, has made it clear that any return to a partition, no matter how allegedly seamless, is unacceptable and a threat to the Good Friday Agreement.

There is only one way to avoid such a possibility as a consequence of Brexit, a "special status designation" for Northern Ireland, which would allow it to be in synch with the European Union (and member Republic of Ireland), thus eliminating the need for border checks and infrastructure.

Insiders in the Tory government are reported to have stated off the record that "special status" is a practical and acceptable solution they would embrace to resolve the Brexit border crisis. Special status would move Britain's post-Brexit EU border to the Irish Sea and take the isle of Ireland out of the Brexit divorce

proceedings. However, there is a problem: the loyalist Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP, on whose support Prime Minister May's government relies to stay in existence, have already categorically rejected any proposal that would grant special status to Northern Ireland. The irony here is ripe; from its inception in 1922, "Northern Ireland" has been a special status area designed at its birth and supported by gerrymandering to give special status to Union interest. DUP leader Arlene Foster has stated that "the DUP will not countenance any arrangement that would lead to a new border being created in the Irish Sea. The United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union as one nation and we are leaving as one nation." There is historical hypocrisy in Ms. Foster's statement; she has apparently forgotten that Ireland twice voted to leave as one nation, the Home Rule Act of 1912 and in the rejection of British governance in the election of 1918. Ms. Foster's antecedents Carson and Craig had no difficulty in asking for special status then without a blush.

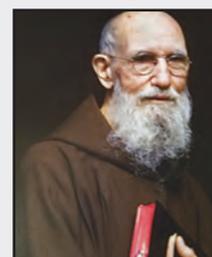
The final irony is that in rejecting even discussion of a special status area, Ms. Foster is ignoring the majority of the electorate of both Unionist and Republican communities who clearly expressed their will to remain in the EU; the DUP and Ms. Foster have a remarkably elastic view of democracy; it stretches and shrinks to suit their special interests. However, facts and logic are being drowned out as members of Ms. Foster's DUP are busy banging the Lambeg drum and playing the frayed "Orange Card," using incendiary rhetoric of "Irish Blackmail" to categorize the crisis that "their nation," not the Republic of Ireland, not the EU, have created.

The hypocrisy of the DUP's attitude toward special status is so great; it is continued onto the next crisis. We are rapidly approaching the one-year anniversary of the collapse of the

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The National  
**hibernian digest**

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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**Michigan**

**From the Soup Kitchen to Sainthood  
Blessed Solanus Casey**



**A group picture of the Michigan AOH and LAOH. Also second from the left is Kevin Blute from the New Jersey, Fr. Solanus Casey Division.**

**By Paul Gowdy**

Pope Francis announced on May 4, 2017, that Father Solanus Casey, a member of the Capuchin Franciscan Order of St. Joseph in Detroit and one of the co-founders of the city's Capuchin Soup Kitchen, had passed the rigorous test assigned to the process of sainthood, by being elevated from Venerable to Blessed by the Roman Catholic Church. Fr. Solanus was born Bernard Francis Casey on November 25, 1870, and lived on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He was the sixth child in a family of 16, born to Irish immigrant parents who left Ireland after the famine years. At the age of 21, Bernard entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. In 1897, he joined the Capuchin Order at Detroit. In 1924, he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

He said during his final illness, "I'm offering my suffering that all might be one." He died at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957, at the same day and hour of his First Holy Mass 53 years earlier. Fr. Solanus co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in 1929 and today it serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing and human development programs to the people of the community, in addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day.

The Fr. Solanus Casey Division AOH and Ethel Kennedy Division LAOH in Macomb County, Michigan, have worked together for 26 years organizing the annual Hibernian Capuchin 'Souperbowl' Benefit for the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The planning meetings run monthly from April through October every year. Our fundraiser is possible thanks to numerous donations and volunteers without whose help we could not be successful. Eight local Irish musician groups volunteered their time together with two Irish Dance schools and an Irish Choir. The Detroit Gaelic League radio show was present performing live with news items, interviews and Irish music during our event. Forty-five local restaurants donated 280 gallons of various soups. Twelve bakeries donated assorted breads, doughnuts, cakes, Irish soda bread and pastries. Sixty-six door prizes were donated ranging from high-class jewelry to numerous gift certificates from local merchants. Our volunteer count covering the seven-hour event requiring 120 volunteers who prepared and served soups, sold raffle tickets, managed the car park, and many other tasks. After the event we were able to donate \$17,000 to the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Our total of money raised for the Capuchins since the inception

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**The "SouperBowl" check presentation to the Capuchins, Fr. Jerry Johnson and Br. Richard Merlin, on November 19 at the Capuchin Center.**



## president's message

by Jim McKay III

As I write this, the year is winding down, and by the time you get this issue, we will be in the very beginnings of the new year. While the joyous light of our holy Christmas still shines upon us, this is a perfect time to plan ways to help His Light guide our path into 2018.

We recently held the President's Dinner in New Orleans, where our National Board gathered to conduct the business of our Noble Order. The LAOH also chose to gather there for their respective meetings. I think our gatherings were productive and at the same time were enjoyed by all. On a personal level, I'm glad these only come every other year.

Our National Vice President Danny O'Connell debuted our new advertising campaign designed for new membership. It's very tech savvy and represents the first time that we have used our membership talents in this field with such success. Only time will tell on its effectiveness, although early reports indicate that we are reaching the market intended. While in New Orleans, we also heard the reports of the chairmen of our various committees who detailed their activities since the convention in Atlantic City. Obviously too long to include in this article, but if any of you all wish to get a copy of these reports, our National Secretary Jere Cole has them on file for your perusal.

In January many of our Hibernians, both AOH and LAOH, will participate in the March for Life event in Washington, D.C. We invite all of our membership to participate if possible on that very special day. Our National Life Director John Patrick Walsh has, as usual, planned a number of events for the Hibernians this year.

Both Marie and I would like to take this opportunity to express our hope that you all had a Merry and Holy Christmas, and wish all of my Hibernian Brothers and Sisters a healthy and happy 2018.

God Bless.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### Per Capita Time

It is that time of year again when our thoughts turn to collecting the per capita from each division. By now you have all received your rosters for updating and many have already returned, thank you.

Per capita is due to the national office by February 15, 2018. Remember, you are paying per capita for 2017. We are always one year behind. Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2017. It is the per capita that you collected during the 2017 calendar year. Divisions that were established in 2017 also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2017. Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members.

As you complete the Form 11 to send with your payment: It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership total numbers, especially Lines 11 & 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to figure out why.

Divisions that do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in the national convention in Louisville this summer.

When you receive your 2018 membership cards, you will also receive a fresh printout copy of the roster and a new Form 11, along with a Missions and Charities event report form.

All forms, including the Form 40, are available as fillable PDFs online at our website [www.AOH.com](http://www.AOH.com) and you are encouraged to use only those new iterations of the forms. Please discard all old Form 40s and Form 9s you may have in stock.

If you have received your 2018 cards and have sent in additional changes, please be aware that we are processing those additional Form 40s, but cards may not be issued immediately as we are prioritizing the processing of the rosters and issuance of 2018 cards to be sure all rosters and 2018 membership cards are out first.

## 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."

### Deadline for Feb.-Mar. issue

All articles and photos are due no later than  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2018**



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas spending time with family and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is always a special time of the year for every Irish Catholic American.

**LABELS:** In the spirit of the season for giving, I am asking every Hibernian to take a moment today and make your label donation. As you know, 100 percent of the label proceeds go to Hibernian Charities in support of AOH projects. These include Project St. Patrick, Irish Way Scholarships, History Day, Hibernian Disaster Relief, and more. Last year we raised \$18,000 and this year we would like to do even better. Remember, no donation is too large and no donation is too small. Together Everyone Achieves More. Working together we will accomplish great things.

**MARKETING, PROMOTION and ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:** As you know, we have kicked off our national advertising campaign. Our goal is to educate the Irish, Catholic, American community about the AOH by promoting our work. First the committee updated our branding logo with a simple statement about who we are: Irish – Catholic – American. We have sent the branding logos in 4-color, 2-color, and gray scale (B&W) to every president at every level for whom we had an e-mail address. The best thing you can do is use this everywhere you can.

Second, we updated and modernized the webpage and created a landing page to take us from our advertising to the AOH. This took quite some time and a lot of work for the committee and especially our web team. Moving forward, we will be counting on you, the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, to provide great content, great photos and great videos. The most important thing we need is action photos. Hibernians being Hibernians.

Third we created advertisements with three specific themes based on research as to what Irish Americans are looking for: Embrace your Irish Heritage; Join the voice of Irish America; and, Grow your Irish American community. These three themes have appeared to resonate well as we have received response in the first three weeks of the campaign from 22 states.

Finally, we are now in the follow-up stage. This is where fast action on everyone's part is critical. National Organizer Tim McSweeney is following up on the application. When Tim contacts you for assistance we need immediate action. We need to cultivate Irish Americans who are interested in the AOH and vet them as well. I, on the other hand, am following up on the requests for more information. We have a goal to reply to all requests within 24 hours. This has created a challenge for Tim and me but I'm happy to report that most requests for more information are turning into applications if the individual meets our requirements.

I'm sure Tim will report moving forward on the possibility of new divisions in states that currently have no AOH activity as well as the revitalization of the AOH in many locations. Beyond this, we have forwarded many requests for information to LAOH President Patricia O'Connell who is personally following up.

**Convention:** 2018 is here, which means Louisville here we come. The local convention committee has been doing a bang-up job preparing for this year's return to Louisville. We can't thank John O'Dwyer enough for leading the local AOH team. You will see the advertising kickoff in today's Digest (on the back page) and we suggest moving forward quickly to reserve your room and order your package for the 2018 AOH-LAOH National Convention.

**Ritual:** Degreed members understand the full importance of our ritual including advance degrees. It is important that we promote, encourage and assist our non-degreed members in receiving their major degrees. This can range from simple encouragement to getting in the car and driving four hours with them to participate in a degree ceremony with them. Your assistance here advances the work of the AOH and will help us to retain the new members. With the National Convention right around the corner, now is the time to plan for your non-degreed members to receive their majors. We look forward to seeing many of you in the Degree ceremony in Louisville.

God Bless.



## deputy chaplain's report

by Rev. Michael H. Healy

New beginnings can warm the cockles of our hearts. God is always promoting new beginnings. He encourages us to start anew and to rid our souls from guilt and lost occasions and expectations. He grants us his mercy and forgiveness and offers us reconciliation. This opportunity to reconcile with him and with our neighbor helps us to put the past behind us. As the saying goes "The River Goes Around The Rock" and to put aside our divisions and to be in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Charity is the corner stone for the Hibernians. In the New Year we have much to be grateful for. Our dynamic leadership, both men and women, have demonstrated for us, their commitment to our country, our church by making us aware of the issues of faith, our voice on behalf of the unborn, our constant support for our brothers and sisters in the northern counties of Ireland. Though we live in turbulent times, I am told the best fishing occurs when the tides come together. It is then that we see our sense of character when we face the tides of Evil. As I write these few words I am aware of the Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent: Stay awake and be watchful, the Lord is coming. May we be ready to greet Him. Have a happy and holy New Year and the blessing of St. Patrick and St. Bridget be with you. Amen.



## Treasurer's Report

by Sean Pender

Happy 2018 to all. The start of a new year is a great time to review the successes of the past, plan for the future, and commit to improve as needed. As an organization I think the AOH can look back at 2017 as a successful year where we laid the groundwork to execute a successful 2018. The National Board meeting in New Orleans in October served to highlight our past work and present our future plans, and I must say the excitement and energy among the members was palpable.

Our National President has said the AOH is the voice of Irish America and it is a voice that is speaking out on the issues that are important to us. Our Vice President has helped steer the marketing and social media committee to create and launch a major national marketing campaign targeting growth among others who are Irish, Catholic and American. Technology is being leveraged to streamline processes, a new way to identify and recognize veterans has been launched, and we continue in our work to promote life, enact a fair immigration policy for the Irish and the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

I will continue to update divisions and boards regarding the ongoing tax exempt status process with the hope that 2018 will be the year that we will be able to get to 100 percent compliance throughout the Order. Remember, all divisions and boards MUST file a yearly 990N with the IRS to maintain tax-exempt status. Finally, I'd ask all members, divisions and boards to remember that when submitting payment to the National Board to make sure the check is made out to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and not to any officer; please do not postdate checks and do not send cash as payment.

With every good wish for a happy, safe and peaceful New Year.



## Director's Report

by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the next generation...

As we and our Divisions are operating in a new calendar year, many officers returned to the same position and others are new to the duties of their respective offices. Knowledge is key and, ideally, there was a transition or orientation period that allowed new officers to work with their predecessors. As the officers are the "backbone" of the Division operations, it is critical that each man is prepared and has the appropriate tools to perform the obligations of his office.

As stated in my previous articles, Division leadership should regularly share and discuss the roles and responsibilities of each elected and appointed office to better inform the officers and membership of ways to contribute to the Order. A recommended practice is to openly review (or read aloud) the description of four offices at every other Division meeting. This approach may better inform current officers of expectations as well as welcome interest from the membership. Members will sit on the "sidelines" until they recognize an opportunity to be involved or if they are invited to serve.

Stronger Divisions use succession planning and have a strategy to use resources (members that offer to share skills and talents) as effectively as possible to advance the mission of the Order. This planning allows experienced officers to "pass the torch" to newer officers. Ideally, there is a seamless transition from one officer to the other and work on Division goals continues in a positive direction.

A challenge to Division officers: Who will succeed you next year or the year after? Now is the time to recruit someone to train and educate so you can "pass the torch" to strengthen the Order. Make an investment now in the future of our Order.



## Director's Report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I wish you a happy and healthy 2018!

Congratulations to the new State Board installed at the recent Maryland State Convention in Ocean City. Brother Mike McConnell was installed as the new State Board President. The convention was a great success and a lot of work was accomplished.

In Michigan, the AOH brothers were present for the beautification ceremony for Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey at Ford Field in Detroit. During that weekend's events, the AOH Hibernian Rifles, along with members of the Fr. Solanus Casey Division, stood guard at the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit.

In Virginia, the Brian Boru Major Degree team performed an exemplification of the Major Degrees in early November.

Brothers, being a National Director has allowed me an opportunity to see the amazing things our Order is doing. As our new recruiting program is taking off, please be sure to inform new members that they are not only part of your local Division but are also part of an Order that reaches across the United States. I think it is important that all members know that the great things we are doing locally are a reflection on all of us.

As always, please e-mail me with any questions or concerns at dparks121@yahoo.com



## Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

First, my sincere thanks to our Brother and Sister Hibernians in New Orleans for all their hard work, time and effort in putting together a full weekend of activities as we honored our AOH and LAOH National Presidents. Your hospitality, friendship and welcome were greatly appreciated. On the same note, our National Board meeting was productive and with the new initiatives in place regarding membership among others, an ambitious and positive course has been set for our Order for the 21st Century!

Here in New England, we have had a terrific fall season with a whirlwind of activity. Six days after returning from New Orleans, National Organizer Tim McSweeney and National Director Liam McNabb, conducted a Leadership and Organizational Seminar that was attended by representatives of four New England States. The conference, hosted by Division 36 in Worcester, MA, was informative and the exchange of ideas offered will benefit all. Another seminar is being planned for this coming spring in Connecticut.

On November 4, a street was dedicated in Lawrence, MA in memory of five-term AOH National Director David Burke, who passed in 2009. It was a great tribute to Dave, who was a dynamo for our Hibernian Order and for all things Irish. "David Burke Way" will keep his memory alive for generations to come!

On November 8, LAOH Massachusetts Past State President Sheila Lynch passed suddenly. My sincere condolences to my fellow Brother and Sister Hibernians in Massachusetts on her passing, and especially to the members of Divisions 10 and 18 where Sheila was a member. On November 12 and 13, I attended her wake and funeral and expressed my personal condolences and that of our National Board. May God grant her eternal rest.

As this column goes to press, Brother Hibernian Tom McGrath is about to begin his 225-mile run from Boston to New York. Tom is running to raise funds for the American Wheelchair Mission. On the eve of the race a fundraiser was held at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown, MA, and on the next night a fundraiser was held at the Home of Division 36 in Worcester. Over the next five days, as Tom makes his way along his route, he will make nightly stops in Stafford Springs, East Hartford, New Haven and Greenwich CT; fundraisers are planned at each site. Brother McGrath plans to arrive in Manhattan on December 8 where a celebration will be held at the Basilica of St Patrick's Old Cathedral. Tom Beirne and James Hamilton of New York, along with Frank Kearney of Connecticut and Dick Thompson, Joe McCusker and Dave Clark of Massachusetts are coordinating this endeavor in their respective states. My thanks to all of you for your time and efforts in planning this cooperative venture of the AOH, K of C and Gaelic Associations.

As we elect and install new Division Officers. I want to thank the outgoing Division Officers for their service, and offer my best wishes to those who have been elected to serve in 2018. Your time, talents and efforts enhance and greatly benefit our order!

With the start of 2018 upon us, please continue do whatever you can to increase your Division's membership. The Saint Patrick's Day events are prime venues for recruiting new members. My thanks for all that you do!

Best wishes for Happy and Healthy 2018!

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)



## Director's Report

by Tom O'Donnell

Project St. Patrick Chairman

Every Hibernian in every jurisdiction of the Order needs to be unwavering in our support for vocations, helping those who are called to serve our Church. Just as the Irish protected and defended priests during the horrific penal days in Ireland, so too should Irish-Americans who are proud of their Irish heritage and claim membership in the AOH or LAOH. We must show our support spiritually and financially to seminarians and religious who are in need.

Brothers, we are in the process of finalizing Project Saint Patrick applications for the year. We have received many applications from Seminarians and Religious. Thank you to all States, Counties, Divisions and members who have continued to support Project St. Patrick. This great program serves as our contact with our local Dioceses. This is a terrific stepping-stone to the advancement of our Order and getting the knowledge of what we are about out to the general public.

Our National Board can't stress enough the importance of this joint venture that has been established between the AOH and the LAOH. Remember that it is our duty and responsibility to help protect and support our young men and women who have chosen vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life, to devote their lives to God.

Again, Project St. Patrick is an ongoing drive during our Annual Campaign and throughout the year. We will always accept donations and scholarships on behalf of our members. Name-recognition scholarships are a great way to recognize or remember someone from your Division who has truly lived in our motto.

Project St. Patrick Prayers Cards are a great source for spreading the mission of PSP. Additional PSP cards can be obtained by contacting me, Tom O'Donnell, at [NLNOD@comcast.net](mailto:NLNOD@comcast.net) (type PSP in the subject line). If anyone needs additional information regarding Project St. Patrick, please feel free to contact me. Hopefully 2018 can be our most productive PSP campaign to date.



## Director's Report

by John Wilson

I want to thank all my Hibernian brothers that I met this past year for all the great work that has been accomplished. Our marketing campaign is in full swing and the dedicated members of National Board continue to work to help grow the Order. Please take a minute and go to our webpage, aoh.com, and under "about the AOH" look at the "AOH Division Directory" to see if and how your Division is listed. If any of the information needs to be corrected or updated, please contact our AOH National Webmaster Jeff Nisler.

In my Division, I want to thank several members who work with the Knights of Columbus diligently every year to provide Thanksgiving dinners to over 3,000 people through the "No Hunger Holiday" program now in the 27th year. <http://nohungerholiday.com/>. With this endeavor completed, we now focus on the Adopt-A-Family Program. This Program helps struggling parents with children, the unemployed or under-employed, and the elderly on fixed income have Christmas by providing them with food and gifts, but also basic needs such as gas cards and household items. Now in its 30th year, our Division adopted one of the 600 families and purchased items to provide a nice Christmas for this family. Bernie McNamee, a member of my division and also a member of the Loyal Order of the Squirrels, provided over 400 new and refurbished bicycles; this is enough to give a bike to each child served through the Adopt-A-Family Program. McNamee has been fixing up bikes for the Adopt-A-Family program for 17 years. He has nine people who work two days a week for three months, right up to the Adopt-A-Family weekend.

January 19 will be the "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. President McKay asked at our summit in October to reach out to bagpipers and Hibernian Bands to join the AOH at the March for Life in Washington. It falls on a Friday this year and if you can't make it to D.C. please join one of the marches near you. <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2018/local-march-for-life-events/>. We are not only Hibernians for Life but we are Pro-Life!

As you make plans for your local St Patrick's Day celebrations it would be a great time to think how to promote Irish American Heritage Month. This is probably a good time of the year to send your request for a proclamation from your governor and local officials requesting March be designated Irish American Heritage Month.

Make plans now to join your fellow Hibernians in Louisville for the 2018 National Convention. Have a blessed and safe New Year.

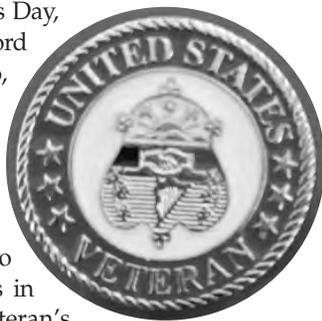


## Veterans Affairs

by Jim Green  
Chairman

As of this writing, and having just observed Veterans Day, we are all now preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus with our families, friends and fellow Hibernians. So, though you may see this after the holiday, I want to wish you and you families a very blessed and happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

I hope you have all had the opportunity to see an image of the new AOH Veterans pin, which will be available through the AOH National Office. I wish to thank brother Danny Eakins and his Division brothers in Ohio for triggering the idea of creating a veteran's commemorative pin. We then formed a committee and I'd like to thank them for participating in the project – they are Danny Eakins, and National Board brothers Vice President Danny O'Connell, Secretary Jere Cole, Historian Mike McCormack and myself. Mike McCormack submitted a design recommendation that was selected for the pin. Brother Ed Johnson's company in Rhode Island is producing the pin. We are all hoping that your Divisions have by now pre-ordered enough pins (\$5 each) to honor their veterans by presenting them their pins at a Division meeting or gathering. If not, the AOH Order Form has been modified to include the Veterans pin to allow for future individual or group orders.



In other news, I recently found out from brother Brendan Cooney that veterans are now authorized to shop online at the Navy Exchange, tax-free and reduced prices – at [www.mynavyexchange.com/Veterans](http://www.mynavyexchange.com/Veterans) - You'll need to sign on to register, but that's it. I used to love to visit the "Exchange" when I was on active duty and this is a real benefit. Check it out!!

Brother Ed Dougherty of Philadelphia shared information on Help for Heroes. Through a new partnership between the DAV and the PenFed Foundation, qualifying veterans of all eras may be eligible for one-time, needs-based grants. The program provides honorably discharged veterans financial assistance through a direct payment to a third party. To find out more about qualifying and to locate a DAV national service officer, go to [www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office](http://www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office).

Lastly, now that your Financial Secretaries should have received their Division rosters for this year's updates, please reach out to your Division members to determine who your veterans are and check-off the new veteran's box on the roster for each of them. It's very important to do that now so that we can communicate more effectively with our Hibernian veterans throughout the year.

God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.



## Director's Report

by Dan Dennehy  
Immigration Chairman

### AOH Immigration Committee 101

The AOH In America was founded to protect our Church and Catholic Irish Immigrants from nativist attacks and negative stereotypes. We continue today, promoting the benefits of Ireland's cultural exchange with our fellow Americans and preserving our relationship with the people of Ireland. National President Judge McKay is committed to the AOH's work in attaining rectification for Irish people long waiting for the right visa. The past year has demonstrated how hard life is for Irish immigrants without reform.

Each Division, County and State should have an appointed chairman of Immigration upon election of Officers. AOH immigration chairs should give a brief report to the Division regularly.

At AOH National President McKay's suggestion, AOH Immigration will shortly commence a regular conference call with focus on education, advocacy and current trends. AOH Immigration Committee and guest speakers will focus on immigration issues in the U.S. related to the Irish. You are invited to participate. Please contact me by phone or email to register for details on the calls. These National Immigration calls will serve as a way to keep informed and participate in AOH action.

For new members and Immigration Committee Officers here are some of our aims:

- Legislation and Political Education: Our mission legislatively is to make sure any U.S. Immigration reform provides visas and future flow for the Irish. It is always important to be aware of current trends and familiar with our legislators. We must keep our elected representative aware of our issues to assure laws work for us.

- Community Support: Our community mission is to provide assistance to Irish Immigrants, young and old. AOH Immigration Chairs must continuously familiarize themselves with the nearest Irish Consulate and Irish immigration Center. When emergencies occur, that familiarity is crucial.

- Guidance: Our committee refers Irish Americans who would like dual citizenship, Irish passports and information on retiring or working in Ireland and Irish U.S. resident aliens who want to seek U.S. citizenship and visa information to agencies that can help. Moving or returning to Ireland can be a very costly and complicated prospect. Emigrants to Ireland must get Irish driver licenses, car, homeowner and health insurance and all are a major cost factor, plus Ireland requires that non-residents maintain significant resources and bank accounts. The CrossCare Migrant Project is an Ireland-based organization that focuses on this.

Department of Foreign Affairs US Embassy and Consulates  
<https://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/north-and-central-america/united-states-of-america/#>

Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers: <http://ciic-usa.org>

A one-stop site supported by The Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform  
<http://undocumentedirish.com>

Hibernian Halls should consider participating in the Emigrant Support Program Grants, take a look at the Global Irish Forum and Global Irish Hub:

<https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/>

### National Director's Notes:

The AOH is big news! A recent survey of Irish Americans under 40 showed that young Irish Americans believe the most important word to describe being Irish is "community." It was also revealed that the only two Irish American organizations attracting these young people are divided equally between the GAA and the AOH in America! As I visit the Metro New York Counties and Divisions, it is exciting to see so many new members actively participating in many ways.

Delighted to support two special runs for Charity: The Quiet Man Public House Turkey Run — Over 300 needy families were supplied Thanksgiving feasts including several families assisted by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center by The Quiet Man Public House Turkey Run. Peekskill AOH Division 18 sponsored the fun run, organized by Cathal McGreal, AOH Westchester County Treasurer from Westport, County Mayo and owner of Hibernian Millwork and the Quiet Man Public House in Peekskill.

Miles4Miracles In December, Running-man AOH Division 7 New York County member Tom McGrath ran from City Hall in Boston to AOH New York County meeting place, the Basilica of Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral, in December, for a charity that supplies wheelchairs to those in need. This effort was in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus. Great work by National Director Bill Sullivan, National Hunger Chair Tom Beirne, NY County officer Jamie Hamilton, Bronx AOH member Ed Wilson and the warm hospitality shown Tom at host Divisions across New England and New York.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and a Prosperous 2018!



Running-man: Division 7 New York County member Tom McGrath, standing at right, with his book, ran from City Hall in Boston to AOH New York County meeting place, the Basilica of Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral, in December, for a charity that supplies wheelchairs to the needy. Pictured are NY State VP Tom Lambert, NY State Pres. Vic Vogel and State Sec. John Manning. National Director Dan Dennehy, far left. Photo at the NYS Board meeting by Digest Editor John O'Connell.



## catholic action

by John D. Fitzmorrís III  
Chairman

### What Is Catholic Action?

What defines "Catholic Action" in the AOH and on what should Division, County and State Catholic Action chairs focus their energies? There is the issue of Vocations, and the continuing decline of men and women entering the religious life.

That is our first action that we Hibernians must take in the coming years. Put a hand on the shoulder of a young man or a young woman whom you believe may be called and ask them if they are considering religious life. Even if they answer in the negative, respond by telling them this simple phrase a priest once told me: "Well, don't say no one ever asked you."

But we cannot stop there. We Hibernians, especially our Catholic Action chairs, need to proclaim what the Catholic religious life means and then help to create a world in which young men and women desire the religious life for the right reasons.

In the 10th chapter of St. Matthew's gospel, Christ commissions his Apostles, gives them their tasks, warns them of the resistance and dangers they will face — often from those of their own household — and finally tells them to remain steadfast and courageous despite all the difficulties. The key to Catholic Action and the stirring of a Vocation lies in that very passage. All of us in this Order, protectors of our Holy Mother Church, often need challenge and confrontation when our words, actions and attitudes at times run counter to the oath we take and the motto we are required to uphold. Sometimes, that means risking the wrath of fellow Hibernians, and sometimes that means being condemned for being confrontational and divisive despite speaking the truth.

There seems to be more and more divisiveness and bullying when it comes to the debate over the manner in which we fulfill our oath and motto; and social media has only served to magnify this acrimony. We have Hibernians who openly proclaim Roman Catholicism as co-terminus with political party affiliations. We have Hibernians who believe their opinions so righteous as to take precedence over anyone else's perspective. We have Hibernians whose desire for harmony, peace and so-called "appropriateness" is more important than the challenge and confrontation that Christ demands of us at times and of which Christ has empowered our priests and religious to be ever mindful.

And this is where the chair of Catholic Action for the Division, County and State level should step up and be a voice for reason amidst the unreasonableness that often seems to dominate both discussion and action and create a world where all can hear the Word of God sans the noise of the culture. Catholic Action is more than just canning outrage should a politician or public figure make a statement that seems to attack our Holy Mother Church. Obviously, the chair should bring such issues to the attention of the Order, but they should also be vigilant for the opportunity to serve the people of the Church. They should remind their brother Hibernians that the Gospel says only a little about being outraged, but it does say volumes about judging others. They should remind their Hibernian brothers and all those considering the religious life that the Gospel calls us to feed the poor, tend the sick, bring relief to the suffering and end injustice. They should remind their brother Hibernians that our Holy Church and our Ancient Order is made up of sinners, and no one possesses absolute comprehension of the mind of God. Finally, the Catholic Action chair should never hesitate to get their fellow Hibernians talking and discussing the issues confronting the Church and doing justice for its members and making sure that those who would bully others into silence in favor of their own personal perspectives have "their tables overturned in the Temple of their self-righteousness."

## charities & missions

by Joseph Norton.  
National Chairman

A key component of our motto and a common reason for becoming a member in our Order is charity. The ability to get involved in charitable works and missions continues to be a draw for new members and a point of value for established, long time members. There are plenty of opportunities for our membership, something as simple as raking leaves at a hospice run by the Sisters of the Poor or as complex as coordinating multiple organizations and their competing interests in getting a St. Patrick's Day Parade to happen. We have Divisions coordinating the fundraising and distribution of toys for Toys for Tots, brothers who serve in almost every aspect of parish life, and many Divisions involved in feeding the hungry. While many of us enjoy or have enjoyed serving diligently as "Feis Da's", we are also the driving force behind Irish Fests, Irish theatre, and ensuring the continued enjoyment of Irish traditional music across this great country. Our support of education can be seen in our scholarships, awards, Irish history awards, donations to schools for children with special needs (see photograph) and the support of Irish scholars like Dr. Ruán O'Donnell, not to mention all the religion classes taught by our brothers and sisters.

A conservative estimate of our contributions of time and treasure over the years would be in the millions. The charitable contributions for this reporting period approaches a million dollars. We should be proud of our embodiment of the charitable aspect of our motto. We need to reinforce efforts to track and report our charitable efforts. Simplifying the exchange and consolidation of the information concerning our charitable efforts will continue to be a focus in the near term as will be the sharing of our good works in support of strengthening our brand, growing membership and expanding our ability to help those in need.

Please remember to write all checks to Hibernian Charities and write where you want to designate your contribution on the memo line (Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger, Disaster Relief, Irish History or Study Abroad).

## New Jersey



**AOH members serve their community helping in South Jersey. Brothers from AOH Monmouth Division 2 NJ gathered on Thanksgiving to serve 100 turkey dinners at St Mark's in Keansburg. Pictured in the back row, from left, is Gerry Doherty, Ryan Doherty, Tom Dunn, Jim Shaw, Jack Foy, Rich O'Brien, Pat Quigley and John Foy. Front row, from left, Kevin Gibson, Michael Gibson, Thomas Gibson and James Gibson. Special thanks to Brother Bob Garvey with turkey preparation.**



## rituals & degrees

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

As is stated on our national web site, the main purposes of our degree programs are: "Waken a pride in the ancient race of our forefathers and develop an interest in the history and destiny of that race." We are going to take a break from the descriptions of the names and sponsors of our Major Degree Teams, and tell you a bit about the officers you have met or will meet as you go through the Major Degrees and the Test of the Order.

In this issue I'll discuss the BREHON (pronounced BRAY-hon).

Recall that prior to the advent of Saint Patrick and Christianity in Ireland, very little if any, of Ireland's laws, history, stories of past gods and goddesses was written down. Ireland's indigenous system of law, known as Brehon law, dates from the Iron Age, perhaps as early as 1200 B.C. It developed from customs that had been passed on orally from one generation to the next. Brehon law was administered by Brehons. They were similar to judges, though their role was closer to that of arbitrators. Their task was to preserve and interpret the law.

The Brehons of ancient Ireland were wise individuals who memorized and applied the laws to settle disputes among members of an extended family. In the centuries prior to and shortly after the advent of Christianity, there were very few towns or cities in Ireland. Small villages or tribal groupings were the norm. This societal structure thus helped define who the Brehons served. Some were attached to clans, and were allotted a portion of land for their support. Others lived independently by their profession. They were recognized as a professional class apart from druids and bards. Do you think today's law schools are tough? For a Brehon, the preparatory course of study extended over some 20 years. The Brehon laws were originally composed in poetic verse to aid memorization. While the laws

were not written, there was a very formal system of schools and instruction through which a Brehon must have passed before he was so recognized.

It is believed the laws were written down for the first time in the seventh century A.D. Most of the punishments handed down by the Brehons were based upon what was known as an "honor price." For example, a child had a lower honor price than an adult. Punishments might be allotted in terms of cattle or goods. Not often did a case become subject to something similar to appellate review, but if it were, a Brehon of higher status had to do it. One wonderful example involved a widow whose sheep wandered into a neighbor's yard and ate his grass. The neighbor took it to the Brehon who ruled the widow was guilty and her sheep should be killed and the meat given to the offended neighbor. The widow appealed, and upon review, the higher level Brehon decided the grass was a renewable resource so overruled the first decision and said the sheep's wool for the coming shearing should be awarded to the neighbor.

It should be noted that Brehon Law extended into the 1600's when English law supplanted Brehon Law. For those many centuries, Brehons and their roles in Irish government made them very powerful in the administration of laws and the way Irish society was run.

It is my hope that this little glimpse into one of the major officers in our past will encourage you to get your Major Degrees, or if you already have the Major Degrees but it has been some time ago, that you will go back as an observer, and re-learn those lessons all over again.





## Irish way & study abroad

by Greg Sean Canning  
Chairman

A new year for the Irish Way - Study Abroad Program is now underway. This program consists of two parts.

The first section is the Irish Way Program, which is a unique cultural and educational program for American high school students that began in 1976. During the summer, students who participate in the Irish Way travel to Ireland for a three-week stay. The multifaceted program encompasses three components.

**Education:** Students are introduced to Ireland's history and traditions through structured sessions in Irish language, literature, history and culture. Students also participate in workshops of Celtic art, music, folk dancing and traditional Irish sports such as hurling. All sessions are taught by certified Irish secondary level teachers.

**The Irish Experience:** Field trips to museums, sites of archeological, geological and historical significance and to the world-renowned Abbey Theater complement the program, along with excursions to local Gaelic football tournaments and hurling matches.

**Irish Touring:** The final days of the Irish Way are spent touring Ireland.

The Irish Way was founded on the belief that fostering an appreciation of other cultures is an important part of an individual's development. This program provides an opportunity for young people to explore the rich heritage and tradition of Ireland while also experiencing the country's distinct culture face-to-face. As a result of the above three facets, students return from the Irish Way Program with a new understanding and appreciation of their Irish heritage.

**Eligibility:** In order to be eligible for the \$500 AOH Scholarship, you will need to submit the Irish Way Program Application. Program dates for 2018 are June 30 - July 24.

Get an application from the Irish Way Contact: Taryn Harrison, Coordinator for the Irish Way Program; email: tharrison@irishlifeexperience.com Phone: (781) 850-3322 [Ext. 122].

**Selection of Scholarship Recipients:** As has been the case for the past 25 plus years, the selection of all scholarship recipients will be done by the Irish American Cultural Institute.

The second section is the Study Abroad Scholarship Program, which is designed to encourage the children and grandchildren of AOH members at the university level to seriously consider pursuing courses of study in Ireland whether it is for a semester or a full year of study at colleges in Ireland. To achieve this goal, the National Board offers two annual \$1,000 Study Abroad Scholarships in Ireland for the sons, daughters and grandchildren of our members. The recipients of these scholarships must submit the official application and attend an accredited college or university in the United States, and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends.

Should not enough applications for the Study Abroad Scholarship be realized, then \$500 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs or \$1000/500 Masters Degree in Irish Studies Abroad Scholarships would be considered and granted when appropriate.

All scholarship applications are judged by an independent and impartial panel appointed by the chairman (Greg Seán Canning). The decision of this panel is final.

**Application Deadline:** Midnight, May 1, 2018. Get an application from the National AOH Irish Way Study Abroad Chairman Greg Seán Canning, email: grioghar@mac.com Home Phone: (407) 350-4205, Mobile Phone: (201) 787-6650

## Isle of Erin Degree Team remembers The Three Jims

The Isle of Erin Major Degree Team had the Exemplification of their 88th Major Degree of the Order on Oct. 15. The Degree Team home base is at the Notre Dame Division 1 out of Montgomery County, Pa., and that was the location for the Degrees of the Order.

This Degree was a lot more special to the team after losing three of its members in the last few months. The Three Jims, Jim Nash, Jim Wilson and Jim Cunnion, all went into the Lord's Hands.

Jim Nash was the Shamrock Team Speaker. Jim Wilson had the parts of Escort and Sentinel on the team. Jim Cunnion, who was a Charter Member of the team, served as the Ollamh and Escort. All three of these gentlemen also served as officers of the Notre Dame Division a few years ago.

With 24 candidates and 18 observers it was a good day for the team keeping in their hearts the loss of their fellow brothers. Before the degrees started it was announced that these Degrees of the Order would be dedicated to these three men. And before the closing of the degrees a moment of silence took place and Irish Thunder Pipers Joe McGlinchey and Mike Brown played Amazing Grace in honor of the three Jims.

It was a good day for the team. A day that the Three Jims looked down on us and enjoyed what their Brothers continue to do for the Order.



From left, Jim Nash, Jim Wilson and Jim Cunnion.



## pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh  
Chairman

### Join us at the March For Life, Friday, January 19

Friday, January 19, will mark the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. By the time you receive your copy of the Digest that date will be drawing near. I invite you to attend the Hibernian festivities surrounding the March and hope you will join your brothers and sisters in standing up for the unborn.

I will be putting together an FAQ document for all State Presidents, but encourage anyone who has questions to contact me at John.Patrick.Walsh@aoh.com for more information. Hibernians will be meeting 9 a.m. Friday morning at the Irish Channel Pub for our annual Pro-Life Breakfast (\$25 p.p.), before gathering to march as a group once the rally begins. (FYI - for those Hibernians in town Thursday evening, there will be an opportunity for fellowship at the James Hoban Restaurant starting around 6:30 p.m.)

**Pro-Life In Action:** D.C. Hibernians take care of the least brothers and sisters

I love when a gospel reading sticks with you throughout the week, shaping the way you interpret the world around you and react to it. It was especially heartening when the message from a reading (Matthew 25:40) was exemplified by my local D.C. brothers of Division 2 (Prince Georges County). President Jim April mentions that the importance placed by the Order on our faith and pro-life ministry is what attracted many members to the Hibernians.

For years the division has supported a local pro-life ministry, the Gabriel Network, which brings local Christian church-based volunteer teams together in support of expectant and recent mothers. From a simple pregnancy crisis support line staffed by a team comprised from four local churches, the organization has grown to a network that comprises multiple maternity homes and projects led by volunteer teams based in numerous Baptist, Evangelical, non-denominational, Catholic and United Methodist churches. "We wanted to move beyond our past support, which was mainly financial and spiritual in nature," President April said. "So when the director of our local maternity home mentioned various repair and security projects that needed doing when we dropped off our latest check, we were happy to volunteer."

Led by State Secretary Brian Curran, brothers helped deliver needed supplies (diapers, wipes, food), move furniture and replace motion-detecting floodlights to add security to one of the local homes. "The Gabriel Network started as a crisis pregnancy support organization, some of these new and soon to be mothers are escaping bad situations," Brother Curran explains. "One of our brothers (Deacon Jim Sharbaugh) worked for years to create safe homes for women and children in crisis. This 'hands on' ministry directly supports families in need and it's great to be a part of that type of Christian Charity."

By choosing to support a local ministry, Division 2 fulfilled our motto of Christian Charity; but by transforming their support from the financial to the physical, they have become an example for us all. Hats off to these Hibernians. I am blessed to have their friendship and support.



Hibernians in action.

## '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.



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

Wow! I recently saw the Great Hunger Memorial in Providence, Rhode Island, and it was magnificent. I was invited by Brothers Bob Deignan and Ed Johnson to speak at the Memorial's Tenth Anniversary Fund-raiser and saw the monument afterward. It was so much more than I'd expected. If you are ever within 100 miles of Providence, add it to your itinerary; you won't be disappointed. John Corr, the musical part of the Bard and the Busker team, was with me to perform after my talk and the Great Hunger Monument Committee were gracious with their comments and hospitality. Thanks Providence.

Since the Christmas season extends until the 6th of January, or Little Christmas as we used to call it as children, there are many stories related to this time of year – too many to include here. However, those who have Internet access can find some on our National Website at AOH.COM. Open 'Heritage and Culture' and go to December 2016 and read how General Washington spent a horrible holiday for the freedom we enjoy today. You will also find how several Irishmen helped to ensure the survival of that struggle.

Then go to December 2014 to read about Newgrange – the oldest still-standing man-made structure on the planet and how it lights up every December 21 as it has for 5,000 years; before the Pyramids and Stonehenge were even built.

If you're ready for another trip into history, go to December 2013 and read how Red Hugh O'Donnell escaped from Dublin Castle dungeon on Christmas night to return to his clan from whom he had been kidnaped years earlier. Learn how he was crowned The O'Donnell, Prince of Donegal, and joined with The O'Neill and The Maguire to win Ireland back from the Crown in the Nine Years War.

Then you can go to December 2012 and read about Irish Christmas traditions from years past including the Christmas Candle in the window; St. Stephen's Day, or 'Wren Day' as it is called, and why children hunted and killed a little wren; you'll also read about the grave of Saint Nicholas, which just happens to be in Ireland.

Finally, to get back to January 6 – the 12th Day of Christmas – traditionally remembered as the visit of the three Wise Men and a time when distant relatives would visit. It was also a day for gift giving in memory of the gifts of the Magi.

Now that the celebration of the Christmas season is at an end, we can wish all a happy New Year and remind you that the tradition of welcoming New Year's at Times Square in New York was started by Irish-born Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore – the world's greatest bandmaster; for his story, see the December 2017 presentation on the National website's Heritage and Culture link.

Looking ahead to 2018, we'll share many things that occurred 100 years ago during this decade of centenaries. It was a time of rebirth as the people of Ireland picked up the cause left to them by the patriots of 1916 and by the end of 1918; a revived nationalism emerged. We'll expand on these and events of historic significance across the Hibernian world in the coming year. Until then, God bless and Keep the Tradition alive.

## Why I am a Hibernian

By Sean Denny

I am a Hibernian to both practice my Catholic faith and be proud of my Irish heritage.

On August 21, 1992, I had the opportunity to videotape an Our Lady of Knock Mass at Transfiguration Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, FL. I was honored to meet Edmund Pauly who gave me an application to join AOH Pinellas Division 1: James A Comerford soon as I turned 18. I went to my first meeting November 2, 1992 and have been a member ever since. AOH FL State President Marty McAndrew was the first to explain why the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was significant.

Ed Pauly and Msgr. John Bolger helped AOH Pinellas 2 get organized on December 10, 1995. Ed was our Charter President and Msgr. Bolger was our first Chaplain. They named the division after Padraic Pearse, hero and martyr from the Easter Rising 1916. After Fr. Dermot O'Doherty passed away in 1997, we carried a Scholarship Contest for the Eighth Graders to write about Irish History in honor of Fr. O'Doherty. The scholarship lasted for a decade. In the meantime, we helped Transfiguration with Pancake Breakfasts, Support Pro-Life through 40 Days For Life, and support LAOH Pinellas with annual Irish Dances and Communion Masses. After Msgr. John Bolger passed away November 2009, Fr. Michael Perry became our Chaplain. We moved to St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in 2011. Since then, we have supported Faith Formation, Pro-Life Events, Easter Monday Masses, and Irish American Heritage Month Presentations with local city and county councils. I served as Division President from 1999 to 2014. I became Financial Sec. once Charles Rooney became Pres. in 2015.

Ed Pauly encouraged me to run for a State Office in 1999. I was elected AOH FL State Secretary at the convention in May 1999. I had the honor to serve the State Board as Secretary (1999-2003), Vice President (2003-2007), and President (2007-2011). During this time, I saw new divisions and better communications via email and recent websites. Recently, I have been serving as AOH FL State Charities Chair to see the outstanding Charities for which Florida has been responsible.

Since 2000, I have had the honor to represent Florida at National Conventions. I took my Major Degree in 2002 and since have encouraged new Brothers who have gotten their Degrees. I have accepted Charity Awards on behalf of Florida Divisions and was thrilled to take home five awards from the Atlantic City Convention 2016.

I just received my 25 Year Pin from current AOH FL State President Jim Cahill and was pinned by Past State Pres. Greg Canning at the State Convention on October 21.

I have been blessed with outstanding Brothers and together we continue to the future in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

# Echoes of Irish History

By Mike McCormack National Historian

Irish slavery is a volatile issue. Some minimize it as they do the Great Hunger for fear of alienating British interests and some exaggerate it as a racial tool against the Black Lives Matter movement (we got over it, why can't they). Some even exaggerate the number enslaved to demonize the British, which is unnecessary since historical truth is enough to do that. The question is whether bondage against one's will (temporary or otherwise) is considered slavery. I have many items on Irish slavery, including one by Liam Hogan, a recognized scholar on the subject: *"The Cromwellian policy of forced transportation to the colonies in the 1650s (which included an estimated 10,000 Irish people) understandably scars our collective memory and it deserves both respect and close attention from anyone interested in the history of the unfree labour systems in the Atlantic world. Prior to the sugar revolution and the massive investment by Europeans in enslaving and dehumanizing African people, the living and working conditions of servants and slaves were similar. As the British colonies transitioned to large-scale sugar plantations both groups were exploited for profit, indentured servants for decades and enslaved Africans for centuries."*

Mr. Hogan considers indentured servitude different than slavery, yet he confirmed that kidnaping of Irish men, women and children did occur and they were sold into bondage. That is the dictionary definition of slavery! He added: *"Many servants in the British American colonies suffered hardships and the historical record is replete with examples of them being treated poorly or abused. An indentured servant's bondage was time-limited, usually 3-7 years long but could be up to 10 years for PoWs or convicts. Richard Ligon (an English planter in Barbados from 1647-1650) lamented how the paternal/reciprocal relationship that existed at home between master and apprentice was diminished in the colony. As Planters controlled the councils and paid for the future labour of their servant in a lump sum it created a new exploitative dynamic, which did not exist in England. This labour system commodified the servant to the extent that they were now a capital investment. Their labour, their 'time', was now legal property and it could be traded as such. Thus a servant's labour was a type of chattel. Planters sought to extract the maximum return from their investment by working their servants from the moment they arrived into their 'care' to the moment the indenture expired. The mortality rate was high. Many survived. Many did not. Since those who opposed the Crown were considered convicts and indentured for decades; those who didn't survive, in fact, lived a life in slavery."*

To dismiss or minimize any historical event because some misuse it for unethical purposes dishonors those who experienced the event. All groups that endured subjugation had a common experience. They all suffered psychological trauma, abuse and injustice and the duration didn't diminish the impact. While the treatment of Blacks was reprehensible, so was that of the Irish, no matter how many there were or for what time frame! Rather than letting naysayers divide blacks and Irish, their rhetoric should bring them closer to a mutual understanding because they both suffered under the lash. Further, those owned temporarily were treated harsher since owners ensured the health of their longer-term slaves. Mr. Hogan even posted: *"Many of them suffered under extremely harsh conditions, dying from disease or unsparing work. The planter class sought to exploit them as much as possible during the duration of their service. Their lives . . . were commodified. They could be sold, traded and left in will. This detestable form of bondage was temporary, but only if you survived long enough."*

Recently Irish-Americans in general and the AOH in particular have been accused of racism since former National President Boyle and this Historian wrote on Irish Slavery. As for being racist, we can defend many instances of Irish-American relationships with African-Americans from their days of co-habitation in New York's Five-Points slum (where they jointly invented tap-dancing) to present day support for hunger prevention. We have even publicized such Irish-African friendships as Frederick Douglas and Daniel O'Connell as well as Tony Small and Lord Edward Fitzgerald. As a matter of fact, the AOH has been in the forefront of support for minorities from the well-publicized attack on a KKK rally in 1924 to today's Hibernian Charities Inc. Personally, I can proudly recall presenting an AOH Award to an African-American child at National History Day.

Semantics aside, whether you call bondage servitude or slavery, it mattered little to those men, women and children who suffered its indignities and pain. As members of the Irish diaspora, we should always remember them, as we remember the victims of the artificial famine (An Gorta Mor) for they too suffered just for being 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 [tamtam614@aol.com](mailto:tamtam614@aol.com) (516) 660-7456

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

**KENTUCKY - NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
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you will surely want to attend. The evening will conclude like each night with great hospitality provided by the visiting delegations.

Saturday promises to be a big day with elections in the morning and installation in the afternoon followed by the presentation of the John F. Kennedy award to an Irish Catholic who is outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. The 2018 award winner will be announced in February.

With the convention upon us, now is the time to be scheduling your vacations from work or your time away from retirement. Join the nation's finest Irish Catholic Americans in Louisville for the 2018 Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Conventions.

**MICHIGAN**  
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of the 'Souperbowl' benefit is approximately \$320,000.

Because of our hard work over the years the Capuchins honored us with tickets on the main floor of Ford Field where the Beatification Mass took place on November 18. Members of the Bergen County, New Jersey, AOH division, also named their group after Fr. Solanus Casey, made the trip to Detroit for the Beatification Mass. Hibernian Kevin Blute and his mother were able to join us on the main floor. The New Jersey Hibernians are major supporters of the Michigan Capuchin fundraiser, with generous annual donations. They are true Hibernian brothers.

The Beatification was a massive event. There were more than 60,000 attendees from all over the world, including members of the Casey family relatives from Ireland.

On Sunday November 19, and at the request of the Capuchins, the Macomb County AOH and LAOH attended at the Monastery to perform an Honor Guard at Blessed Solanus Casey's tomb from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., during which time there were two Masses and the center was open to visitors. The Michigan Hibernian Rifles assisted with this Honor Guard. After the 11 a.m. Mass the AOH and LAOH made their \$17,000 check presentation to Fr. Jerry Johnson and Br. Richard Merlin. During the Masses and after, the new relic of Blessed Solanus Casey was on display. Relatives from Ireland came over from the old sod to attend all the Solanus Casey Masses. During the presentation of gifts, they made a present of a silver candlestick. Also, a scrapbook from the family farm dedicated to the memory of their American saintly relative.

We also met Paula Medina Zarate, the lady from Panama who experienced an immediate miracle when praying at Blessed Solanus's tomb. She visited Detroit in 2012 and when praying at the tomb for friends back in Panama, heard a voice telling her to ask for something for herself, and when she did, received a cure for an incurable skin disease. She was very gracious in speaking with everyone, through an interpreter. This rounded off a very exhausting but wonderful weekend.

— Written on behalf of the Macomb County, Michigan AOH and LAOH who made this year a special rewarding period in our history.

## Why I am a Hibernian

I am a Hibernian because I have always loved and have been enchanted by my "Irish Roots." I have met and became friends with many who believe as I do ... to be Irish is a blessing but to be Hibernian is an honor. I feel as if I have this large, extended family that will always be there for me and I for them.

Joe Casey, Medina County, Ohio

## Indiana

**Remembering deceased Hibernians**

On November 19, Kevin Barry Division 3 in Indianapolis honored those AOH members who had passed away during the past year. This annual event took place at our home church, St. Philip Neri, with a Mass said by Father Christopher Wadelton, AOH member and pastor. Members who passed away were Thomas J. Kennedy, Timothy Hayes, James F. Lyons, Thomas J. McHugh, Dr. Patrick Michael Conneally and Fr. Timothy Sweeney, OSB.

St. Philip Neri parishioners had been requested to bring socks and underwear to Mass to donate to the children of need in the area. Hibernians were asked to do the same and



# Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Tharla an cath ba mhó i gcogadh na saoirse i Meiriceá in Brooklyn – Cath Inse Fada, nó Cath Brooklyn. *The biggest battle of the revolutionary war in America happened in Brooklyn – the Battle of Long Island, or Battle of Brooklyn.* Tharla rudaí tábhachtacha ar fud na háite. *Important things happened all over the place.* Tá comhartha i bPáirc Prospect mar a raibh troid mhór de chuid na catha seo. *There is a sign in Prospect Park where one of the big fights of this battle was.* Agus an ginearál a bhí i mbun na bhfórsaí Meiriceánach ansin, ba é sin John Sullivan. *And the general who was commanding the American forces there was JS.*

Duine an-tábhachtach i stair na tíre ab ea Sullivan. *Sullivan was a very important person in the history of the country.* Ba as Béarra i gContae Corcaigh a sheanathair. *His grandfather was from Bear (Bere) in County Cork.* Ar an drochuair, thréig a athair an eaglais Chaitliceach. *Unfortunately, his father abandoned the Catholic church.* Ach d'éirigh go hiontach le mac seo na hÉireann. *But this son of Ireland succeeded wonderfully.* Ginearál ab ea é a bhí an-tábhachtach sa chogadh seo. *He was a very important general in this war.* Agus ina dhiaidh sin, bhí sé ina uachtarán ar Nua-Hampshire. *And afterwards he was president (governor) of NH.* Bhí a dheartháir ina ghobharnóir ar Massachusetts, freisin. *His brother was governor of MA, too.*

Chaill na Meiriceánaigh Cath Inse Fada, agus gabhadh Sullivan. *The Americans lost the Battle of Long Island, and S was captured.* Malartaíodh é le ginearál na Sasanach beagán ina dhiaidh sin, agus throid sé arís. *He was exchanged for a British general after that, and fought again.* Bhí sé ina bhall den Chomhdháil Ilchríochach, freisin. *He was a member of the Continental Congress, too.* Ainmníodh contaetha ina onóir i Nua-Eabhrac, Pennsylvania, Nua-Hampshire, Tennessee agus Missouri. *Bhain sé amach an-chlú lena linn. Counties were named in his honor in NY, PA, NH, TN and MO.*

Rud eile a rinne sé ná gur throid sé in éadann na nIroquoi (a bhí ar thaobh na Sasanach) in iarthar Stáit Nua-Eabhraic. *Another thing he did was fight against the Iroquois (who were on the side of the British) in western NY.* Bhí sé chomh dian ar na capaill a bhí á n-úsáid ag a arm gur maraíodh iad. *He was so hard on the horses his army was using that they were killed.* Tá baile darb ainm Horseheads in aice leis na Méarlochanna. *There's a town called Horseheads near the Finger Lakes.* Bhí mé ansin sa samhradh, agus ní raibh a fhios agam conas a fuair an baile an t-ainm ait sin. *I was there in the summer, and didn't know how the town got that strange name.* Ach sin an áit a maraíodh na capaill seo! *But that's the place where these horses were killed!* Chuir na hIroquois na cloigne feadh cosáin, agus ba iad sin na cinn chapail. *The Iroquoid put the skulls along a trail, and those were the horseheads.*



# in memoriam

## Reverend Hugh Donald Cannon

Our Lady of Knock, Division 7, East Islip, NY, Chaplain Father Hugh D. Cannon passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 23.

Father Hugh was born on May 20, 1939, in Manhattan. He was the son of Hugh and Mary (O'Donnell) Cannon, both originally from County Donegal. Father was taught by the Sisters of Charity, the De La Salle Brothers, and graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx.

His vocation to the priesthood began in grammar school and continued when he joined the Montfort Missionaries in 1957. He professed his first vows on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1960. This was followed by attending the major seminary in Litchfield, Connecticut, for the following six years where he studied Philosophy and Theology, along with other subjects. He was ordained a priest on March 5, 1966.

He was first assigned to Saint Theresa of Avila Parish in St. Louis, Missouri. He spent two and one half years working with the poor in the inner city. At that time, he also served as the Montfort Vocational Director and the Director of the Propagation of the Faith for the community in the Midwestern States.

Father Hugh always said, "Some priests are thoroughbreds and some priests are plow horses. I am a plow horse." By this he meant that his calling was to be 'the Parish Priest.' His love was to work with and be there for the people. All who knew him know that there were none better at this than Father Hugh. His gentle approach, mischievous sense of humor, ability to listen, empathize and counsel often masked that fact that he was a highly intellectual and well-read scholar. He had an M.S. Degree in Education from Iona College and an M.Div. from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, along with a Degree in Alcoholism Counseling and a certificate in Spiritual Direction. He was at ease in any situation with anyone. To say that he was loved by his parishioners would be taken as an understatement by all of us who knew him.

Father Hugh served as an associate pastor at Infant Jesus Parish in Port Jefferson, St. Ignatius Loyola in Hicksville, St. John Nepomucene in Bohemia, and Mary Immaculate in Bellport. He served as pastor at St. Pius X in Plainview and St. Peter the Apostle in Islip Terrace. He retired to St. Mary in East Islip in 2013. Wherever he served the parishioners became his extended family and over the years he always came back to those parishioners for the baptisms, weddings, funerals or just a visit in their homes.

Along with all of this, Father Hugh was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, State Chaplin for the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, and Chaplin to the Suffolk County Police Department.

Our Lady of Knock Division 7 has had many wonderful chaplains over the course of our 55 years. They were all priests of great devotion and spirituality who mentored us in our faith. Father Hugh did this as well but, in a way, he was so much more. Father Hugh was a Hibernian in every way. He lived and breathed his Irish Heritage. He guided us in our faith and in our culture and had a gifted approach in bringing both together through his entertaining stories. He was part of the AOH, not just for his official responsibilities, but also as a true member of our division. He was with us at our cultural events, our holiday parties, our fundraising activities and our masses. He regularly came down to our pub just to chat and see how we were doing. At those times he was just one of the Hibernians. He could make a joke and he could take a joke. Most importantly, he was there for our joy and our sorrow, in good times and bad, whether we called him or not. He was the essence of our motto.

Father Hugh was not only a priest. He was the kind of person that we should aspire to be. Because of this, we at Division 7 have decided to rename our annual award that is given to one of our own who best exemplifies our motto the "Father Hugh Donald Cannon Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity Award." A small but heartfelt recognition to someone who gave us so much. God Bless Father Hugh.

## D.C. Hibernians remember Brother Francis Duggan

Francis "Frank" Duggan, 79, passed away on November 1, 2017. Duggan was a 40-year member and past president of the Washington, D.C., Commodore John Barry Division 1.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Edward H. Duggan and Irish immigrant Rita Gordon Duggan. He was educated at St. John's University's prep, college and law school. Between college and law school, he served in the Navy. After law school he worked in government positions for the U.S. Senate's Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Rep. William Steiger (R-WI), Sen. Charles Mathias (R-MD), the U.S. Department of the Treasury and in 1988 became Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Labor Department.



**Frank Duggan, joined by then U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery in Honor of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103.**



At the end of the Reagan administration, he practiced law at Mullenholz, Brimsek, and Belair, representing the firearms industry, a healthcare coalition and numerous trade associations. He spent 10 years as the tax lobbyist for the Association of American Railroads. He served as Chairman of the National Mediation Board, under Presidents Clinton and Bush. Following his retirement, he served on a number of boards and commissions, including George Mason University's School of Conflict Resolution, George Washington University Hospital's Cardiac and Vascular Institute and as President of the Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 (Lockerbie).

Working pro bono, he led their organization through congressional hearings, enactment of legislation, United Nations' sanctions and changes to the laws of sovereign immunity permitting lawsuits against Libya. He was instrumental in successful legal action providing \$2.7 billion in compensation from Libya to the victims. The family group named him president though he did not have a relative on the plane, and they considered him "family." He continued to lead this very effective group until his passing. Duggan was involved with numerous law enforcement and police organizations, including as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff in the Prince William Sheriff's Office. He was a certified police firearms instructor and a 20-year member of the Fraternal Order of Police. Duggan was an active sportsman, hunting, fishing and golfing around the world.

He leaves behind his loving wife and true soul mate of 25 years, Faye M. Padgett, and three children, Timothy (Elizabeth McGuire) New York City; Teresa (Robert Wagner) Baltimore; and Patricia, Olney, Maryland, and grandchildren Clare and William Duggan. He is survived by his brother, Gordon Duggan (Gail Brown) of Cold Spring, NY.

## James A Prior

By Sean Denny

A great Hibernian passed away on September 3rd, 2017. James A Prior, who was born November 26, 1933. I first met Jim at Transfiguration Church in the early 1990s. He was a member of the choir when we both joined AOH Pinellas Division 1 in November 1992. We both transferred to AOH Pinellas Division 2 in 1995. He succeeded Edmund Pauly in 1997 as the second Division President. He continued as a Pro-Life chairman as well as several offices and recently was recording secretary. His son, the late David Prior, also joined AOH Pinellas 2 and also had several helpful offices up to January 2017 when he passed away under tragic circumstances. In 2009, Jim introduced me to James Gillis and he was installed into the Division. Jim Gillis, then a Grand Knight of St Petersburg Council 2105, in turn recruited me into the Knights of Columbus. The three of us moved AOH Pinellas 2 to St Mary Our Lady of Grace in 2011 and actively recruited to sustain the Division. He always took care of getting the key for the monthly AOH Meetings even if he had another obligation. He always put others first.

Jim Gillis and Jim Prior also formed a partnership delivering communion to Hospitals, Correctional Facilities, and Pinellas Hope. Jim Prior also became involved with Secular Franciscans and the Fr. Juniper Serra Club both directly helping Vocations of Clergy and Seminarians. The annual Serra Vocation Dinner at St. Pete Yacht club meeting seminarians. We actively participated in the Annual 40 Days For Life Campaign near Mary's Outreach since 2007. Jim stood outside and prayed the rosary. Jim Prior also prayed the rosary at the Columbus Statue in Downtown St. Petersburg when we had a Fortnight For Freedom walk in 2012. Bishop Robert Lynch gave Jim Prior the Medal of St. Jude in 2013. On a daily basis, Jim Prior gave communion at local hospitals like BayPines VA, St. Anthony's, All Childrens, and Bayfront Medical. At St. Mary's, he was an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist and a Reader. Jim often walked into the Church before 8 a.m. with a smile and handshake. Jeanne Burgess, my Head Usher at St. Mary's said, "Jim left a big void at the church." He sometimes treated me to breakfast at St. Anthony's when I drove him to the Secular Franciscans.

**Joseph Mowry Coleman** died peacefully in his home on October 30, 2017 at the age of 88, one day before his 64th wedding anniversary. Joseph is survived by his loving wife, Gloria (LeVasseur) whom he married in Portland, Maine on October 31, 1953. Together they resided in Washington, D.C., Portland and Brunswick, Maine, and Coventry, Rhode Island, before finally settling in Niantic, CT, in 1965, where they raised four children.

Joseph was a communicant of St Agnes Parish in Niantic, a CCD instructor for its Religious Education Program, and choir member for many years. He was a member of the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society as well as past President and longtime Newsletter Editor for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New London. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club, and the Notre Dame Club of Southeastern Connecticut.

He was a member of the Mowry Family Association of North Smithfield, Rhode Island and could trace his ancestry back on his mother's side to Roger Mowry, who came from England to Boston in 1631 with Roger Williams, and later to Providence in search of religious freedom.

In addition to genealogy, other personal interests included Irish history, culture and traditions, music, photography, fishing and horse racing. He was a past President of the New London Chess Club, and was an avid reader. He also enjoyed playing bridge with Gloria, appreciating the friendships forged through their bridge group, and the many organizations and clubs to which he belonged through the years.

He was a lifetime fan of the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots and the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, never missing a game. He enjoyed travel, and in 1991 he and his wife fulfilled a lifetime goal by driving around the United States for a distance of over 11,000 miles, visiting numerous cities and National Parks.

# Conneticut



**Michael Liddane in the white sweater and Michael Keane with the sunglasses march in Danbury as they have done for over half a century!** (Photos by Thomas McCauliffe)



**Waterbury Hibernians serving veterans at annual pancake breakfast. Money was raised for programs that directly benefit veterans with housing help. Pictured, from left, State Veterans Chairman John Sullivan, Jim Keeley, Veteran Mike Murphy, Veteran Shaun Regan, Don Valdez, Veteran Brian Houlihan and Jack McKewon serving Dave Genova.**

## By Phil Gallagher

When the AOH was revived in Danbury, Connecticut in 1959, several hundred men of Irish birth or descent answered the invitation to join the new Division 3, which is now known as the John A. Gildea Division. Many of these men, as does a sizeable portion of the Danbury area Irish community, trace their lineage to the Loop Head Peninsula in the western area of County Clare that lies north of the mouth of the Shannon River.

It is an area that suffered greatly during the Great Hunger but that today ranks high on the list of best holiday places to visit in Ireland. Names like Keating, Keane, Lynch, Collins and McCarthy predominate in this section of Clare as they do among the Irish community of Greater Danbury.

Two young immigrants from the Loop Head Peninsula became charter members of the new AOH Division that was formed in Danbury in that long-ago year of 1959. They were Michael Keane, from Moween, in the parish of Kilcloher, and Michael Liddane, from Tullig Cross, in the parish of Kilballyowen. Now some 58 years later these two spry, Irish gentlemen remain on the rolls of the Danbury AOH as active members. They seldom if ever miss joining with their brother Hibernians in marching in the Danbury St. Patrick's Day or Memorial Day Parades or in helping at Division activities such as the Greater Danbury Irish Festival.

Danbury Hibernians recently gathered to pay tribute and say goodbye to Mike Keane, who after spending most of his life in Danbury, has moved to Florida to be close to his three daughters. We wish him well in his new home and hope he comes back to visit in Danbury and to march with us in another parade.

Congratulations to Danbury Chaplain Father Jeffrey Couture on being named pastor of

St. Francis Church in Weston, Connecticut. He has been a very active chaplain and has packed the Danbury Irish Center several times with his Theology on Tap programs.

Congratulations also to Ray Walk, of Waterbury, and Tom McAuliffe, of Danbury, on being named Hibernian of the Year by their respective divisions.

Kudos to the JFK Division of Bridgeport for their annual Christmas Shamrock Contribution for Children program, which always raises serious money for good causes.

The New London and Waterbury AOH, as they annually do, honored the memory of deceased Hibernians under the shadow of the Celtic crosses that adorn the cemetery plots that each division owns in their respective cities. Waterbury has been very active with entertainment in their hall every Friday night and in hosting their annual pancake breakfast for the benefit of veteran's causes such as housing.

Hibernians from around Connecticut are very pleased and excited that the Naugatuck Division has acquired a new home of their own, which has already led to an increase in membership.

New London Hibernians and all who had the pleasure of knowing him were saddened to hear of the death of Past Division President Joe Coleman on October 30, 2017.

Bridgeport Hibernians were also saddened with the recent death of Eileen Sheehan McCann, the wife of Brother Peter McCann, and daughter of prominent Bridgeport Hibernians the late Bob and Marge Sheehan.

May Eileen and Joe Rest in Peace.

Don't forget to check out Sacred Heart University's [digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_hiber](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber)

For news or info contact Phil Gallagher at: [jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net)

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

## NEW ENERGY continued from page 1

devolved Northern Irish government and seem to be inexorably moving to direct rule. Much has been written that one of the major obstacles is the refusal of the DUP to honor agreements they signed a decade ago to treat the Irish language and its speakers with parity of respect. The irony here is that the DUP, which wishes to see Northern Ireland transformed into "West Britain," are actually refusing to implement protections for speakers of indigenous language that have been in place in other parts of the United Kingdom, specifically Wales and Scotland, for years. So much for "Union" with Great Britain, so much for rejecting special status.

The situation, Brothers, as I write this article, can only generously be described as a mess. You have a DUP that would squander the two decades of peace and prosperity that the Good Friday Agreement initiated; it is clear the DUP "would rather rule in hell than serve in heaven," and a bewildered British government that must rely on the consent of the DUP in order to stay in power. It appears that their only remaining strategy is to rally their supporters behind the idea of a disastrous hard Brexit by engaging in jingoistic oratory about "Irish Blackmail" and never surrendering to the EU. However, neither Dublin nor Brussels created this mess, London did.

What is grievously needed are new, impartial eyes on the problem and an infusion of new energy. Through this escalating crisis the leadership of the United States is conspicuously missing. A year on, there is still no ambassador to Ireland or special envoy to Northern Ireland. It was U.S. leadership 20 years ago that helped negotiate the Good Friday Agreement and break a cycle of violence that some said could never be broken. Yes, the U.S. faces many challenges, but any executive will tell you one of the keys to management is to find a strong leader, empower them and delegate. To be fair, the previous administration also delayed appointing the previous ambassador to Ireland. It is clear that on both sides of the aisle that Ireland, Northern Ireland and Irish America are not a priority and it is up to us to remind them that we are here, we are interested in what happens on the isle of Ireland, and we will hold our elected leaders accountable.

# South Carolina

On the evening of November 10 the Patrick Lynch Division of the AOH and the St. Ciara Division of the LAOH joined together for their annual Hibernian of the Year recognition dinner at the Country Club of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island. It was a festive and celebratory evening with many in attendance to show their support to the honorees.

The AOH honored Jim Coyne who transferred to our Division from Dayton, Ohio, in late 2015. Since then he has been a dynamo of energy and is there is hardly an activity of the Division that Jim is not involved in. He is always able, willing and excited to help whenever called upon. For example, Jim assumed the leadership role as Membership Chairman in 2017 and set a goal of bringing in one new member each month and he is on target to exceed it. Congratulations to Jim for this well-deserved honor. Well done!



**Hibernian of the Year Jim Coyne is presented with the honor by President Tim O'Connor.**

# Pennsylvania



Erie Division 3 recently presented a \$600 donation to St. Patrick's Haven – Homeless Shelter for Men, located in Erie, PA. Such donations are consistent with their long tradition of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The AOH in Erie was first organized on May 12, 1896. Pictured, from left, are Tom Welch, AOH President; Tim Donlin, AOH Secretary; Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel, St. Patrick's Church, William "Bill" Riordan, AOH Treasurer; St. Patrick's Haven Center mission was started over 30 years ago by St. Patrick's Parish, but is now a Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. — Paul D. Francis, Division 3.

## Community partnership pays dividends for AOH division in Johnstown

The Irish, Germans, Slovaks, Croatians and Hungarians all built their own churches and maintained their cultures in a small section of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, known as Cambria City. For more than a decade, each church has participated in what is called the Ethnic Fest in Cambria City, during Labor Day weekend. Tens of thousands from across America have attended each year to sample the food, music and culture.

The five ethnic Catholic churches have been consolidated into one. In order to preserve their Irish heritage, Our Lady of Knock division partnered with the Alternative Community Resource Program, a large youth alternative education organization in Johnstown. ACRP, as it turned out, purchased the former grade school of St. Columba Irish Church as one of its education centers. The basement of the building had always been known as The Irish Pub and was featured during the Ethnic Fests over the years. Following the church closing the AOH division came up with the idea of providing the Irish help, cooking, and entertainment for the Irish Pub to continue during Ethnic Fest. ACRP partners in manpower and resources.

The AOH presence has gone beyond the Ethnic Fest to involvement in the AAABA baseball tournament, to honoring our veterans and deceased priests on Memorial Day, and providing breakfasts for Johnstown's Crime Stoppers and Push Out The Pusher programs. The AOH is becoming the place to be and the momentum has never been greater. Regardless of the fact, over the years Johnstown has shrunk in population by two thirds: during the past three years AOH has grown by 20 (many police, company CEOs and town professionals), and the division is up to 65 total members, attesting that anything is possible through community action.



## PR society recognizes Pittsburgh Hibernian

O'Brien Communications, a Pittsburgh public relations consultancy, announced in October that the national Public Relations Society of America and its Independent Practitioners Alliance have presented Tim O'Brien with its first annual Indie Award. The award recognizes outstanding leadership and contributions to the nation's independent practitioner community in the public relations field.

O'Brien is a member of the Allegheny County AOH Division 1 in Pittsburgh, and for the past nine years has served as communications chairman of the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2016, he was an officer on the

Pittsburgh 1916 Easter Rising Committee.

The award was presented at PRSA's International Conference in Boston on Oct. 9. In presenting the award, the PRSA cited O'Brien's role as author of PRSA's "State of Independence" column that is published in the organization's PR Tactics monthly that is distributed online and in print to all PRSA members in North America. In addition, he was recognized for his active participation in and contributions to the Solo PR Pro forum, a national community of PR consultants.

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



## Mitchell Day

John Mitchell Day Ceremony and Man of the Year were held at the Cathedral Cemetery. Mr. Mitchell was the great labor leader who fought for an 8-hour workday, minimum wage and safety standards in the mines. The AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 has been celebrating John Mitchell Day for the past 13 years. From left, James Barrett, Historian; Joe Walsh, State Director; Colleen Gerrity; James Connor, Treasurer; James Sweeney; Patrick O'Malley, President; Vincent O'Malley; Keith Oleski, John Mitchell Man of the Year and Marshall; Mary Lou Oleski; Judge Thomas Munley; Jay Sheckman; Joe Hosie, PA AOH President; Gene Widdick; John Trauma, Columbus Day Association; Katie Hosie; Sarah Walsh; Nora Connor.

## Cumberland 1, caring for history

Hibernians living in Central Pennsylvania are in the center of where the Civil War had its largest loss of life in Gettysburg. The Michael Collins Division 1 of Cumberland Co. Pa., has been caring for grave sites at Gettysburg twice a year for 10 years. The division just started another project in Harrisburg performing cleanup of Michael Madden, for his heroics, in the Civil War. Madden was the first Irish immigrant to receive The Medal of Honor, awarded to him in 1898. The members of Michael Collins Division 1 are proud Hibernians who dedicate their time and efforts as often as they can to accomplish our mission.



At the monument were, from left, Gene Barr, Terry Boylan, Pres. (USMC); Steve Lenorad, Past President; Michael Edmiston, Division Historian; John Giannelli, Div. Sec.; and Mike McCarthy.



Division 3, Bucks County, PA, paused between stops as they deliver over \$5,000 worth of groceries to three Bucks County needy kitchens – Bucks County Housing Authority (Doylestown) St. John's Kitchen (Ottsville) and New Britain Food Larder. A ministry that they support several times a year, the members purchase pallets of groceries and divide them for delivery to the three locations.

# Massachusetts

**By Charles Sinclair**

The Massachusetts State Board meeting was held on Nov. 4 at the Home of Major John "Mike" Tivnan Division 18 Salem. State VP Jack Lahey announced that the site of the 2019 State Convention will be held at the Seacrest Inn in Falmouth.

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

**Division 1 Holyoke:** The Recognition Reception honoring Paul Hogan with the 2018 Citizenship Award by the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee for the 67th Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Sat. Jan. 27, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the Warehouse. Cost is \$45 PP. Please respond by Jan. 19, 2018 to Francis Hennessey 413-785-5687. The 2018 Parade will be held on March 18. Paul has devoted his life's work to promoting Irish Culture. He has been a staunch advocate for keeping Christ in Christmas. It would be greatly appreciated if all Hibernians and friends would attend the upcoming event.

**Division 8 Lawrence:** Bob Collins received the David R. Burke Golden Bridge's Award on Nov. 17, at the Seaport Plaza Hotel in Boston. Our sincere congratulations & best wishes to Bob for a well-deserved honor.

**Dave Burke Way:** East Kingston St. in South Lawrence was renamed and dedicated in honor of our very own Dave Burke

**Division 10 Lynn:** On Sunday, Nov. 19th, Division 10 Lynn took a busload of members into Fenway Park to watch the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic. It was Galway VS Dublin in Game 1 and Tipperary VS Clare in Game 2. In the final, it was Galway VS Clare with Clare winning the Championship. It was a great (but cold) day enjoyed by all.

**Division 14 Watertown:** Their annual Turkey Shoot was held on Nov. 17. All proceeds benefit the Sonny Whooley Fund helping local families in need during the holidays.

**Division 18 Salem:** The John "Mike" Tivnan Division 18 dedicated its new conference room in memory of James "Jim" Burke for his dedication and support he gave the club. Jim was a member for over 40 years.

**Division 19 Lowell:** The Division held their annual Memorial Mass and communion breakfast on Nov. 12 at Tewksbury's Oblate Residence held in conjunction with the ladies AOH Division 1. Mass was celebrated by Co-Chaplain John Harley. Breakfast was served after mass.

**Division 36 Worcester:** On Dec. 1, we hosted a fund raiser for the American Wheel Chair Mission. Tom McGrath will be running from Boston to NYC in 7 days. We were very proud and excited to be able to play a small part supporting this very inspirational man who has done amazing runs for various causes.

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



**On the Weekend of November 25 & 26, a Tribute to the Manchester Martyrs, was held by Division 8 AOH in Lawrence, MA. Pictured from left, Frank O'Connor, Division 8 Vice President; Robert Bateman, Past AOH National Historian; Jack Lahey, Mass AOH State Vice- President; Joseph Bateman and Camille Bateman.**



**Members of Division 14 AOH in Watertown, MA participated in the Mass for Mission Sunday on October 22 at Saint Columbkille's Church in Brighton MA. Pictured, from left, Paul Connolly, Past State President Richard Thompson, His Eminence Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, Middlesex County President Leo Falter and State Treasurer Joe McCusker. Cardinal O'Malley is a member of Division 14.**

# Ohio



## Central Ohio AOH assist Dead Theologians Society

The Patrick H. Pearse Division 1, in Columbus, Ohio, presented a \$1,000 check to Eddie Cotter, executive director of the Dead Theologians Society (DTS).

"Once we heard this program needed our help, we quickly set aside proceeds from our charity golf outing to answer the call," stated Ed Norris, president of the AOH division. The donation is enough money to start two youth programs in Ireland, with a focus on keeping teenagers involved in the Catholic Church.

DTS has been active in Ireland for the past six years. Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore Diocese serves as spiritual director of DTS in Ireland.

Inspired by the lives of the saints, the Dead Theologians Society began in 1997 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Newark, Ohio, as a parish program for high school teenagers. In a prayerful and intriguing atmosphere, teens regularly packed the church to discover the treasures of their Catholic faith.

As news of this effective teen program spread, representatives from surrounding parishes visited St. Francis de Sales Church and began chapters of their own. Appearances on the Eternal Word Television's teen show, Life on the Rock, as well as numerous articles in Catholic and secular publications, catapulted the Dead Theologians Society onto the international scene and highlighted the society as a faithful and effective response to Pope John Paul II's call for "a new evangelization for the third millennium." As news about DTS continues to spread, new chapters continue to form.

DTS has reached as far as Africa in recent years. The AOH in Columbus plan on continuing support of DTS with annual giving, sharing information with Hibernian divisions throughout Ohio and promoting their cause during the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in July 2018.

More information about this program is available on their website at <http://www.deadtheologiansociety.com>.



## Remembering the victims of the Brig St. John

On October 8, Father John Murphy Division 9 Plymouth, honored the memory of the 99 emigrants who died in the shipwreck of the Brig St. John on October 7, 1849. The Mass was held at St. Anthony's Church in Cohasset and the Mass was celebrated by Father Aidan Walsh. We were honored to have in attendance Past National President Jack Meehan and Paul Hogan. The Mass is an annual event that honors the memory of the Irish men, women and children who were fleeing the Great Hunger in 1849 and after traveling safely across the Atlantic came to a tragic end off the shore of Cohasset, Massachusetts.

# Kentucky

The Father J Ryan Division has been very busy these past months. In July the Division marched in the annual Portland Parade giving bags of candy to children along the parade route and held its first "Christmas in July" proceeds benefitting Boys and Girls Haven. In August Hibernians, family and friends worked The Little Debbie Snack Booth at the annual Orphans' Picnic. The great weather brought a huge crowd, which bought all the snacks and lots of money was raised.

In September, the Division's attention turned to football where annually the division awards a Hibernian Cup to the winner of the Holy Cross/DeSales games and The Shillelagh to the Trinity/St. Xavier winner. On a rainy September 1 night DeSales defeated Holy Cross 49- 0 (Hibernian and DeSales alum, Tommy O'Shea, presented the Cup). On September 29 The Shillelagh was claimed by Trinity following its 28-0 win.

Other September activities included the annual Irish Community celebration of Half Way to St. Patrick's Day and the Division's annual Irish for Kids Golf Scramble. The scramble was held at Seneca Golf Course with over 120 golfers who afterwards enjoyed a Hooley held at Molly Malone's celebrating over \$10,000 raised for Boys and Girls Haven.

In October, the Division monthly meeting was graced with Archbishop Joseph Kurtz presence. He spoke of the importance of family to the Church's mission. He stressed the need to support Catholic education in Louisville and acknowledged the charity work of the AOH encouraging continued effort and focus in support of current and future initiatives. Officers John O'Dwyer and Patrick Ryan presented the Archbishop a Certificate of Brotherhood, shared a sip of Guinness, and the Bishop ended the evening visiting with AOH and LAOH members.

The Division looks forward to hosting the July National Convention; come early and stay late.



Jeff Haley of Boys & Girls Haven, Deacon Dan, Bernie Fallon, Billy Whalen, Rob Fallahay, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Joe Fallahay, John O'Dwyer.



Pat Dunlevy, Marcus Bourke, Tim McMonigal, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Rob Fallahay, Patrick Ryan and John O'Dwyer, we present the check from our golf scramble to the Board members of Boys & Girls Haven



Jim Sadlo, John O'Dwyer and Archbishop Joseph Kurtz. The Archbishop came and spoke at one of our monthly meetings.

# Montana



The Montana State Board 2017 and national officers, from left, Sean Pender, National Treasurer; Joe Lee, State Vice President; Jack Kelly, State Recording Secretary; Dan Reardon, State Treasurer; Bob Mehrens, Montana State President; and John Wilson, National Director.



At a presidential gathering, from left, were National Director John Wilson; Past National Director Mike O'Connor; Past Montana State Presidents Jack Kelly, Tom Pahut, Tom McCarthy; current State President Bob Mehrens; and National Treasurer Sean Pender.



Past National Director Mike O'Connor with the Anaconda AOH Pipe Band members at Montana's State Convention in Kalispell, Montana

## Why I'm a Hibernian

Many young Catholic men want to become involved in service to the Church, they just don't know how. I fell into this boat, and then I was introduced to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The AOH offers an ability to join with other like-minded Irish-American men to do more in support of the Church. I can be proud of the legacy of support the AOH provides to the community, financial and otherwise. We host dances, concerts, parties and parades in order raise money for charity and the less fortunate – all while showcasing the positive contributions the Irish have made throughout history and in modern day America. Last but not least, I joined the AOH to have a good time! Whether it's the camaraderie of a monthly meeting, a St. Patrick's Day party, the annual year-end party or the family-oriented summer picnic or Christmas party – there is always a good time to be had. To be Irish is a Blessing, to be a Hibernian is an Honor!

Patrick Fogarty  
General Thomas F. Meagher Division

# Missouri



**Scholarship winners Madison McCormick, Rosemary Cherian, Katherine Kallas and Olivia Powell with Bishop James Johnston and some of the Pearse Division judges, Zach Daughtrey, Jerry Lonergan, Dennis Murray and John McEvoy. KCMO scholarship winners announced**

Annually the Pearse Division in Kansas City Missouri awards four \$500 scholarships to students enrolled in Catholic high schools throughout the region. This year Bishop James Johnston served to welcome and recognize the four recipients of the award.

Initially applicants were asked to write an essay on any aspect of Ireland. In 2016 the Division began selecting a topic for the 500-word essay. This year's topic was "An Irish Saint not Named Patrick" designed to expand students, and members, awareness of the quantity and quality of Irish saints. There 30 submissions this year with 16 different saints identified, the most popular selection was St. Brigid of Kildare with four essays selecting her. In addition to the essay, each entrant is also scored based on answers to questions about their scholarship achievements and activities around faith, extracurricular and volunteer pursuits.

The winning four this year were all young women and included one freshman, one sophomore and two seniors. Two were daughters of Pearse members (judging was conducted by Hibernians and entries did not identify the applicants). Winning Hibernian daughters were Olivia Powell (Brian Powell) with an essay on St. Ailbe, the patron saint of Munster and Madison McCormick (Dr. Dave McCormick) who wrote about St. Ita of Killeedy.

The other winners were, sophomore Katherine Kallas writing an essay on St. Grimonia, a martyr beheaded by her own pagan father for refusing his order to marry. Senior Rosemary Cherian whose essay was on St. Oliver Plunkett the archbishop of Armagh who was also martyred by way of beheading.

As part of the awards ceremony, each winner read their essays and with their families had pictures taken with the Bishop. Bishop Johnston congratulated the four young scholars and thanked the Pearse division for its ongoing support of Catholic school education.



**Pearse contingent at Christmas in the Park with Ranger Mike Steel (President-elect John McEvoy to his left) and volunteer Katie Troup.**

## **Pearse Division entertains kids, parents**

On the last day of November the Padraig Pearse Division 1 in Kansas City volunteered to guide, greet and treat cars full of grandparents, parents and children as the families toured Christmas in the Park at Longview Lake in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The Hibernians were allocated one night of the 35-day annual Christmas light spectacular put on by the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

The multiple and intricate Christmas light display covers a three-mile route along the lake. Each year a lottery is held and for each night of the season one group is selected to pass out candy and accept cash donations as cars exit the park. Ten Hibernians manned their station with the able assistance of four Jackson County Park Rangers and Pearse's own web-design expert Katie Troup. Blessed with a full-moon and unseasonably warm weather the five-hour shift was completed without incident and proved a fun way to share Christmas greeting to over 1,000 Kansas City residents and increased awareness of the AOH and its involvement with and contribution to the Kansas City region.

With food provided by AOH's head chef Tommy Clossik, ably assisted by his wife Connie and discretely hidden warming libations the members enjoyed a great evening and welcomed the \$1,000 that was their reward for volunteering that evening.

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

# Georgia



**Capuchins Help the Homeless**  
*Dublin, Ireland*

Hibernian Savannah Division brother Kieran McMullen and Brother Sean Donohoe of the Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless were preparing meals. The Savannah AOH donated \$1,500 to the Capuchins who feed 700-800 meals per day to the homeless and needy in Dublin. The Capuchins also have volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists and chiropractors that provide services to those in need. It is expected that 10,000 children will receive care at the center during the year.



**Great day for Atlanta's Shamrock Open**

The annual Shamrock Open, the major fundraiser for the Atlanta Saint Patrick's Day parade, was held at the historic Peachtree Golf Club on Monday, October 16th. Organized by Brother Dave Fitzgerald, the event was another sold out success on a beautiful fall day in Atlanta. Dave also chairs the Parade committee, and will be doing so for the last time in 2018. Under his leadership the parade has expanded into one of the largest public events in Atlanta each year, as well as being the longest running event in the city's history. Pictured from left to right are Brothers Ted Sullivan, Kevin Quirk, Dave Fitzgerald, Bobby Donlan, Ryan Curry, and Mike Moors.

# New York



## Helping in the community

For Thanksgiving, Hibernians donated turkey dinners with all the fixings to the St. Mary's food pantry in Evans Mills, N.Y.

Father Chris Looby, St. Mary's Church pastor, graciously received the donation from the AOH with great joy. Father Looby noted that many residents in the Evans Mills area have family members in the U.S. military and would welcome such a worthy gift.

Sean Hennessey, president of the Watertown AOH Division, said: "The holiday season can be tough on those less fortunate. Hopefully this donation will bring some relief to families that are having a bit of a tough time this Thanksgiving." Hennessey continued, "The AOH was founded on the motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Hopefully this donation, by members of the Msgr. James Ruddy Division, lives up to our mission."

Each package includes: a 15+ lbs. turkey, 5 lbs. of potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberries, yams, canned corn, a bottle of soda and both pumpkin and apple pie.

Special thanks to the members who made personal donation to this cause: Kevin Shaughnessy, Tim Sweeney, David Ard, Sean Hennessey, Dick Lawlee, Bill Flynn, Jim Fitzpatrick and Tom Shaughnessy.



**An Gorta Mor Mass:** Members of the AOH and LAOH Knock and John C Devereux Divisions gathered at the Great Hunger memorial at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Utica following their annual Irish Famine memorial mass on Nov 12. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.



**Pictured, from left, are Parade Co-Chair, AOH Div. 3 President Dermot Moore; AOH County President John McGowan; Frank Duffy and his wife, Bridget; Ladies AOH County President Lillian Murphy; and Parade Co-Chair Mary O'Sullivan.**

## Hibernians honor Frank Duffy Earned Silver Star in WWII

On Friday, December 1, members of the Rockland County AOH and LAOH gathered in Pearl River to honor Frank Duffy. In WW II, Mr. Duffy was awarded the Silver Star for "outstanding courage and intrepidity" for single handedly halting a grenade attack by Japanese forces who were attacking his unit's position. Mr. Duffy was recently selected as the "Parade Commander" to lead the 2018 Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade. In recognition of his service to our country, the Rockland County Legislature declared December 1, 2017, "Francis T. Duffy Day" in Rockland County.



**Honors in The Bronx:** National, state and local officers and honorees gathered to celebrate at the annual dinner of The Bronx County AOH Board on November 19, at Rory Dolan's. From left, honoree Martin Galvin, President Bronx Division 5 and NYS Chair, Freedom for all Ireland; Robert Eustace, recording secretary, Uniformed Firefighters Assn. representing honoree Gerard Fitzgerald; District Director Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch; honoree and NYS AOH President Vic Vogel; honoree Eileen Mannion Collum, chef-owner, Eileen's Country Kitchen/The Heritage; Bob Nolan, President, Bronx County Board; NYS AOH Treasurer John Manning; National Secretary Jere Cole; National Director Dan Dennehy; past NYS President Jim Burke; Fr. Brian McCarthy, County Chaplain; NYS Director Tom Beirne and past NYS President and National Organizer Tim McSweeney. Photo by Nuala Purcell.

## Hibernians doing good works in Dutchess County By Mike Shephard

As president of the AOH in Dutchess County, NY, I am happy to report on the good work in the community that was performed by our division on November 9. The membership provided meals for about 150 people in need at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie. The event was chaired by brother Jim Englishby who solicited donations from local supermarkets in addition to the food donated by our division. The division also held our annual charity dinner dance on October 21, and raised over \$5,000 to be used for our charitable endeavors, which include supporting Meals on Wheels, Birthright, the Dutchess County St Patrick's Parade, to name a few.

# New Jersey



**Helping in the Highlands**  
Brothers from Monmouth 2 volunteered on November 25th to sheet rock a home in the Highlands damaged from Superstorm Sandy. Pictured from left to right are Robert Little (owner), John Teevan, Joe Harrington, Tim Hourican, Declan Cassidy, Rich O'Brien, Mike Burke, Jim Shaw and Gene Lennon. Photo Credit: Brother Declan Cassidy

# North Carolina



## North Carolina Hibernians Live Charity

The North Carolina State Board, on behalf of the all North Carolinian AOH, is pleased to announce the tireless generosity and fraternal charity embodied by NC Hibernians. In 2017, five Divisions collectively donated over \$75,000 in monetary gifts, as well as significant material donations and hundreds of man hours, to various worthy organizations and causes within the state, spreading the message of Christian love and goodness and Hibernian fellowship to many in need of help and hope. Thanks to the efforts of good and honest Irishmen, a few more people will know of Christ's mercy. The officers of the North Carolina State Board are proud to associate themselves with such warmth and kindness, and it is in that spirit that they impart their well wishes in this Sacred Season to Hibernian brothers and sisters across the nation and throughout the world. In this season of giving it is imperative that Hibernians continue to remember those in need of Christian Charity. As Jesus himself taught, "In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven" (Matt 5:16). Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh!



## Division Teams Up with Helping Hands Mission

The Helping Hands Mission is known for aiding Wake County's low income, elderly, homeless, disabled and handicapped communities. Governor Thomas Burke Division of Wake County has been active over the years in helping renovate rooms at the mission's New Bern House to provide transitional housing for families in need. Each year the Division also donates to the mission's Thanksgiving "Love" Basket program. Each basket contains a turkey, stuffing, canned goods and more to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those less fortunate in Wake County. This year, on November 18, the Division donated over forty turkeys, several hams and numerous boxes of food to the New Bern House, helping to feed 600 people in the area.

Owing to the success of the Division's Thanksgiving efforts, it will also be setting up a Toy and Coat Drive for Christmas. Collection bins will be located at D's Bottleshop in Wakefield, Patrick Jane's Bar & Bistro in Cary, Pat Murnane's Irish Pub in Wake Forest and The Stags Head in Raleigh. The Helping Hands Mission is asking for donations of educational toys for ages birth to five years old, as well as warm gloves, scarves and coats for Operation Warm Clothing. Donations will be dropped off at the New Bern House on December 23.



## Ewe's Tree Band Has Fun, Helps Out Community

Ewe's Tree Band began sometime around 2010 when three members of the Governor Burke Division of Wake County, NC found out they each had an interest in music. They started playing Irish tunes and after a few months of practice they played at an AOH function. When another member of the AOH was heard to exclaim "Well they sure don't sound like U2," the name "Ewe's Tree" was born. Since then, one of the original bandmates has moved on, but two other AOH brothers have since joined, making the trio an ensemble featuring the tin whistle, guitar, concertina, and mandolin. Ewe's Tree plays a variety of Irish music, from traditional pub songs to modern favorites. They play often at festivals and local venues and events but they also donate much of their time to worthwhile fundraising efforts. A local Irishwoman and victim of an attack in need of help paying medical bills, a young woman with cerebral palsy who uses her birthday each year to fundraise for Catholic Charities, an area mission collecting food for a Thanksgiving meal for the needy, and various nursing homes and community centers have all benefitted from Ewe's Tree's music, fellowship and generosity. Furthermore, the Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade annually conducts fundraisers at which Ewe's Tree are a common sight and sound. If you ever find yourself lucky enough to be in our area, you'll want to find out where these guys are playing. Whether it's St. Patrick's Day or just a random Friday night, you're sure to have a great time!

# New Jersey



**Newly Elected N.J. AOH State Board Officers presided over their first meeting. Seated, from left, Jim Miller, Treasurer; Rich O'Brien, Vice President; Larry Prella Sr., President; and Mike Rhodes, Secretary.** Photo Credit: Brother George Stampoulos

## Congratulations to new state board

The newly elected N.J. AOH State Board Officers held their first official meeting on October 7, at the Fort Mercer Club in National Park. The meeting was hosted by AOH Division 1, Gloucester County.

**Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year  
from your National Board**

# Washington D.C.

## By John Patrick Walsh, President D.C. Elects New Board

The brothers of Washington, D.C., held a successful convention Saturday, September 9. Invited guest speakers included Sisters from the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará Novitiate House (in nearby Upper Marlboro, MD) and William Fitzmaurice from the University of Maryland Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Both speakers talked about their roles as missionaries and the need for evangelization in our backyards, a call to action that the gathered Hibernians were happy to support financially and spiritually.

The convention culminated with the election of the new state board officers: President John Patrick Walsh (DC4), Vice President Francis Moran (DC3), Secretary Brian Curran (DC2) and Treasurer Stephen Sullivan (DC3). A special note of gratitude to National Treasurer Sean Pender for swearing in the new officers on behalf of our National Board. The evening's festivities were capped by an unforgettable surprise after a wonderful mass, the congregation's organist played Amhrán na bhFiann as the recessional.

### Division 4 Demonstrates Christian Charity Through Charity Poker Game

What's better than a few beers, good friends, some friendly poker and watching ND beat USC? When you mix all four with an opportunity to live our motto by helping the less fortunate in your community! That's exactly what the brothers of Division 4 (Washington) did Saturday, October 21, at Hamilton's Pub in downtown D.C. Organized by President John Simpson, the luck of the Irish was with everyone, as a few hundred dollars were raised for the National Capital Area Foodbank. Special thanks to the John Barry Division Charitable Trust for their assistance in collecting the participant entry fees.

### Divisions 3 Supports Future Religious

Divisions 3 (Montgomery County) has recently adopted the Sister Servants Novitiate House for its charitable work. Brother Mike Dombro has led efforts to collect groceries and gift cards for the Sisters and their charges, while Brother George Rogers has organized seasonal maintenance and clean up days for the buildings and grounds. By opening these opportunities to all D.C. Hibernians, Division 3 has helped provide the Novitiate House with a clean and safe home from which to fulfill their holy mission.



D.C. Hibernians clearing the Novitiate House grounds



A brother saluted: The Fr. John Lynch Division took a break from the Roanoke City Grand in Road Christmas Parade to salute Brother Kent Lewis who is receiving care at a local nursing home.



# Virginia

## A trip to Hibernian Coal Country

Virginia State FFAI co-chairmen Jim McLaughlin and Terry Riley organized a field trip to the Pennsylvania coal region, which looked into AOH history along with a private tour of the historic Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville. Fifteen Virginia Hibernians plus spouses enjoyed the trip. Yuengling is the oldest continuously operating brewery in America. After the tour we stopped at the Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) courthouse where 13 Hibernians, known as the Molly Maguires, sat through a show trial and were found guilty. Seven of them were hanged, including, the last man standing, Jack Kehoe. From the courthouse we visited the Hibernian House in Girardsville home of the Black Jack Kehoe Division 4, Delaware County.

Division Past President Joe Wayne, Jack Kehoe's great grandson and current owner of the Hibernian House, captured everyone's undivided attention as he explained the frequently misguided stories surrounding the plight of Irish coal miners, the coal country Hibernians, and the "Molly Maguires." Joe told us the Hibernian House has been in his family since about 1870. His great grandfather, Joe Kehoe, held AOH meetings there, a tradition that continues today. Joe has a vast collection of AOH memorabilia, much of it still used in traditional AOH ceremonies. The walls are covered with photos, murals and artifacts. The Hibernian House is a time capsule and should be on every Hibernian's bucket list.



AOH sponsored a history talk: The Monsignor Kelly Division held the Annual Irish History Presentation in November. University of Richmond Professor Emeritus John Gordon spoke on the life of Michael Collins, noted as "A Man Against an Empire." Collins rose to prominence in the Anglo-Irish War and led the Irish delegation to the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Collins was later ambushed and shot dead by a member of the anti-treaty irregulars. Public events like this are advertised as AOH sponsored to generate interest in AOH membership.



Father Pat Kelly, left, and Division President Jay McCarthy.

### Fair winds and following seas to Father Pat Kelly

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division is bidding farewell to Brother/ SMA Father Pat Kelly as he undertakes a new assignment in Ireland in December. Beloved priest to many, Fr. Pat begins a new adventure in his homeland following over 25 years in America and in countries served by the Society of African Missions. Slainte', Fr. Pat, and thank you for your service to our Church and to the AOH.



New D.C. State Board, from left, Treasurer Sullivan, Secretary Curran, National Treasurer Pender, President Walsh, Vice President Moran.

# New York

By Bill McCormack

## Division 16 working the motto

AOH Division 16 and Ladies AOH Division 16 donated \$6,228 on Nov. 29 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam Counties. The presentation was made at the annual Tree of Life ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco. Hospice Care, Visiting Nurse Association, a non-profit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On December 9, Hibernians also donated \$6,228 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center, in Hawthorne. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992 the AOH has donated \$239,359 to these two and other organizations. Chairman Brian Jones administered the fund raising drive. The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary's, in Katonah; St. Patrick's, in Bedford; St. Francis of Assisi, in Mount Kisco; St. Patrick's, in Armonk; St. Lawrence O'Toole, in Brewster; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Shrub Oak; Holy Innocence, in Pleasantville; and St. John's/St. Mary's, in Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on September 13, 1891, consisting of men of Irish descent and practicing Roman Catholics living in the northern Westchester County area. The Division has a long and distinguished history of supporting different community groups in the area as well as supporting the northern Westchester's annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day parade since 1991. The Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that the 28th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday March 10, 2018, in Mount Kisco and the annual dinner will be held on Saturday, March 3.



Hospice Care donation presentation with William & Will McCormack, AOH, Charles McGuinness AOH, Ann Michele Murphy Quirolo, Hospice CEO, Margaret McHugh, Jim McHugh, AOH, Bernadette McGuire LAOH, Dana Hickey, AOH, Ed Reilly, AOH, Ann Hough, LAOH Mount Kisco, Jim Cullinane, AOH.

New Division 18 Chaplain, Fr. Vincent Druding of Assumption Church, blessed the runners bearing turkeys at the start of the Quiet Man Public House 6th Annual Turkey Run in Peekskill on Nov. 18. More than 300 families, including beneficiaries of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center Meals On Wheels program, received Thanksgiving feasts thanks to the efforts of Westport, Co Mayo, man and Westchester AOH treasurer Cathal McGreal. McGreal owns two local businesses, the Quiet Man Public House and Hibernian Millwork. AOH Division 18 Peekskill Westchester and Hudson Valley Irish Fest & Center helped Cathal by sponsoring the Running of the Turkeys.



Div. 18's Fr. Vincent Druding with fellow runners and Siobhan Dennehy of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center Runners at the start.



AOH Division 5, Woodlawn-The Bronx, held its annual Spirit of 1916 Awards event on Sunday, October 22, at The Rambling House Bar & Restaurant in Woodlawn. At the Spirit of 1916 Awards event were, from left, Martin Galvin (president, AOH-Division 5, Woodlawn/Bronx), Special Awardee Pat Doherty (NYS Comptroller's Office/MacBride Principles), honoree Hugh McMorro (Division 5 Man of the Year), honoree Jere Cole (AOH National Secretary), and honoree Thomas Beirne (past AOH NY County President). Photo by Nuala Purcell

# Virginia



Herbert-Cady Division (AL01) on the hunt: Herbert-Cady Division brothers enjoyed friendship and unity on the Potomac River. Plenty of shots were fired on opening day of duck hunting season, albeit only two kills. Hunters claimed to be a little rusty.

## 30th Anniversary for Meagher Division

The General Thomas F. Meagher Division celebrated its 30th Anniversary in November. During the month, the division remembered 23 deceased brothers at a special Mass celebrated by Division Chaplain Father Jerry Wooton. The division hosted a 30th Anniversary dinner party featuring traditional Irish food and live Irish music. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by National Park Service Historian Frank O'Reilly. O'Reilly presented a riveting talk on General Meagher's experience with the Young Irelanders, the "Rising of '48," and his circuitous journey to America. He explained Meagher's motivation in forming an Irish brigade comprised of units from several states. Meagher envisioned this as a means for Irish immigrants to be accepted as Americans. All attendees received a special anniversary pamphlet on the history of AOH and the division.



## Why I am a Hibernian

My wife and I moved with our two children to the suburbs from Philadelphia, where I was born and raised. I had heard of the Ancient Order of Hibernians watching the Philadelphia Saint Patrick's Day Parade. In the suburbs, people tend keep to themselves. I found it hard to meet new people. When I saw the notice of an AOH Division forming in our area I thought that it would be a good way to make new friends and share a common interest, our Irish heritage.

Ken Young  
"Yellow" Jack Donohue, Division 4  
Montgomery County, PA

# Ladies hibernian news

## Missouri



Julia Hogan, of St. Patrick's Division, was presented with her National Life Membership at the Missouri State Board Meeting. Pictured left to right: Sandi Swift, National Webmaster/Publicity and Missouri State Vice President; Julia Hogan, Sharron Olsen, Missouri State President; and Pat Fuchs, St. Patrick's Division President.

## President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



On behalf of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc National Board, I bring you greetings for a 2018 year filled with Hope as you continue to be an active LAOH member working together with other members in your local area and across your state as the opportunity presents itself to you. To the newly elected officers who are taking the leadership reins in each state, I say THANK YOU for stepping-up to work with your division, county board, and state board members. I am confident that your out-going officers at the division, county board, and state board are there to support you. I say THANK YOU to these officers who have completed their term of office. Your National Board Officers are also available to assist you if you contact them.

All officers who served during the 2017 Year are the responsible agents to complete the following 2017 Annual Reports, namely, the Annual Financial Report, the Annual History Report, and the Annual Membership Report. National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan, National Irish Historian Dee Wallace, and National Secretary Karen Keane have forwarded these Annual Reports and the necessary instructions to complete the Annual Reports to the appropriate State Board Officers and to the State Presidents. Please contact the appropriate National Board Officer if you need assistance. I am requesting that you adhere to the time-lines given in the instructions for each Annual Report. National Catholic Action Officer Colleen Bowers informed all State Board Catholic Action Officers and State Presidents that no Catholic Action Report is required for the 2017 Year.

National Vice President Carol Sheyer will soon be sending to all State Presidents information regarding the nomination process for the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award that will be presented by the LAOH National Board at the 2018 National Convention being held in Louisville KY July 11-14, 2018. I ask that each State President make sure the information is made available to the LAOH membership at each level within your state. With our LAOH membership being present in 29 states and the District of Columbia, you can understand why the instructions recommend that each state submit one (1) candidate for consideration.

As you solidify your Division, County Board, and State Board Calendars for the 2018 Year, please build-in support to get your membership to the 2018 National Convention being held in Louisville KY, July 11-14, 2018. By the time you read this article, the 2018 Convention Registration and Package Information will be available on the LAOH website ([www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)) for you to easily download. The Degrees of the Order will be exemplified by the Ohio State Board Degree Team. Past National President Kathie Linton is the LAOH 2018 National Convention Chair. She will be providing 2018 National Convention information and updates as they become available. The Call to the 2018 National Convention is scheduled to be forwarded to State Secretaries and State Presidents in April.

I pray that all members get involved in the works of the Order within your state. Your commitment to participate in and support the works of the Order is critical to sustain our organization. Our membership will grow if we ask potential candidates to consider membership. May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, bless us as we engage with other LAOH members and live our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

## Ladies AOH National Board

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

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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



## Catholic Action

by Colleen Bowers, National Catholic Action Officer

I presently have been working with the PSP Ad Hoc Committee that our National President has charged me to chair. I want to share the names of the committee to give them the praise they deserve for the dedication these past 7 months, working to the goals we have been charged with. The committee consists of Kathie Linton, Past National President Ohio, Mary Ann Klein, Indiana, Bernadette Sullivan, New Jersey and Cheryl Daniels, South Carolina.

I want everyone to mark their calendars for the 2018 March for Life on January 19, 2018 in Washington, D.C. You can find the detailed information at [www.march-for-life.org](http://www.march-for-life.org).

Presently, National PSP Director Tom O'Donnell and myself are working on the 2017 Project St. Patrick grant selections. Last year we gave 64 grants out to the religious for their continuing education.

Please do not forget to make your Catholic Action donations to Project St. Patrick and SOAR. SOAR is celebrating their 30 year anniversary this year. To find out more on SOAR and Project St. Patrick go to the National website [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) under Catholic Action.

One other item I need to address is please use the donation Catholic Action form as needed and, per a vote at the National Interim board meeting, there will no longer be any Annual Catholic Action forms required to be filed with National.

# New Jersey

## 2017 Catherine Dean Scholarship Winner

The New Jersey LAOH Monmouth County Div. 4 awarded Isabel Murrer (nickname Bella) the 2017 Catherine Dean Scholarship.

Catherine Dean was the first president of the division. In her honor, the scholarship is awarded to candidates who have demonstrated academic accomplishments, dedication to community service and excellence in writing skills. One of the application requirements is submission of a composition based on a topic which is different each year. The 2017 topic was the Easter Rising, also known as the Easter Rebellion, which was an armed insurrection in Ireland during Easter Week, April 1916. According to Bella, she had heard about the armed action prior to the scholarship. In preparing for her application, Bella researched the subject matter to become more proficient and as a result, she became appreciative for the bravery of the Irish nationalists who established the Irish Republic.

Bella was the valedictorian at Red Bank Catholic High School in the 2017 graduation class. The scholarship award helped Bella with her college expenses at Notre Dame University where she is a computer science major. Bella plans to concentrate in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Design. She wants to become AI proficient because she foresees a future where this science will be used in many facets of life such as the health field and entertainment area.



Bella is shown here with her parents and brother along, with our scholarship committee Patty O'Malley and Mary Ellen O'Halloran.

# South Carolina



Maureen Binder, President of the LAOH St. Ciara Division of Beaufort County, SC and its members honored Liz Ryan as their Hibernian of the Year at the Country Club of Hilton Head dinner in Hilton Head, SC. Liz has held several offices since joining the LAOH in 2011. She served as Historian, headed committees for the Annual Essay Contest for high school students, the SC LAOH State Convention which was held in Bluffton, SC for the first time in 10 years. The St. Ciara Division is proud to call Liz our Hibernian of the Year for 2017!

# Michigan

## Member Awarded National Lifetime Membership

At our LAOH State Board Meeting on October 28th, a shocked Julie Lewis heard her name being announced as a National Lifetime Member. Julie joined the LAOH in 1992. She personifies the credo of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Julie has held the Offices of Catholic Action, Secretary and two terms as President on the State Board. She held every position in the Catherine McAuley Division, at least once. She has served as the Degree Team Co-Chair in our State and was an appointee on the National level. Julie is either an organizer or member of many committees, whether it's making baskets for raffles, taking admission tickets or selling raffle tickets. She co-chairs the Children's Tent at the Irish Festival each year and plans activities, lessons and entertainment for the children. She is a strong supporter of the best image of the Irish; often challenging vendors and businesses who sell t-shirts and other items with offensive sayings and/or images.

She is tireless in her work to promote her Irish Heritage and the LAOH. Julie also volunteers at her parish church and actively supports Right to Life events and activities. All her Michigan LAOH sisters congratulate Julie on this much deserved award.



L-R: Maureen Shelton, past National President, Julie Lewis, proudly displaying her National Life Member certificate, and Barb Weir, Michigan State President.

# Pennsylvania



On November 5, 2017 members of PA Allegheny County Division 11 attended their Annual Memorial Mass for deceased members at St. Stanislaus Church in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Pictured from left to right front row: Division President Shirley Sestric; Eileen Haggerty; Division M&C Chair Joy Short; National Life Member, PA State Treasurer and Division 11 VP Shirley Murphy; Back row: Nicky Skubal, Division 11 Secretary Mary Rogers Schubert; Division 11 FFAI Chair Pat Tragesser and Division 11 Catholic Action Chair Mary Ellen Myers.

# Kentucky



Kentucky State Board, from left to right: Carol Sheyer (National Vice President) Sandi Swift (National Webmaster/Publicity), Molly Dobson (Vice President), Julia O'Dwyer (President), Patricia O'Connell (National President), Natalie Peterinelli (Treasurer), Maureen Toner (Secretary), Maureen Zalla (Irish Historian) not pictured Missions & Charities, Shannon Hulesman, and Catholic Action, Clara Fulkerson

Deadline for the  
February-March issue  
is NO LATER than February 1

**Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email. [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)**

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*Wishing everyone*

**Bliadhna**

**math ùr!**

*Happy New Year*



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## New York

### **Benches dedicated at Rockville Cemetery, Nassau County Immigrant victims of 'Bristol' and 'Mexico' remembered**

At this year's memorial service on Oct. 28 for the victims of two shipwrecks (the Bristol in 1836 and the Mexico in 1837) two Memorial Benches were added to the site known as Mariner's Monument. The monument, in Lynbrook, NY, is a mass gravesite for 139 victims (mostly women and children of Irish descent) from these two ships. The memorial benches were made possible by the efforts of the Nassau County Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies AOH and the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook.

Co-Chairman of the memorial service Andrew E. Healey (Nassau AOH chairman of Charities & Missions) said that, "it's been equal partnership between our respective organizations. We have worked together for three years now, to renovate and re-educate the public about this historic site. In 2015, we completely renovated and refurbished the grounds around the monument for its 175th anniversary. We also added three placards to explain each of the shipwrecks and one to explain the events of that time and the good that came out these tragic shipwrecks. Then in 2016, we were able to get New York State and Federal landmark recognition. This site has now been added to the Federal Register of Historic Places in the USA. And finally, this year, 2017, we added two new granite Memorial Benches for the public to sit on, after they read the placards and reflect on this historic site."

Healey also said, "These were Irish immigrants trying to make a new life for themselves here in America, but were unfortunately cut down by the rough seas. We honor them for their courage and their belief, that America is a land of opportunity."



**At the dedication of the memorial benches were members of the Nassau County AOH and LAOH and the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook and many local residents. The Hibernians were represented by, from left, Long Beach LAOH division members Marian Cronin (County VP) and Peg Hannan, Jack O'Brien, Peter Begley (Nassau board president), Tim Myles, Sean Hood, Michael Lavin, John King, Carol McTigue, Ted McTigue and Jim Henry. Photo by Digest Editor John O'Connell.**

# Welcome To The 2018 AOH LAOH National Convention in

# Louisville, KY

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National Convention  
July 11th - 14th  
The Galt House Hotel

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- Icebreaker (Wednesday July 11th) \$65 \*
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- Installation Banquet (Saturday July 14th) \$95 \*
- Registration Only \$20

Credit Card and PayPal payments will be accepted on December 15th and thereafter. Please consider making all reservations online to streamline the process. If mailing, please remit one form per person.

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