

McKay speaks out on Good Friday Agreement at 20



By Neil Cosgrove

On March 22, 2018, and a month before the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, out Worthy President Judge James McKay testified before the Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Commission, at the behest of Co-Chair Chris Smith of New Jersey, was holding a hearing, "The Good Friday Agreement at 20: achievements and unfinished business," to review the status of the implementation of what panel member Congressman Brendan Boyle described as the "unquestioned gold standard in terms of peace agreements." However, Congressman Smith and Boyle both expressed their concern that lack of significant progress in implementing key provisions of the agreement and the new challenge posed by Britain's desire to

pursue Brexit could imperil the agreement and the peace it has established. Judge McKay appeared before the committee with fellow witnesses Brian Gormally, Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, and Mark Thompson, Director of Relatives for Justice.

In his testimony, Judge McKay noted the accomplishments of the Good Friday Agreement. "During the past 20 years, a generation has grown up in Northern Ireland without knowing the fears and anxieties that constant violence inflicts upon communities." The Judge also noted, "The economy in Northern Ireland has made significant advances since the Troubles, and despite setbacks from the global recession, the North of Ireland has

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AOH celebrates St. Patrick



Hibernians paraded proudly all over the country in March in honor of St. Patrick, as you'll see throughout this issue of the Digest. Here, Rockland County's Irish pride was on display in its 56th annual St. Patrick's Parade in Pearl River. Grand Marshal, AOH Division 5's Emmett Woods, was escorted to the reviewing stand accompanied by Kevin McAleer, AOH Edward V. Larkin Memorial Pipe Band leader. Photo by Robert Reers.

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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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The Essex County Board AOH
and
The Rev. James T. O'Reilly Division 8 AOH
Lawrence, Massachusetts**



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- Past National Board Irish Way & Study Abroad Scholarships Chairman
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- Past Massachusetts State Board Secretary
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"I would be honored to have your support"

Sponsored by the Committee to Reelect Bill Sullivan, AOH National Director



president's message

by Jim McKay III

All Hibernian eyes will be turning to Louisville for our convention in the middle of July this year. Your Executive Board as well as the liaison in Kentucky have been working diligently to put together something special for our Brother and Sister Hibernians at this gathering.

By the time you read this, Easter will have come and gone and hopefully spring will have sprung in your area. Old Man Winter has not been cooperating as of late and I know plenty of areas have had record snowfall this year. I had the opportunity to represent our National Order at the White House this year for the St. Patrick's Day festivities. As usual it was well done and well attended, and well represented by Hibernians as well. I also had the opportunity to attend a late dinner at the Ambassador's residence that evening and broke bread with Irish Government leaders who were in the United States for St. Patrick's Day.

The following week I was invited to testify in front of the Helsinki Commission hearings on Capitol Hill in commencement of the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. Congressmen Chris Smith and Brendan Boyle listened to our remarks and I think that the questions that followed properly addressed the current issues such as BREXIT and legacy issues in the North.

During my remarks I singled out the McGuinness Principles, named after recently deceased Sinn Féin leader in the North of Ireland, Martin McGuinness. They basically break down into four principles that should always be considered when dealing with the problems of the North: Self-Determination; Respect; Equality and Truth. These principles have been gaining momentum throughout the Irish communities in this country during the past few months and I thought that it was appropriate to bring up these principles during my remarks. I also stressed the need for a Special Envoy to help address the problems in the North. I truly believe that the Hibernians are continuing their role as the voice of the Irish in America.

Our membership initiative after four months seems to be showing some positive results. In the very near future we will be swearing in new Divisions in Lexington, Kentucky; Phoenix, Arizona; Houston, Texas as well as New York. Again I would like to thank Tim McSweeney, our National Membership Chairman, and Danny O'Connell, our National Vice President, for spearheading these efforts through our new media technology approach.

I hope that all of you had a Holy Easter and look forward to seeing you in Lexington for our National Convention.

God Bless,



national secretary

by Jere Cole

The national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, is rapidly approaching. There are still some divisions who owe their 2017 national per capita, which was due in February. If your division has not paid, your division will not be considered in good standing and may not participate in the convention!

To attend your convention you must present your 2018 membership card. As of this writing, all divisions have been mailed their 2018 cards even though we have not received all updated rosters AND in over 60 cases the per capita payment. If you have not paid, please do so immediately as the National Convention begins in July!

Remember, you are paying for membership as of December 31, 2017 minus the total number of priests, active military and national life members. Be sure to include your completed Form 11 with the per capita check so that we can credit your account properly.

This year, as you know, we instituted some sweeping changes in the way we processed the updating of rosters. We experienced some technical problems early on causing a delay in getting the 2018 cards distributed in a timely fashion. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. We have addressed these difficulties and rest assured we will be making even more changes this year to further improve and streamline the process and make maintenance of our records even more manageable.

As mentioned last year, many divisions would be best served naming a Deputy Financial Secretary, particularly if the Financial Secretary does not have email or own a computer. This will only improve our communication process. This past year many divisions could not receive their roster electronically, and that caused some unnecessary delay.

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."



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Brothers, the 2018 convention is upon us and we need you to join us in Louisville to help make it a success. If you haven't already, take a moment and book your room and package today so you can help shape the future of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. The local committee has outdone themselves in preparing for convention success and you will be impressed with the Louisville hospitality. The committee has obtained sponsors to provide complimentary beer during each of the three events and table wine for Irish night and the closing banquet.

The convention agenda will include a special segment from the Marketing, Promotion and Advertising committee on Thursday afternoon. This committee will outline the path of AOH success for the future including recruiting new members and promoting the work of the AOH throughout the country. Also featured on Thursday will be a segment from our secretary and treasurer on how to successfully manage your division. These segments will lead up to the breakout sessions, which will include each and every national committee.

The convention kicks off with Mass on Wednesday followed by the Ice Breaker. Business will begin at 9 a.m. sharp on Thursday when our joint session will hear from potential 2022 convention sites, including Denver, Pittsburgh and Reno. These are three wonderful cities that all hope to land the Hibernian convention for their home state. Friday also promises to be exciting as nomination will take place late in the morning followed by state caucuses in the afternoon. Now is the perfect time to announce your candidacy for national office.

That being said, I want you to know I will be seeking re-election as your national vice president. I have been blessed to work for three tremendous national presidents, Seamus Boyle, Brendan Moore and Judge Jim McKay. Working for these brothers has been a tremendous education and I believe we are a better organization because of their leadership. I also had the tremendous opportunity to work with National Secretary Emeritus Tom McNabb for two years. It was Tom's mentorship that gave me the understanding of the basic operation of our national office and set the path for a successful transition.

I trust you all had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and a tremendous Irish American Heritage Month. I had the opportunity to join several celebrations but two outshined the rest. I attended Proclamation Day in Columbus, Ohio, where I had the honor and privilege of awarding their Hibernian of the Year and their Commodore John Barry award winners in the city council chambers. Scott Partika, the local Catholic Action Chairman and a 27-year-old member of the national Marketing, Promotion, and Advertising committee, was awarded Hibernian of the Year. The local division honored him for his work on events and recruitment. The Commodore John Barry award winner was Daniel Eakins. Daniel was recognized for his work as Financial chairman as well as his work in Veterans affairs. Brother Eakins was the originator of the new AOH Veterans Affairs pin. Both of these young men have a positive vision for the future of the AOH.

On St. Patrick's Day itself, I was honored to join my local division at mass and a luncheon to honor Brother Ed Moss, our local Irishman of the year. Brother Moss has had a major impact on our local division as well as our local dioceses where he heads up one of our missions. Ed is known by many Hibernians around the country and in Ireland as he has been a regular participant in the Bloody Sunday Peace March in Derry. These three brothers are truly deserving of the recognition brought upon them.

In closing, I remind you that the success of the AOH is on all of our shoulders. I invite you to set the stage for the future by joining us July 11 for the AOH-LAOH National Convention in Louisville.

God Bless, Danny O.



Danny O'Connell had the pleasure of presenting the Mahoning County Irishman of the Year during the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon in Youngstown, Ohio. The first veteran pins were presented to the Moss clan as well. From left, Picture Danny O'Connell, Lieutenant Commander Eric Moss, Irishman of the Year Edward A. Moss, and Hibernian Marty Moss.



Treasurer's Report

by Sean Pender

Brothers, on March 28th the IRS received our annual group exemption letter. This letter must be returned and updated each year, 90 days before the end of our fiscal year of June 30th. I confirmed that the 144 current divisions and boards that were attached as subordinates to the parent organization Ancient Order of Hibernians in America GEN number 0832 were valid subordinates of the Order. Regrettably, nine divisions that were attached last year did not file taxes for a third year in a row and are no longer attached as subordinates and must commence the tax exemption re-instatement process. I also requested that the IRS attach 19 divisions and boards who have successfully completed the tax exemption re-instatement process, 36 divisions and boards who have provided for this office clarification that the EIN number associated with their entity is valid and compliant with IRS regulation and therefore eligible for attachment, and four divisions or boards who previously did not have an EIN but have successfully completed the process to request one. While updates from 59 divisions is progress, this represents less than a third of the information that is needed to complete full IRS compliance. I will have a detailed progress report by state available when we meet in Louisville.

On March 22nd AOH National President James McKay testified before the Congressional Helsinki Commission chaired by NJ Congressman and past Sean MacBride award winner Chris Smith. I was honored to have been the point person who worked with Congressman Smith and his staff who recommended President McKay and Mark Thompson as witnesses to testify before the committee who reviewed the Good Friday Agreement 20 years later.

I'm additionally honored to be working with many other Hibernians and Irish-American organizations to promote the McGuinness Principles. The four principles are equality, respect, truth and self determination, and are related to the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. President McKay was the first to introduce the principles in his testimony on Capitol Hill. Patterned after the McBride Principles, the goal is to create a U.S. based grass roots effort to implement the Good Friday Agreement and works toward the peaceful unification of Ireland. More details on this exciting project will be covered in Louisville.

Brothers, it has been an honor to serve as your national treasurer for the last two years and I would humbly request your support as I declare my intention to run for re-election in Louisville. It has been a sometimes-challenging position but I have done my best to manage the very tedious EIN/tax exemption process, while trying to enhance and improve the office's processes, provide requested info to our valuable oversight committee, operate within constitutional guidelines, follow IRS regulations and protect investments. I've also been very honored to represent the AOH as a panelist in a high visibility symposium on the Good Friday Agreement 20 years later, work with National Vice President Danny O'Connell and director Dan Dennehy to file a grant request with the Irish government and be a valued member of President McKay's team promoting the voice of Irish America.



Director's Report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope by the time you read this, spring will finally have arrived. What a great past few months it has been for the Order. As usual, March was a whirlwind of activity from our Executive Board being at the White House for the annual Shamrock Ceremony to parades all across the country. Our advertising and promotions campaign is opening new doors across the country in places that we have never been as well as recruiting new members. We need to keep the momentum going as we move into summer and the National Convention.

One of the ways to keep this momentum going is through the use of Facebook. I know a lot of you are already on it, but does your State Board or Division have a page? If you are on Facebook, have you "Liked" as many AOH pages as you can find? The reason I bring this up in regards to momentum is the amount of information that is available to use in your own area. Maybe a Division in the East is doing a fundraiser or a recruiting event that someone in the South never thought of doing. Maybe a Division wants to start an Irish festival and needs some information on how to do it more efficiently by contacting a Division that already holds one. A Facebook page not only promotes your State Board or Division's events, but can be the foundation of an idea for another.

Congratulations to Brother Tom Connelly of the Bishop Whelan Division in Wheeling, WV. They are the only Division in the state and Tom was recently elected President.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at dparks121@yahoo.com.

Deadline for June-July issue

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



Deputy Chaplain's Report

by Rev. Michael H. Healy

Brother Hibernians,

I am looking forward to greeting all my brothers at The Convention in Louisville. I hope and pray that it will unite us and enhance the purpose for our existence. The Hibernians has always stood for justice and peace in Ireland. We have stood for the rights of immigrants. We have supported the rights of workers and fair pay. We have been a voice against discrimination against our fellow brothers and sisters. We continue to ask for our history to be recognized in the building of our nation. We have reached out to those who have lost their homes in natural disasters. We have not forgotten those in prisons because of injustice. Each year, we invite our brothers and sisters to go to Washington and march for the rights of the Unborn. This year, in Ireland for the first time access to abortion and the killing of the Unborn, will become the law of the land. We have fought for the same issues that some Irish parties have advocated. Now we find that they support the referendum allowing Abortion to be the Law of the Land. Do we have a voice to our brothers and sisters, which we have supported and marched together for freedom and justice for all? What is lawful is not always moral. Abortion is immoral. Do we get it?



Director's Report

by John Wilson

Our National Convention is just around the corner and I hope you have made your reservation for the beautiful Galt House Hotel and plan to be part of the 99th Biennial Convention.

The men and women of Louisville are proud of their city and have worked hard to make this a memorial event for you. Thanks to the success of the AOH Irish Central ad campaign it has sparked new life in our organization and we all feel more confident about the future.

Conventions are a great way to network with members from all around the country and cultivate our social identity as Irish American Catholics. By attending a convention it will help you improve your knowledge of what it means to be a Hibernian and help you grow your division and retain membership by networking with other Hibernians and learning what works. A wise person once said, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." That is a wonderfully true statement — in other words, if you continue doing exactly what you are now doing, then don't be surprised when you don't see any increase or change in your results. You only get out of an organization what you put into it if you want to grow your membership; you need to find what works with other divisions and how you can contribute to the organization by serving in leadership roles.

When you are at the convention, look at the daily schedule of events and plan to attend the workshops such as the duties of the secretaries/treasurers procedures and forms. There are workshops on how to grow your division and networking, history, anti-defamation, Hibernian Hunger and Project St Patrick. If you are the Pro-Life Chairman, or want to know about our Veteran Affairs, FFAI Chair, IAHM Chair, Catholic Action, etc., there are breakout rooms where you can learn what others are doing that works. Take a look at the schedule and find a few of the events that you want to hit up. Write down what you want to see and create your own personalized schedule.

If you have not taken your major degree this will be your opportunity!

Don't forget your AOH membership card — you won't get into events without it. Dress comfortably and have good footwear when attending the convention. Louisville is next to the Ohio River and could be a little muggy in July. Keep your phone charged and bring business cards so you can reach out to your new friends in the future. If you drive to Louisville it is only 2 hours from Indy, 4 hours from St. Louis, 5 hours from Chicago, 7 ½ hours from Dubuque, 8 hours from KC, 26 hours from Helena and 10 hours from Omaha and Tulsa. Please consider placing an advertisement in the Souvenir Journal for the convention. This is a great way to shout out to your fellow Hibernians about yourself or your business, Division or State.

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seen a growth in tourism, growth in foreign direct investment, and a commitment to increasing the private sector."

"However, the Good Friday Agreement was merely the beginning of a process aimed at creating a fair and equitable society for all the communities of the North of Ireland," the Judge cautioned. "This is an extremely critical time for Northern Ireland, and as political parties continue to attempt to form a sustainable government while addressing the fears and anxieties of Brexit, we believe that America must reaffirm through the presence of a Special Envoy that the peace and well-being of the community of the North of Ireland is still a priority to the U.S., and America is willing to walk with the representatives of those communities on the road to a lasting peace." "If something as benign as the promotion of the Irish language cannot be resolved, then what hope is there to address more contentious issues?"

"America must reaffirm through the presence of a Special Envoy that the peace and well-being of the community of the North of Ireland is still a priority to the U.S., and America is willing to walk with the representatives of those communities on the road to a lasting peace."

AOH National President James F. McKay III

The Judge also noted the failure to honor the Good Friday Commitment to address the legacy of the past, noting "[addressing] 'legacy issues' is critical to finding a path forward." Judge McKay noted that there appears to be an on-going double standard of justice; that if Civil Rights Campaigner Pat Finucane's murder had occurred in London as opposed to Belfast there would be no hesitancy to conduct a thorough investigation and transparent hearing.

Judge McKay concluded "The U.S. must continue to support and guide the full implementation of the Good Friday agreement, and the administration can show this foremost by appointing a new Special Envoy to Northern Ireland." The Judge also signaled the Hibernians' commitment to the McGuinness Principles, stating, "The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America fully supports these espoused principles and believe that they are in keeping with the best values of our organization: Truth, Respect, Equality, and Self-Determination."

The hearing concluded with Congressmen Smith and Boyle indicating their deep concern for the Good Friday Agreement. Congressman Boyle stated, "This is a very disturbing backsliding the likes of which we have not heard for the previous 19 years." Congressman Smith stated that he has introduced H.Res.777, which calls for the United States, the British and all parties, including the Republic of Ireland, to recommit to the peace process.

Candidates for National Office

Several brothers have asked how they can become a national officer. The requirements for office at each level can be found in the National Constitution located on our national website under 'About the AOH.'

All candidates for national office, elected or appointed, must: be a member in good standing for a continuous period of six months before election or appointment; have received the major degrees of the Order for at least one year prior to election or appointment; have receptive e-mail addresses available to the membership and regularly respond to e-mails; and shall attend National conventions and meetings unless excused by the national President.

If you meet these requirements and believe you have the ability and experience to serve on the Ancient Order of Hibernians national board, the 2018 national convention is your next opportunity.



Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

What an unforgettable month March 2018 was! New England experienced four Northeaster storms during this month. Though there was coastal flooding, electric outages, fallen trees, branches and in many areas up to two-plus feet of snow per storm, most of the region's Irish Heritage Months activities went on as planned. As many of you can imagine, even the heartiest New England Hibernians are looking forward to the warmer and longer days of spring and summer!

On February 5, I participated in a second National Director Conference Call that took place amongst the National Directors. My thanks to National Director Liam McNabb for initiating and setting up this forum. The discussions, suggestions, sharing of ideas and strategies and the comradery that has developed because of these calls has not only benefited the National Directors directly, but the AOH at all levels.

Hibernian growth in the New England area is moving in a positive direction thanks to the efforts and diligence of our National Organizer Tim McSweeney. We are hopeful before the end of the year to have a new Division in Vermont and one in Massachusetts. To help further this growth, Tim will conduct another organizational seminar sometime later this year in the region.

Hopefully during your March festivities your Division was able to recruit new members. If this was not the case, don't be discouraged! Divisions that have a "Home" have an advantage over those Divisions that do not have their own Division facility. However, there are other venues that can just as easily be used to attract new members. Why not contact the pastor(s) of several Catholic Churches in your area and ask if your Division can set up membership information tables at all the entrances of the church on one weekend? Have each of these membership tables covered by members who can answer questions that prospective future members might have, while passing out membership applications. If your Division has AOH sashes, have those manning the membership tables wear them so that they will stand out!

Also ask the pastor of the parish if the celebrant of each Mass would mention from the altar that members of the AOH are at the doors of the church and are seeking new members. If possible, have a notice printed in the church's weekly bulletin not only on the membership drive weekend, but also in the previous weeks bulletins announcing that the AOH would be there. A sample of a possible bulletin notice is noted below.

BULLETIN NOTICE: "Are you a Practicing Catholic of Irish birth, descent or adoption, and at least 16 years of age? Consider joining the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America — the oldest lay Catholic fraternal organization in the country. Locally, the _____ Division AOH has been active in our community since _____; supporting the Church, promoting Irish Culture, and advocating for the peaceful reunification of a United Ireland. Members of the Division will be providing additional information and soliciting applications after all weekend Masses on _____. Please visit www.aoh.com to learn more!"

In most cases, pastors will be receptive to this request. This idea might be just what your Division needs to jump start a membership drive, while at the same time getting your Division some great public exposure!

I look forward to meeting and talking with all of you at our National Convention in Louisville in July and hearing your ideas and suggestions!

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

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



ORGANIZER

by Tim McSweeney

As technology has taken the forefront of our recruitment efforts, grassroots or face-to-face recruitment still drives the basis of our recruitment program. With face-to-face recruitment, you may be a potential member's first contact with the AOH.

Here are some tips:

- First impressions are key. A neat, clean appearance and knowledge about our organization is key.
- Sell the product. Educate the potential member and add your personal reason for being a Hibernian.
- Key in. If the potential member has an interest in a certain aspect of the AOH (FFAI, Pro-Life, Charity etc.), engage him in a discussion about that aspect.
- Reel them in. Tell him what the AOH can do for them. We are a brotherhood, we are Catholic, we are a charitable organization; and tell him how he can be a part of the oldest Irish Catholic organization in the country.
- Get their contact information. Get the potential member's info for follow-up or, better yet, have them fill out an application.

The online applications continue to flow in. It's easy to refer a potential member to www.AOH.com/join

Our newest division, The Brother Mathias Barrett Division 1 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is now up and running. This division marks the return of the AOH to New Mexico after a 20-year absence. President Jim McKay traveled to Albuquerque to install the officers. Congratulations to Division President Jim Larkin and his officers. Welcome aboard!



Director's report

by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

Congratulations to all on a successful Saint Patrick's Season. Though we're Irish every day of the year, Saint Patrick's Day is our day to share our Faith and Heritage with our communities as well as promote the good works of the Order. There were numerous parades, luncheons and dinners that invited the public to see our Hibernian traditions in action.

As I've written in previous articles, inviting the public to see and meet local Division leaders and members practice our culture is also a great opportunity to promote the Order. Leading up to March, many Divisions strategize how to make the most of sharing celebratory events in an effort to make the most impact.

Planting seeds outside the Division to grow the Division...

Working with your Church to organize a concert or show that features Irish music or culture is an effective way to support the Church as well as promote the Order through an AOH table and membership applications. One Division contacted their local museum and volunteered to set up a display of Irish history that included information regarding the Order, our charitable works and how to become a member.

For the many Divisions that don't have halls or clubhouses, partnering with local organizations is a helpful way to collaborate, learn and grow the Order. Contact your local Knights of Columbus, Elks or local colleges that may have a "Newman Club" or Gaelic Society to explore ways of working together on events to support your collective missions.

Working with local elected officials to raise the tri-colors at town or city hall in March is an ideal way to publicize the local Division. The Schenectady AOH in upstate NY works closely with their city and county governments to pass resolutions every March that recognize the local contributions of the Order and the impact of the Irish in America.

Does your Bishop know about the Order and the great works of your Division? Are your local elected officials aware of your Division's presence in the community? Has your Division volunteered to answer phones at the local public television station (PBS)?

Whatever you do, put your best foot forward to have the greatest impact possible and offer the warmest of welcomes and "Hibernian Hospitality" to all you can. Planting seeds often yields new members and nurtured seeds produces new leaders.



Director's report

by Tom O'Donnell

Project St. Patrick Chairman

Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal

In the Penal Days, our ancestors stood guard to protect the Roman Catholic clergy as they celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the disenfranchised Irish. In the days of Nativist Bigotry, our immigrant forebears stood guard around Catholic churches to safeguard our clergy from the anti-Catholic Know Nothings. As they were needed then, we are needed now! Today, violence has diminished, but the need to protect our clerical tradition is just as great, if not greater. This time the enemy is economic. The number of applicants to the religious life is decreasing each year due largely to the cost of educating and sustaining novitiates. We are being called again to the old tradition. It is our turn to emulate those courageous Irish men and women who kept the faith alive for us, and keep it alive for our children and grandchildren. You can prove that the ancient spirit is still alive in you by supporting Project St. Patrick.

The goal of Project St. Patrick is to award grants and increase support for these men and women of God. Project St. Patrick is a joint Catholic Action program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. PSP was started in 1995 by AOH Nat'l Pres. Ed Wallace and LAOH Nat'l Pres. Kathy Linton.

Funding for Project St. Patrick comes from outright donations from AOH & LAOH State, County Boards and divisions as well as from individual Hibernians to the Annual PSP Easter Appeal and throughout the year. Every jurisdiction is urged to include Project St. Patrick in their annual charitable donations. For every \$500 or more donation the PSP committee will designate a Vocation Grant in memory of or in honor of an individual's name submitted by the donor. This could be a beloved chaplain, nun or lay person, male or female.

Project St. Patrick Memorial cards are an additional source of funding for this program. When a member, family or friend passes away a PSP Memorial Card is presented to the family at the wake and a donation with return card is sent back.

Hibernians have remained steadfast in their mission to protect and support priests from the penal days in Ireland to the present. As an Irish-American Catholic organization, we must continue to foster and support vocations both spiritually and financially. Please support Project St. Patrick with a donation.

If you need PSP cards or more information please contact me at NLNOD@comcast.net and type "PSP" in the subject line.



Director's report

by Dan Dennehy
Immigration Chairman

The funeral of Past National Director, radio personality, publican and Irish immigrant Icon, Pat Troy, was a remarkable tribute to an unforgettable man. Pat Troy never forgot his humble County Offaly origins, speaking up about Irish unity and immigration as he rubbed shoulders with U.S. Presidents and Taoiseach alike, always a Hibernian's Hibernian. Brother Troy was a gracious host, even planning his own sendoff, which was attended by many fellow Hibernians. As the Pastor said, Pat Troy walked out of his home for the last time one fine day, went right to the front of the Alexandria St. Patrick's Parade, which he founded, and led the parade as co-grand marshal with Bernadette, his lovely bride. With the parade done, he called his own ambulance and days later, marched straight to Heaven! We may never meet another Irishman like Pat, but in his memory, we will continue to push for the Irish!

Great strides are being made by our National Immigration Working Committee, which added Past National Director Montana AOH Mike O'Connor to our group. All are working together and with our regions. Several, including Jim Lawracy, Keith Carney, Jim Gallagher and our National Executive officers, led by President McKay, engaged White House, Dail and many Irish and U.S. legislators and State Department officials over St. Patrick's and Easter season of our aims to achieve Irish E3 Visas and other deals possible for Irish Immigrants. We're also working on our presentation for the National Convention in July.

I am impressed with the innovation by Stamford, CT, Division 1 and New York County Division 3, who honored members with special AOH Immigration presentations. The simple yet meaningful awards recognized the contributions made by Irish Immigrant members to the AOH, community and parish. I would be happy to discuss and share ideas for other Divisions to incorporate these Divisions' wonderful ideas. Several Hibernians were on hand for U.S. Senator Schumer's announcement of a U.S. Naval ship-naming for Irish immigrant Patrick Gallagher, who was killed in the line of duty after being awarded the Naval Cross.

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, I was honored to join Sean Pender, Neil Cosgrove and Past National President Brendan Moore on a multi-organizational committee to draft the McGuinness Principles. Seeing these Principles to completion will be something we can all be proud of! So please ask your legislators and local organizations to get on board with the McGuinness Principles at www.mcguinnessprinciples.com

I was happy to install the new Lieutenant Kevin C. Dowdell Memorial AOH Queens Division 4 in Breezy Point, NYC, with many officers, including National Organizer Tim McSweeney and fellow National Director Liam McNabb. Best wishes to our newest members!

I thank you all for allowing me to serve these past two years as an elected AOH National Director. I am grateful for endorsement of the entire AOH New York State Board for myself and Liam McNabb, as we stand for re-election at the Louisville AOH National Convention. We go forward with God's Grace, the support of loving families' to work with so many great members, and our National Executive, under the leadership of President Jim McKay. Hoping to see you all in Louisville and appreciate your support!



JULY 2018 AOH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Re-Elect
Dan Dennehy
for
AOH National
Director

Decades of dedication & hard work as
National & NY State Immigration Chair
3rd Generation member since 1986
Former NY State Director,
PEC & FFAI Chair
1989-1991 Division President

'Working with you for the Good of the Order'



Make it your job
to grow the AOH!



Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

The Order was at the front of promoting Irish American Heritage Month with the release of a video on social media on the morning of March 1st, only hours after the President's proclamation of Irish American Heritage Month, highlighting the contributions of Irish Americans to our country. This video, under the name of the Order, was seen by over 10,000 people and shared more than 200 times.

Working with our worthy National Historian Mike McCormack, we also expanded our series of profiles of famous Irish Americans to be three days a week during the month of March, up from last year's two a week. Again, the results are gratifying. The most popular post was perhaps not surprising an article on "Who was St. Patrick?" released on St. Patrick's Day with 8,000 views.

The next most popular article was a feature on Cpl. Patrick Gallagher, an Irish immigrant who was killed as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam and for whom it was just announced the Navy's next destroyer shall be named. Interestingly, the next most popular post was "The Most Dangerous Woman in America," a biography of Mother Jones with over 6,000 views followed up by an article on the Sullivan Brothers at 4,500. The rest of the features average approximately 3,000 views.

Besides fulfilling our purpose "To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people," and promoting our heritage month, which has sadly too often been forgotten, it also got the name of the Order out there which can only have a positive influence on our recruiting efforts. This is something for us to build on in the coming years.

We have also seen wider adoption in mainstream America. Thanks to Brother Schell's efforts, the Library of Congress, finally, after 25 years! More and more newspapers were acknowledging "Irish American Heritage Month" in their St. Patrick's Day coverage. Let's keep the momentum going. Let's make an effort to eliminate trivializing descriptions such as "Green Season" from our conversation, the contributions and sacrifices of our forebears deserve better. Let us continue to push for our heritage and culture to be recognized on parity with the other noble heritages that are currently recognized. Let's take back our heritage from those who sell green beer and green bagels. Let us, who are blessed to be Irish everyday, show those who are of the "everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day" crowd why everyone should be thankful for the contributions of the Irish to America every day.



Freedom for all Ireland

by Paul Gowdy
Chairman

The 2017-2018 Christmas Appeal donations have ended. The last donations trickled in at the end of March. The AOH donation total is down from the 2016-17 Appeal. Last year we had 26 AOH/LAOH Boards/individuals who donated \$1,000 or more. The LAOH also made a sizeable donation last year. (We have yet to receive any LAOH donation for this year). Along with the donation from the National AOH Board our accumulated total was \$74,000. That amount was distributed to 12 organizations who applied for and were eligible for financial assistance from the AOH and LAOH FFAI Project.

This is a list of the 15 AOH Boards/Individuals who donated \$1,000 or more to the 2017-18 Christmas Appeal.

- Fr. Tansey Division 5 AOH, Albany NY
- William F. Fennelly Division AOH, Albany NY
- AOH Division 5, Bucks County, PA
- Mr. Jim McLaughlin, Virginia. (personal donation)
- Dean Michael Barry Division 1 Oswego, NY
- AOH Division 32, Carnegie PA
- AOH Myles Scully Division, Yonkers, NY
- AOH St. Patrick Division 5, Baltimore. MD
- AOH Fr. Abram J. Ryan Division 1, Louisville, KY
- AOH JFK Division 1, Schenectady, NY
- AOH Rev. James T O'Reilly Division 8. Lawrence, MA
- AOH Msgr. Charles Owen Rice Division 1, Pittsburgh. PA
- AOH Philadelphia County Board, PA
- AOH Division 1, Middlesex Co. NJ
- AOH Division 32, Cook County, Chicago, IL

This year we have received FFAI Donation Requests Forms from the following 13 organizations in N. Ireland.

Relatives For Justice – Belfast, Pat Finucane Centre – Derry, Omagh Choir, Boxers Beyond Borders - Belfast (new), Conway Mill Trust – Belfast, St. Patrick's Centre – Downpatrick, Belfast National Graves, Cairde, Tar Anall, Holy Cross Ardoyne - Belfast, Duchas Oiriall (new), Green Cross – Belfast, Down Patriot Graves – Downpatrick

Along with myself and Michael Mellett MD, the AOH National President has approved the appointment of the following FFAI appointees as allowed per the AOH National Constitution: Brendan Moore NY, Martin Galvin NY, Jim McLaughlin VA, John McNally CA, and Sean Pender as liaison with the National Board. Stay posted for upcoming FFAI news.



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." So with this edition, I will return to the discussions of the Officers of the Inner Chamber of the Hibernian Brotherhood whom you have met or will meet while taking the Major Degrees of the Order.

In a previous article, you met the Brehon. The next officer you will meet is the Bard. Everyone knows what a Bard is, right? Well, maybe not. The Bard introduces himself as "the keeper of our glorious history and the teller of its heroic tales." In medieval Gaelic culture, a Bard was a professional story teller, verse-maker and music composer, employed by a patron (such as a monarch or noble), to commemorate one or more of the patron's ancestors and to praise the patron's own activities.

In medieval Ireland, Bards were one of two distinct groups of poets, the other being the fili. According to Irish texts on status, Bards were a lesser class of poets, not eligible for higher poetic roles. However, it has also been argued that the distinction between filid (pl. of fili) and Bards was a creation of Christian Ireland, and that the filid were more associated with the church. By the Early Modern Period, these names came to be used interchangeably.

Irish Bards formed a professional hereditary class of highly trained, learned poets. The Bards were steeped in the history and traditions of clan and country. As officials of the court of king or chieftain, they performed a number of official roles. They were chroniclers and satirists whose job it was to praise their employers and damn those who crossed them. Their approach to official duties was very traditional and drawn from precedent. However, even though many Bardic poets were traditional in their approach, there were also some who added personal feelings into their poems and also had the ability to adapt with changing situations. It was believed that a well-aimed bardic satire, glam dicenn, could raise boils on the face of its target.

While they were employed by kings and other powerful figures in Irish society, Bards also acted independently and were highly respected individuals for their own power. Irish society focused largely on a fame or shame mentality. Which one you received largely depended on if the Bard liked you or not, therefore, many people would go out of their way to please the Bards in the hopes that they would get a song or poem composed about them. The Irish people had no illusions about death, knowing that everything eventually died, but they believed the way into immortality was through a great story that only a Bard could compose. This led the Bards to have great power among the Irish because of the ability to provide great fame or great shame to any individual.

The bardic system lasted until the mid-17th century in Ireland and the early 18th century in Scotland. In Ireland, their fortunes had always been linked to the Gaelic aristocracy.

But it wasn't easy to become a Bard. The curriculum was long, difficult and comprehensive. After the equivalent of a good high school education, it took seven years to become a Bárd (praise-poet). Our reverence for the Bard and his/her education was layered into society at every level. It is said that St. Brigid was fostered by a Bard, and that St. Colm Cille descended from a Bard on his mother's side.

As with all things in Irish history, where is fact and where is legend or myth? I leave it to you. It is my hope that this little glimpse into 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 important lessons.

Brian Boru Candidate 1,000

The Brian Boru Major Degree Team of the Commonwealth of Virginia recently celebrated a major milestone. They were founded and certified in September 2002. On February 3, 2018, they conducted their 37th Major Degree exemplification in Annandale, Virginia. Their 23 candidates included the 1,000th candidate to be certified by the team.

The candidates came from Virginia and the District of Columbia, and included two deacons and four seminarians from D.C. At the end of the ceremony, Brian Boru chairman and National Chairman, Rituals and Degrees, JJ Kelly, assembled the class and announced that candidate 1,000 was Matthew Gruba, Commodore John Barry Division, DC.

To signify his recognition as candidate 1,000, Matthew Gruba was presented a certificate, and a one-decade rosary of Connemara marble. In the photo, Kelly is seen presenting Gruba with the rosary, and explaining to him and others in the class the significance of the rosary, our devotion to Mary, and a bit of the history of the one-decade rosary, dating back to the penal laws when the Catholic faith was outlawed in Ireland.





veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

It's hard to express how proud I am regarding the success of the Veterans pin program. I've been honored to be invited to participate in presenting pins at Division ceremonies a few times since they were first made available this past January, and I have seen the look of pride in the eyes of each brother as I've attached pins to their lapels. Some have waited many years for some sort of public demonstration of appreciation for risking their lives for our country. I've pinned veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan and peacetime veterans — and I know that I'm unintentionally leaving some conflicts from my list.

In every case, regardless of where and when they served, these patriots proudly wore the uniform of our country and were grateful to receive this token of appreciation from our noble Order. Most recently, I attended the annual Communion Breakfast of AOH Division 32 of Carnegie, PA, near Pittsburgh. Approximately 20 Division veterans were called to the stage by name and branch of service and had pins attached to their lapels by Division President Tim Regan and myself in front of families, friends and fellow men and lady Hibernians. The pride and gratitude in their eyes was quite evident as each was thanked for their service. I highly recommend that all AOH Divisions work to determine whom their veterans are and organize your own pin presentations. I guarantee that you, your Hibernian veterans, and non-veterans alike will be appreciative of your efforts. Pins can be ordered through National Secretary Jere Cole using the form found on the AOH.com website under the "Forms" tab, then "National Board Order Form." Thank you for your efforts on behalf of your Hibernian military veterans.

I also wanted to express my great thanks and appreciation to Senator Chuck Schumer who responded positively to the AOH call to name a U.S. Navy destroyer in honor of Marine Corporal Patrick Gallagher, the Irish immigrant from Long Island, New York, who died heroically in Vietnam. An article was published in the Digest with his story some months back.

Lastly, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin has recently stepped down from his position with the Trump Administration and a search for a successor is underway. The primary disagreement appears to be about whether to "privatize" the VA hospitals and treatment centers or have treatment remain under VA control. My own personal opinion, and the opinions of some veterans I've spoken to about it, is that we believe that privatization would lead to a relinquishing of the responsibility that our government owes to veterans, and agreed to when we signed up, or were drafted, regarding service-related traumatic injuries and routine health care. Privatization means that health care will be placed in the hands of commercial institutions whose primary goal is to make money — not care for veterans in need of medical care. Please keep informed about this and let your thoughts be known to your local congressional representatives. We believe that if this is privatized, the VA health system will be on a slippery slope to becoming completely obsolete.

Until next time, God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.



Why I am a Hibernian

I thank God for all the blessings He has given me in life, particularly the most meaningful of all my blessings, my Irish heritage, my Catholic faith, and my wonderful family.

And I thank my parents and grandparents from whom I inherited my love of Ireland and all things Irish. And I extend a very special thank you to the Ancient Order of Hibernians for affording me the opportunity to be part of their ministry of service to preserve our Irish culture in the ideals of unity, charity and friendship among its members.

Richard M. Keefe
Life Member, Col. D.B. Kelly Div. 1
South Amboy, New Jersey



anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

While we have seen a marked decrease in the amount of defaming "St. Patty's Day" [sic] material seeking to exploit our holiday for the greening of the till, there is still much work to be done. We are receiving fewer reports of offensive items in the large "brick and mortar" stores, but the Internet continues to be a challenge. One of the key root causes of the issue is that many online retailers now use a "vendor model," where an independent seller can sign up to sell items through a Walmart or Amazon while paying a small service fee on each sale.

We have been engaging with Walmart for the past three years. In general, when items have been brought to Walmart's attention they have acted quickly to remove them. Are we happy that the items get up there in the first place? No. However, we can also understand the problem of policing literally hundreds of vendors selling items through Walmart. I can say that items reported were removed only for a new vendor the next day to put up similar rubbish; when that was reported Walmart pulled that, too. We must give them credit for working with us and keep the relationship positive; the last thing we want is have them believe they will never satisfy our concerns and let the floodgates open.

The same cannot be said of Amazon. Amazon's hypocrisy in lionizing themselves for being a diverse company while peddling items such as "(expletive) Me, I'm Irish", or "Irish, Drunk or Whatever," should disgust us all. We don't see Amazon selling such items targeting other heritages. I think we can anticipate what would happen if they were to market a shirt "I'll be Mexican in a few tequilas" for Cinco de Mayo. Sadly, brothers, the reason why they can get away with defaming our heritage is staring at many of us from the mirror.

I get it that there is "political correctness fatigue," and some of the cries of offensive are ludicrous. However, we are not talking about that; one (I hope) does not have to come up with some obscure justification to understand why "Irish Today, Hung Over Tomorrow" is insulting. In a world where they reassign an Asian sportscaster from covering a Virginia sporting event because his name is Robert Lee, and Heineken apologizes as some found their "Light is Better" slogan offensive, what is the message we are sending when we let "(expletive) Me, I'm Irish." Does it come off as a sign of strength to be insulted or apathy? If this is the message we accept of what it is to be Irish, could this be a reason that fewer young people are identifying with Irish other than as a participant in a one-day green bacchanal?



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Bhí duine darb ainm James Macpherson ann in Albain i lár an 18ú haoise a raibh an-tionchar aige ar an saol, go háirithe ar litríocht agus ar chultúr na hEorpa. *There was a person named...in Scotland in the middle of the 18th century who influenced the world a lot, especially the literature and culture of Europe.* Ba eisean a d'fhoilsigh dánta eipiciúla a scríobh Ossian faoi Fingal. *It was he who published epic poems by O about F.* Bunaithe ar shean-scéalta ón nGàidhlig (agus Gaeilge na hÉireann, mar ba ionann na sean-scéalta sa dá thír), dar leis, ab ea an fhilíocht seo. *Based on the old Gaelic stories they were, he said.* Ba eisean an duine ba thábhachtaí a dhírigh ar sheanlitríocht náisiúnta, ar litríocht agus miotais ón anallód nach raibh ón Róimh ná ón nGréig. *He was the most important person to focus on old national literature and ancient myths other than those from Rome and Greece.*

Tús na Ré Rómánsaí, a d'fhás as a chuid leabhar. *The start of the Romantic Era, which grew from his books.* Agus thug sé spreagadh nach mbeag do náisiúnachas na naoú haoise déag, freisin. *And he did a lot to incite the nationalism of the 19th century, too.* Cuireadh na dánta seo i gcló i dteangacha eile ar fud na hEorpa. *These poems were published in other languages all over Europe.* Ba bhreá le daoine mar Goethe, Napoleon agus Thomas Jefferson iad. *People like...loved them.* Spreag an fhilíocht seo scoláirí in Albain agus in Éirinn (the Ossianic Society) chun sean-litríocht Ghaelach a bhailiú is a fhoilsiú. *This poetry motivated scholars in Scotland and Ireland to collect and publish old Gaelic literature.* Rinne ealaíontóirí go leor pictiúir phéinteáilte de radhairc ó Ossian. *Lots of paintings were made of them.* Rinneadh ceoldráma a bhí bunaithe air. *An opera, too.*

Ossian, sin a thug sé air Oisín. *He spelled O like...* Agus Fingal, sin a thug sé ar Fhionn Mac Cumhall. *And F like...* Ainmneacha eile sna dánta seo, níor chuala Gael iad riamh roimhe seo. *Other names in these poems, no Gael had ever heard before.* Dúirt Macpherson gur aistriúcháin a bhí aige ar dhánta Ossian. *He said they were translations from Ossian's poems.* Ach ní fhaca aon duine na lámhscríbhinní riamh. *But nobody every saw the manuscripts.* Agus an chuid is mó dá riabh iontu, ní raibh a leithéid sin i seanscéalta na nGael ar chor ar bith. *And most of what was in them, there was nothin like that at all in the old Gaelic stories.* Mar a tharla, bhunaigh sé a leabhar ar chúpla rud a chuala sé in amhráin nó scéalta, agus ar roinnt ainmneacha a bhailigh sé, agus chum sé an chuid is mó as a stuaim féin. *As it happened, he based his book on a few things he heard in songs or stories, and on some names he collected, and completely made up the rest.* Brionnóir agus eolaí bréige a bhí ann! *He was a forger and charlatan!* Nach ait an mac an saol. *Isn't life strange. [He even lived in Florida for a while!]*

Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Irish Heritage Month was again declared by Presidential proclamation as it has been every year to honor the contributions of the Irish, so why do the media and public organizations still ignore it? In a world where Irish history and traditions are erased, twisted or forgotten, even in our school system, we should be intensely aware of the need to preserve our traditions and promote our historic contributions.

As an archivist and historian, I've seen Divisions that once published newsletters give over to the less expensive use of websites. Yet many of those sites have fallen into disuse because they're not updated, causing potential observers to no longer go there. The result is a hole in our history, for without documentation we lose the contributions made by our Order and the names of those who contributed; we are leaving no legacy for our children or future generations to inspire them to follow our footsteps. Likewise, we provide no record of community service with which to entice politicians to support our causes.

The famous Seamus Connolly

One marvelous example of leaving a legacy was set by master fiddler, Seamus Connolly, of Killaloe, County Clare, now happily retired in North Carolina. His gift, born of six decades in Irish traditional music, is a collection of hundreds of songs and tunes gathered in collaboration with master Irish musicians and available at connollymusicalcollection.bc.edu.

Connolly provides a story on each tune's source as well as sheet music, and it is available for free to enjoy, download and learn. This fiddler, teacher, composer, recording artist, album producer, festival, concert and lecture series organizer received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition; the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Faculty Award from the Boston College Arts Council. He also has the distinction of being one of just five fiddlers to win two All-Ireland senior solo championships and the only one to win both the under-18 solo and the senior solo titles in the same year before the rule was changed. Further, no one has more Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann All-Ireland solo fiddle titles (10) than he. He also won the coveted Fiddler of Dooney title in 1967 and four separate duet titles with Peadar O'Loughlin at the Oireachtas championship. He retired from Boston College in 2015, capping 25 years of service with this remarkable collection, which he gathered during his tenure at Boston College and as Sullivan Artist in Residence in Irish Music from 2004 to 2015. It links three generations of musicians paying tribute to those who kept the tradition alive with more than 130 musicians recording tracks for the project. Thank you Seamus!

The Choctaw Nation

In another example of remembering history, it was heartening to see Irish Taoiseach (PM) Leo Varadkar arrive early for his visit to the White House allowing a trip to the Choctaw nation in Oklahoma. Mr. Varadkar told them: "On a visit to Ireland, a representative of the Choctaw Nation called your support for us 'a sacred memory'. It is that and more. It is a sacred bond, which has joined our peoples for all time. Your act of kindness has never been, and never will be, forgotten." The Taoiseach then announced a new College Scholarship Fund for Choctaw students who seek to study in Ireland. He called it, "an opportunity for us to learn from your culture and you from ours in a sharing of knowledge that will enrich both our peoples. Our ancestors were joined together in a time of tragedy and their descendants are now united in the spirit of learning."

Last June (2017), the memorial, Kindred Spirits, consisting of nine 20-foot stainless steel eagle feathers – used in Choctaw ceremonies – was raised in Middleton, Co. Cork, in gratitude for their generosity. Arranged in a circle, they form an empty bowl symbolizing the hunger suffered during An Gorta Mor. The \$170 sent by the Choctaws then is equal to about €4,000 in today's money and it came just 16 years after they suffered their own hardship of being relocated west of the Mississippi in a journey known as the 'Trail of Tears'.

Like an old tune or a small donation, we should never consider any bit of our history insignificant, for just like the trivial pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, when they combine they form the complete picture of a remarkable organization. Save your piece!

The Black Irish

By Mike McCormack, National Historian

Some believe survivors of the Spanish Armada who made it to shore were the ancestors of the black-haired Irish. Not true; black hair and brown eyes were features of the original Celts. In November 2017, Ireland's archives published an article entitled: Spanish Armada Shipwrecks along the Wild Atlantic Way. It revealed facts about the estimated 6,000 men lost on Ireland's coast in September 1588, in one of the worst Atlantic storms ever recorded. The article, from archaeological sources, details a horrible end to nearly 1,100 Armada survivors who wrecked in Sligo's Streedagh Bay, according to the testimony of a surviving Armada officer.

Captain Francisco de Cuellar wrote that, as a survivor, he found: "the land and shore were full of enemies, who went dancing with delight at our misfortune; and when any one of our people reached the beach, two hundred savages and other enemies fell upon him and stripped him of what he had." These were English garrison troops and Irish loyal to England who stripped survivors of their possessions before turning them over to the Crown for a reward. However, there were Irish clans protecting survivors and, according to Cuellar, they were: O'Rourke of Breifne, McClancy of Rosclogher and Redmond O'Gallagher of Derry. They did so at the behest of the three Hughs – O'Neill, O'Donnell and Maguire – who safely returned survivors to Spain hoping to secure Spanish aid in the coming Nine Years' War. Estimates run as high as 300 who reached the Sligo shore and, like other survivors, were stripped and executed; officers, like Cuellar, were ransomed back to Spain. Virtually none survived to settle down and wed Irish women; those few who escaped detection were more anxious to get out of enemy territory and back to Spain.

To date, the only wreck researched is La Juliana; it lay with 23 other Armada shipwrecks off the Irish coast from Antrim to Kerry. As they are Protected National Monument Sites, no public diving upon these ships is allowed. La Juliana was examined by archaeologists and, for the first time in 430 years, human eyes saw the superior forging and the armorial crests of the families that made the bronze Armada cannons. Some, signifying the 16th century Genoa gun foundry of Dorino II Gioardi, were embossed with figures and names of saints. One was emblazoned with motifs of flames and celestial images of sun and stars, with two ornate lifting handles shaped like dolphins – a testament to the craftsmanship of the 16th century gunsmith, Federico Musarra. Another bears the figure of St. Peter holding the keys of Heaven standing atop a scroll indicating the cannon's weight and the year 1570 AD. One, forged by 'Master Mustafa' of Turkey with Islamic inscriptions on it was obviously a war prize since La Juliana took part in the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, defeating the Ottoman Turkish fleet. In this Renaissance period, ornate designs were the norm not the exception. This is the largest retrieval of bronze cannons thus far and more will come. Today, these cannons are in Sligo, but there are 23 more yet to be researched. This will take years and hopefully result in Ireland's first National Maritime Museum.

So the next time you hear that the Black Irish are descendants of the Spanish Armada, you know the truth. It's the blonde, blue-eyed Irish who are descended from foreigners – like the violent Vikings and the peaceful Normans (also descended from Vikings) who eventually settled in Ireland to become as Irish as the Irish themselves – but never more Irish!

Why I am a Hibernian

Being a Hibernian allows me to live my cultural heritage every day and with some of the best men I know. I am blessed that my uncle, James Gallagher (John P Holland, New London County 1), has been an influential member of our Brotherhood for over 54 years. Uncle Jim showed me that civic engagement, political activism and role modeling responsible, committed Irish-Catholic behavior can combine with celebrating music, art, culture and fellowship. I have been lucky enough to be a charter member of two divisions; enjoying the hard work, laughter and satisfaction of representing the Order with pride. Knowing that my brothers of the Monsignor Richard McCabe Division share the same values and work ethic as past brothers, and that they make my Uncle Jim as proud as they make me is a gift that very few are able to receive.

Kevin Buechler

President, Monsignor Richard McCabe Division 1, Travis County.

Austin, Texas

New Jersey



Joan Dias, the grand marshal of this year's Woodbridge, NJ, St. Patrick's Day parade, was surrounded by members of the AOH Division 3 Commodore John Barry, Fire Chief E. Mullen, Police Chief R. McKeon, city council and Mayor Wilda Diaz giving the proclamation, raising the Irish flag at city hall and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Hibernians on St. Patrick's Day in Perth Amboy. Photo by RJ Kawka.



political education

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

The past few weeks have been hectic on the Political Education front and are only a harbinger of more activity to come. As I write this we are a few days away from the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. While no one can deny the historic significance of this event, which ended three decades of violence and has ushered in an era of unrivaled economic growth, the commemoration is marred by the realization of how much 20 years on has yet to be accomplished. Twenty years on, despite being called for in signed agreement, there is still no Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, no parity of esteem for those who wish to express an Irish identity through the Irish language and, most reprehensibly, no justice for the victims of the legacy of "the Troubles." It is disgraceful to see Prime Minister May and her government mobilizing all the resources of the state in the investigation of an attempted murder of a Russian dissident in England by Russian spies while at the same time the British government refuses to cooperate with the investigation of the collusion between British military and intelligence services in the deaths of numerous victims of the Troubles. Add to this that the devolved government of Northern Ireland has not met in over a year and with less than a year till Brexit there is still no plan to avoid a hard border in Ireland and it is no exaggeration that the Good Friday Agreement and the peace it established is in grave jeopardy.

Parties on all sides of the Troubles have acknowledged that it was America, acting through Special Envoy George Mitchell, that was the catalyst that made the GFA possible. It was pressure from the Irish American community that made Northern Ireland a U.S. priority resulting in the creation of the Special Envoy. We need that pressure once again to ensure that the GFA does not collapse on the brink of success. Our worthy National President gave testimony to the Helsinki Commission detailing the challenges in Northern Ireland. Commission Co-Chair Chris Smith has introduced a resolution, H.Res.777 - 115th Congress (2017-2018) calling on the British Government to fulfill its commitments in Good Friday Agreement and for the U.S. to appoint a Special Envoy to finish the job George Mitchell started. More information shall be forthcoming, but we ask you to contact your local Congressional Representative to support Senator Smith's bill.

McGuinness Principles

The AOH is also working with other Irish groups to seek endorsement of "The McGuinness Principles." Named for the late Martin McGuinness, who had the courage to leave the well-worn path of conflict and chart a new path in the cause of peace, the principles call for the establishment of Equality, Respect, Truth and Self-Determination in Ireland. We will be seeking your state and local governments to endorse their commitment to the McGuinness Principles. See www.mcguinnessprinciples.com for more information.

Finally, and regretfully, I must attend to one bit of housekeeping for the good of the Order. It is with some sadness that I have seen some of the factionalism and divisiveness evident in the broader American society appearing in comments on the Order's social media pages. First, we should always live our motto of "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity" and comport ourselves as dignified Irish gentlemen. Second the AOH is mission, not political party, oriented. When we can work with people, particularly our elected officials, in common cause, we will do so. That doesn't mean that we have weakened our opposition on other items where we may strongly differ. If we only work with those whom we agree 100 percent with on all issues we will have precious few people to work with. Would there have been an Easter Rising if Pearse and Connolly, two men whose views on many things were poles apart, had not come together for Ireland? Let us in the Order, and in our relationships in the broader community, be champions of civil discourse; holding to our convictions, advancing our causes and shedding light more than smoke and heat.



'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.

Nat'l Director Bill Sullivan seeks re-election



Bill Sullivan has announced his intention to seek reelection at our upcoming National Convention in Louisville in July. Following his election as a National Director in Atlantic City in 2016, AOH National President James McKay appointed Bill as AOH National Board Liaison to New England.

A native of Lawrence, MA, Bill is a graduate of Saint Patrick's Grammar School and Central Catholic High School in Lawrence. He holds degrees from Salem State University and Cambridge College. He retired from the Lawrence Public Schools in 2009 where he served for 35 years as a

teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and District Administrator. Besides being a member of the AOH for over 45 years, he is a member of the K. of C., the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, where he serves on the Board of Directors, and the Boston Irish Network, just to note a few. He was selected as the 2014 recipient of the David R. Burke Golden Bridges Award by the Irish Echo Newspaper of New York. In May of this year he was selected as the recipient of Central Catholic High Schools 2018 Saint Marcellin Champagnat Award for Humanitarian & Community Service.

Since joining Division 8 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Bill has served on the Division, County, State and National levels. Before being elected Division President, he served as Chairman of the Standing Committee and Vice President. He was selected as Division 8's Irishman of the Year in 1982.

In 1981, Sullivan was elected to the AOH Essex County Board as Recording Secretary and reelected to this position in 1983. Later that year, he was elected AOH Massachusetts State Board Secretary. In 1985 Bill was elected AOH Massachusetts State Vice President and AOH Massachusetts State President in 1987. During his term as State President, the AOH Mass State Board High Sweepstakes Charitable Drawing was initiated under the Co-Chairmanship of the late Past National President Jack Connolly and Division 8's late David R. Burke.

Elected an AOH National Director at the National Convention in Virginia in 1990, Sullivan was reelected in 1992 at the National Convention in New Orleans. In 1992 he was appointed by then AOH National President George Clough to chair the AOH National Board Label Program. Reappointed to this position by National President Ed Wallace, he served in this capacity until 2000. During his chairmanship over \$200,000 was raised for charitable purposes. From 1990 to 2016, he has served as the AOH National Board Chairman of the Irish Way Scholarship Program, and as Chairman of the National Board's Study Abroad Scholarship Program. In August 2014, AOH National President Brendan Moore appointed Bill to be the AOH National Board Liaison to New England.

In December 2009, Sullivan was awarded National Life Membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians for his commitment, time and dedication, as evidenced on the Division, County, State and National levels. In addition to his other Irish activities and commitments, Sullivan serves as the Volunteer Director of Division 8's Hibernian Irish Collection; a collection of over 15,000 Irish books, Irish media, Irish Exhibits and Irish memorabilia that is housed in the David R. Burke Memorial Room at the South Lawrence Library in Lawrence.

To the Editor...

As I sit back and read about all the wonderful posts and tweets about Irish Americans during Irish American Heritage Month, I would like to take a moment to thank our friends, Paul Gowdy of Fr. Solanus Casey, AOH Division in Michigan, and Kevin Ellis, of the Myles Scully Division 1 in Yonkers (NY) for walking the walk with us to keep promoting and supporting the cause of Blessed Solanus Casey. These men, along with the support of their Divisions, exhibit the core values of our organization, Friendship Unity & Christian Charity. What better way to celebrate our Irish ancestry and faith. It makes me happy to know that when called to action, men can ban together just like that May day, 1836, when our Order was founded for the greater cause. Our organization is about our faith, friendship and supporting the Irish American cause.

Thanks again, Paul and Kevin, your generosity and friendship to us does not go unnoticed. If we can ever help further support a cause that you embrace, please know you have our support.

Steve Baxter,
Fr. Solanus Casey , Bergen 32 AOH

**The Digest regrets that, due to space limitations,
not all the submitted content
may have been used in this issue.
— John O'Connell, Editor**

In Memoriam



Patrick Ronald Troy, 76, of Alexandria passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. His family was by his side when he went peacefully to be with the Lord.

He founded two divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians including the John F. Kennedy Division 5 in Maryland and the Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division in Alexandria. He was the founder of the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade.

He was involved with the Rose of Tralee competition for 20 years. Pat was also the owner of The Irish Walk import store.

Through his involvement with Project Children, he helped bring Catholic and Protestant children to escape the troubles in Northern Ireland to the United States for the summer. He also raised funds for a soccer camp in the North and a summer camp in Kilcormac. He was active in both the local and Irish communities, GAA, politics and the church.

He was a member of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, member of the Order of Malta member of the Knights of Columbus Fitzgerald Council 459.

Pat was a native of Kilcormac, County Offaly, Ireland. He emigrated to Washington, D.C. where he worked as a butler serving the elite, including The Kennedy Family. He appeared on "What's My Line?" in 1963. He was the host of The Irish Radio Show for 45 years. He spent 35 years as the proprietor of Ireland's Own Restaurant & Pub and was famous for performing the hit song "The Unicorn."

The highlight of his life was entertaining President Ronald Reagan at his pub in 1988 and meeting Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. He earned the City of Alexandria's title of Living Legend for his service to the community. He was the first recipient of the Irish Spirit award given by the Washington Nationals baseball team. Pat never forgot where he came from and went home annually to Offaly. He wrote a book titled I Have A Story To Tell.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Bernadette, his children, Kathleen and Patrick, his son-in-law, Alan, daughter-in-law, Dow, and his devoted granddaughters, Mairead and Reyha. He is also survived by his brothers, Michael and Desmond.

Published in The Washington Post on Mar. 25, 2018



Katherine M. 'Kitty' Geissler, a longtime resident of Tarrytown, died February 18, 2018, at the age of 105. Kitty was born in County Limerick, Ireland, on Nov 4, 1912. She was the daughter of James and Hannah Ring Bagnell. She immigrated to the United States in 1930 and married George R. Geissler on Oct. 7, 1942. Kitty is survived by her daughters, Alice Koraca and Mary Brady. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband George, her son George, her son-in-law Ralph Brady, her daughter-in-law Mary Geissler, and her brother William

Bagnell.

In 1938, Kitty joined LAOH Division 9, in Port Chester. The family moved to Tarrytown in 1951 and she joined the Division 11, which has since been named in her honor. Forty-Six years later in 1984 a LAOH National Life Membership was awarded to Kitty. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Transfiguration Church; LAOH Honor Guard lined the aisle, Kitty Kelly sang "Limerick, You're a Lady" and everyone sang "My Wild Irish Rose," a fitting sendoff. Her grandson, Steven Brady, gave the following eulogy:

"Mom, Aunt Alice, my deepest sympathies. To Kitty's friends, church and our community, thank you for coming and honoring our grandmother.

"A lifetime devoted to faith, family, friends and community has become her legacy. A trailblazing pioneer who set the standard for how life should be lived. Her gentle touch and witty spirit is what captivated us. Her kindness and her wisdom is what kept us. A truly remarkable woman with relentless energy and positivity that commanded a room. She was an absolute blessing and an icon for all of us. She showed us all how to live life to fullest through the many friendships and social events that she was a part of.

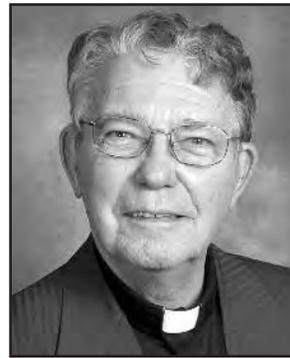
"My family and I are extremely grateful for endless memories that will resonate with us for our lifetime. The many trips up to the Catskills where we would just marvel at her energy and personality as she would stay up all hours of the night talking to everyone and dancing away to the Rutherford's and Kitty Kelly at the O'Neill house. For me, that's when it started to dawn on me that she was amazing. From that point on, Grandma was my celebrity. No matter what event we went to, people would flock to her. She knew everyone by name and would always introduce her grandkids. As I got older, I felt grandma got more royal and her social status skyrocketed. We always looked forward to the parades. Grandma would love to march, and she did it with such pride. I would watch from the sidewalk and admire her. She reminded me of a Queen as she waved to just about everyone. I would feel so honored and proud when I would see other people clapping and cheering for her.

"Lucky for us, the way grandma was at social events was the same way she was at home. At every holiday she was always so glad to see us and would talk with us at length about how we are doing. She would fawn over her great grandchildren. She would cuddle with the kids and would rock them when they were infants. As they would get older, grandma would sit with them during our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We used to have two tables, a kid table and an adult table. The kids always wanted to move up to the adult table, but Grandma always sat at the kid table. She would sit at the head, while a blessing was read, almost as if she was monitoring

everyone. She would sit with her hands folded in front of her and she would be looking around and soaking it all in as she enjoyed being in the company of her family, including me

"Born in County Limerick Ireland, at 17 she would board the Baltic and emigrate to the U.S. One of the first organizations she joined was the LAOH. She had been a member for over 80 years. She was a President for 10 terms in Division 11, which is named in her honor. Grandma was part of many clubs and organizations and has received numerous awards. She paved the way for the development of new divisions for the LAOH. She was awarded the First Mother Teresa award by the LAOH. An aide to the Grand Marshal of NYC and Yonkers St. Patrick's Parades. First Grand Marshal of St Patrick's Parade in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Named first woman of the year by the Irish American Association for her charitable work for the sick and elderly. She was an active member with Eagles, Catholic Daughters, Transfiguration's Women's group, and the Tarrytown Seniors. This is one of the reasons she lived to 105, she had to find the time to be part of all these clubs.

"But of all honors, recognitions, parades, conventions, dinner dances... her proudest ones were being a Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Having raised three kids of her own blossomed into eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, who she simply adored right up until her passing. She was always genuinely concerned for us and always reminded us to take care of ourselves and to watch our kids. Her handwritten cards to us for a birthday or wedding or birth of child were reminders of her love, care and compassion for us. It was just a few days ago where she held my hand on St. Valentine's Day and gave me a kiss and agreed to be my Valentine, especially in her time of need, is the epitome of how she lived her life. With genuine love. She can now have her everlasting dances with her true love, her husband George, and their son George."



McCarthy, Reverend Donald G. went to his heavenly reward on Friday, January 5. Born on December 20, 1929 in Cincinnati, Ohio, he began his studies at St. Gregory Seminary and completed them at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained on August 22, 1954. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated January 11, 2018 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr presided.

Over the years, in addition to working in several Cincinnati Parishes, Father Don taught at Elder High School, at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and served as Chaplain of the Newman Club at the University of Cincinnati. In 1979, he

was appointed Director of Education at Pope John XXIII Medical Moral Research Center, St. Louis, while continuing as part-time visiting professor at the seminary. He held several Archdiocesan positions through the years and, in 1984, was appointed Pastor for St. Antoninus Church where he remained until his 'retirement' in 2003. He continued assisting at several Parishes until he received his final appointment as Retired Clergy Assistant at St. Ignatius of Loyola in 2011 where he served until his death.

Father Don remained incredibly energetic long after he retired from active ministry. He was entering a funeral home last autumn to lead prayers for a deceased parishioner when he suffered a fall. Complications from the fall led to his death at the age of 88. In 2004, he became Chaplain for St. Patrick Division 1, Hamilton County, Ohio and was a much loved, active and enthusiastic leader for 14 years, always ending our meetings with an Irish story. He was Honorary Grand Marshall of the Cincinnati St. Patrick's Parade in 2009 and received the Division's Kevin Barry Award in 2014. Father was always very generous with his time and talents for the AOH and he will be greatly missed by us and the thousands touched by his goodness and understanding during his 64-year priesthood.

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a Anam (May his soul be at the right hand of God)

John 'Jack' McNabb of Auburn, NY went home to God on April 3, 2018 after serving Him for 89 years here on earth. Surrounded by loving family, he passed away at his family home following an extended illness. The son of the late Emmett and Marguerite Lawler McNabb, Jack proudly served his country with the US Army 82nd Airborne Division. Retired from the City of Auburn after 35 years, Jack was a parishioner of Holy Family Church, a life member of the VFW Post 1975, and a member of Post 317 of the American Legion in Skaneateles Falls.

Jack was extremely proud of his Irish Heritage and was an icon in the JFK Division of the AOH where he served as an officer for many years, including Past President. He was also an officer on the AOH State level and for his dedication was honored as 'Hibernian of The Year' as well as being awarded Life Membership in the Order.

Jack loved golf and enjoyed playing with family and friends locally as well as in the Myrtle Beach area, where he spent many winters. In recent years, Jack was cared for by his loving and devoted family, he is survived by his wife of 65 years, Yolanda Emo McNabb, his daughter Kathleen (Dennis) Kennedy, of Auburn, two sons, Brian E. (Tammy) McNabb of Auburn, and Dennis McNabb with Katherine McCarthy, of Auburn, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, a sister Anne Greer of Auburn, a brother Thomas D. (Bridget) McNabb of Auburn, many nieces, nephews and cousins. Jack was predeceased by his son WO Timothy McNabb, USMC, two sisters, Jane Entenmann, and Aileen Squires, two brothers, Dennis McNabb, and Bernard J. McNabb Sr.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for our beloved brother and he was buried with Military Honors in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fleming. Contributions in his memory may be made to Hospice of The Finger Lakes, 1130 Corporate Dr. Auburn, NY.

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a Anam (May his soul be at the right hand of God)

William M. "Bill" Pryle Sr., 86, of Carbondale, passed away February 8th at home, surrounded by his loving family and the thoughts and prayers of his many friends. His wife of 56 years is the former Rosemarie Murphy. Bill was the co-founder and current president of the AOH Msgr. William Farrell Division 2 in Carbondale, where he received the Degrees of the Order and served as chairman of the Golf League. He was a former president of the Lackawanna County Board of the AOH. In 2007, he received Life Membership of the AOH from the National Board.

Bill was a graduate of St. Patrick's High School, Olyphant, and attended St. Bonaventure

continued on page 12



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

I don't write a column in each issue of the Digest, preferring to use all the available space for contributions from Hibernians throughout the country. The purpose of the Digest is to serve as a vehicle for the elected and appointed officers of your national board to inform you of the activities of the Order on a national level, and to enable divisions and states to share what they're doing to live our motto through local, community actions.

So I keep my observations to a minimum to provide as much room as possible for other Hibernians to show off their good deeds. But two topics deserve your attention.

First, I encourage you to participate in our national convention in July (see back page), and, to all you current and past state, county and division officers, to encourage your newest brothers and LAOH sisters to attend.

National conventions, as well as county and state meetings and conventions, are a great way for newer Hibernians to learn the magnitude of the work their Order does, to see how big the organization is, and to form life-long friendships and solidify their membership. After recruitment, retention is most important in preserving the health of the Order, and exposing new Hibernians to all the Order has to offer will be like good nutrition to keep our body strong.

Perhaps a division could hold a fundraiser to send their president or some other member to go to Louisville. Maybe a brother who wants to go could have his airfare or hotel supplemented by a division collection. Find a way to have your division well represented at the convention. The same goes for your state conventions and meetings.

My second topic is to encourage you to take better photographs for submission to the Digest and to use for submitting to local newspapers and use on social media. Everyone knows how "visual" all media has become. Content without images, still or video, are looked at much less than articles with photos. The problem is that bad photos have the opposite result! When readers or viewers see small, dark, unfocused or poorly composed images they turn away and don't read the great story about wonderful actions you've taken or important information you need them to know.

Don't use cell phones to take pictures you want to use in newspapers, including the Digest. Get a camera. Have someone change the camera settings for the pictures to be Large, high quality, JPG format, Fine. Fill the frame when taking your photos, don't stand across the ballroom with your smart phone and snap away. Use flash. Submit camera-taken photos that are at least 1 megabyte big. When emailing photos, make sure you send "Actual Size," not a reduced image size for faster upload.

Most of the pictures sent into the Digest for this issue were 30 kilobytes to 150 kilobytes, about 90 percent too small.

While usually no good for print publications, cell-phone photos are great for Facebook or Instagram or your website, but only if they are bright, focused and properly composed (get close!). If your smart phone can be set to high-megapixel quality, you still need to stand close to your subjects (exclude ceilings and floors and 50-feet of nothing on either side) and put those subjects in bright light.

If you have questions about how to take better pictures, or if you want to know how to set your camera for the best quality photos, email me at editor@hiberniandigest.com. I will be happy to help.

God bless, and see you in Louisville!

IN MEMORIAM continued from page 12

University and the University of Scranton. He served in the Army during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954 with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea with George Company north of the DMZ Line. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal with a Bronze Star, United Nations Service Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Early in his career, he worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District 4-0 where he was a construction inspector and a personnel director for the seven counties within the district. From 1965 until his retirement in 2003, he worked as sales and market manager for Dragon Cement (a division of Martin Marietta) and later for Lafarge Corp. Bill loved his job and saw those to whom he sold cement as much more than customers, taking a personal interest in their lives as well.

Always an active member of his community, he was a former member and chair of St. Joseph's Hospital board of directors and the Upper Valley Area of the United Way of Lackawanna County; a former board member of the Scranton School for the Deaf, the Lackawanna County Industrial Fund Enterprises (Scranton), the Carbondale Branch of Northeastern Bank (now PNC Bank), and a 25-year board member of the Scranton CYC. He was a former board member and president of the Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority, former president of the Sacred Heart High School Booster Club, He was a current board member of the Carbondale Industrial Development Co. (30 years), a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish, where he was a former lector and member of the Parish Festival Committee and a member of the Parish Finance Committee.

He was a life member of the Columbia Hose Co., Carbondale; of Fourth Degree of Knights of Columbus, Archbald; of Shopa Davey V.F.W., Peckville; and a former member of the Scranton Lodge of Elks. He was a former member of the Twilight Golf League. A proud past president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, he was the society's current and longest-serving historian. In 2014, he received the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service from NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Colorado



Carrigan Division helps support fallen officer's family: AOH Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Colorado Division raised \$770 at their annual New Year's Eve party, for the family of slain Douglas County Colorado sheriff's deputy, Zackari Parrish. Parrish was shot and killed responding to a 911 call, while four other police officers and two civilians were injured during the shooting. New Division member Dave Carrigan, a friend of Parrish, was in attendance and helped to gather donations for Parrish's family. Donations are still being accepted on GoFundMe in Parrish's name. From left, Douglas County Sheriff Sergeant Ron Hanavan receives the donation from Recording Secretary John Aylward and Vice President Tim Henning.

Alabama



Father Tracy Division Grand Marshal and Court 2018. Photo: Shine Bright Photography

Blessing of the Flags , Huntsville, AL

The Father Tracy Division served as the color guard in the 41st Ellen McAnnelly Memorial St. Patrick's Day parade. Brothers carried the American and Irish flags that were blessed by Father Kelly during the traditional stopping of the parade outside of St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church. The Father Tracy Division was honored to lead this year's Grand Marshal Captain Mike Rose (retired). Captain Rose was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2017 more than 47 years after his heroic actions in Laos during the Vietnam War. He was recognized with the Queen and Court of the 2018 parade.

Illinois



St. Clair County, Illinois, Division 1 members presented the \$500 Foz Ryan Memorial Grant check to Sue Willard, Althoff Catholic High School's Director of Accounting and Finance. The Foz Ryan Memorial Grant is presented in memory of the former AOH State President, to help deserving students remain in Catholic school. From the left are Bob Simpson, Sue Willard and Mike Tiernan.

2017 Project St. Patrick Grant

The Project St. Patrick Co-Chairs Colleen Bowers & Thomas O'Donnell received 100 eligible applications for the 2017 Project St. Patrick Grant Project. With the monies donated from the LAOH & AOH membership this year they were able to award 56 grants. The importance of your donations assists all Seminarians, Novitiates, and any Religious to further their education in the studying to serve our Church in the United States.

Here are some of the comments we received of an expression of a few recipients' gratitude.

These comments above are only two out of 56 recipients but show how appreciative and in need our seminarians, novitiates and religious life are to continue the call to serve our Catholic church.

We thank you for all your continued support in the Project St. Patrick Grant Project.

Thomas O'Donnell
AOH National Project St. Patrick Chair

Colleen Bowers
LAOH Nat'l Project St. Patrick Co-Chair
National LAOH Catholic Action Officer

Sr. Maria Faustina: "I'm writing to express my thanks for your generous donation of the grant of \$500 in connection with the 2017 Project St. Patrick. This grant will aid greatly in funds concerning habit material and also for the furthering of religious studies. May Our Blessed Mother reward the LAOH & AOH abundantly and continue to bless the work you do for the religious of America."



Albert Beltz: "I want to offer the whole AOH & LAOH my sincerest gratitude for this kind generosity. Such support is an incredible help to those of us in formation for the Catholic priesthood and is a testament to the virtue of charity embodied by the Irish Catholic community."



Daniel McHale
Pope St. John XXIII



Bradley McNeal
Mount St. Mary's



Luke McNeill
St. Charles Borromeo



Gregory Kamp
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary



Sarah Marie Draper
Servants of God's Love



Hanna Marie Hugoboom
Congregation of
Nobertine Sisters



Edwin Capacho-Medina
Mount St. Mary's



Declan Cole
St. Charles Borromeo



Juan Colon
St. Joseph's



Brennen McCoy
St. Charles Borromeo



Joseph Menkhaus
St. Mary Seminary



Sean Neville
St. Charles Borromeo



Mark DeSio
St. John Vianney



Brian Dorrian
Cathedral Seminary
House of Formation



John Dowd
Pope St. John XXIII
National Seminary



Carignan Rouse
St. John's



Charles Onyeneke
St. Mary's



Jennifer Schaaf
Sisters of St. Dominic
of Blauvet



Kieu Dung Tran
Dominican Sisters
of Mission San Jose



Timothy Eck II
Pontifical North Am.
College



Christopher Ford
St. Joseph's



Jorge Nunez
St. Joseph's Sem.
College



Kingsley Ohaeri
St. Joseph's Sem.
College



Judith Ngozi Ngwu
Missionary Sisters of
the Holy Rosary



Catherine Ann Phillips
Apostles Sacred Heart
of Jesus



Emerson Francisco
Mount St. Mary's



Chiedozie Franklin Ononuju
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary



Katherine Ruth Frazier
Adrian Dominican
Sisters



Steven Restrepo
St. John's Seminary



Twinkle Panackal Devasy
Missionary Sisters
of St. Charles Borromeo

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Ever since the JFK Division was chartered in Bridgeport in 1950 the most important yearly event has been the annual Division Communion Breakfast. Each year hundreds of Bridgeport Hibernians, sometimes representing three generations of a family, gather for Mass and Communion at a local church before sharing an Irish Breakfast.

On March 4, 2018, the 68th annual Communion Mass, celebrated by JFK Division Chaplain Father Charles Allen S.J., was held at the Egan Chapel on the grounds of Fairfield University. After Mass, an Irish breakfast was served at the Fairfield Gaelic Club where guest speaker, National Board Chairman Neil Cosgrove, gave a crowd-pleasing address on the Heritage of the Irish.

On the weekend following their Communion Breakfast, Bridgeport Hibernians showed their Division Banner by marching before 20,000 spectators at the annual Milford St. Patrick's Parade.

On March 10 Danbury Hibernians marched in the annual New Fairfield Parade even though two feet of snow had fallen on that town only the day before. The New Fairfield Procession has been chaired since inception in 1972 by County Armagh native Peter Hearty Sr. Peter is a piper in the Celtic Cross Band, which on March 25th led the AOH and LAOH to the Irish Center in the annual Danbury Hibernian St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Danbury AOH and LAOH reached a milestone the night of March 3, when their 60th annual St. Patrick's Day Ball was held. An annual highlight of this event is the presentation of the Hibernian of the Year Awards, which this year went to Tom McAuliffe and Ellen McShane, who would then serve as Grand Marshals of the Hibernian Parade.

Another milestone was reached, in Meriden on March 24, 2017, when the AOH/LAOH sponsored St. Patrick's Day Parade stepped off for the 45th consecutive year. This parade with 200 participating groups always attracts a sizable crowd of spectators as it winds its way through historic downtown Meriden.

Waterbury Hibernians gathered on March 10 for a special Corn Beef Dinner, which featured the Hibernian Angels of Harmony as part of the entertainment.

The Angels of Harmony Singers made their performance debut at the AOH Annual Christmas party on December 17, 2017. The 29-member group is directed by Deborah Sullivan, previously the Music Director for over 22 years at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury.

The original Angels of Harmony had been a fun musical and play group at the Waterbury Hibernian hall. The group was founded by Frances Kearney, mother of Arlene Hamel who is a current Angel. Everyone thought it would be a great idea to begin the group again. Angels of Harmony Singers also performed at the flag raising at the St. Patrick's Parade, the Mass on St. Patrick's Day and the flag raising that day at Waterbury City Hall. The group is open to all AOH members and their families.

Check out Sacred Heart University's digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber
For news or info contact Phil Gallagher at: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Hartford, CT AOH/LAOH presents the Hartford 5C's parade committee with a check from a fundraiser for \$3,500. From left, LAHO Patty Merrick, Parade Chair Eileen Moore, AOH Hartford Div. #2 Fundraiser Chair Jim Mulcahy, 5C General Chair Liz Saunders, AOH Hartford Div. #2 President John Slevin, CT AOH President Thomas McDonough, IAHS President Elizabeth O'Leary.

Minnesota



Shamrock Hibernians march in Le Center Parade
Members of the Shamrock Division of the AOH displayed the colors as they made their traditional appearance in the St Patrick's Day Celebration Parade in Le Center, which is one of the oldest Irish settlements in Minnesota and home to many Hibernians. From left, Brothers Scott McDonald, Dick O'Connell, Jeff Hansen, Joe Murphy, John Devins Jr, Bob Hankins, John Devins Sr, Rick Chillman, Tim Halloran and John Bigaouette.

Indiana

By Jim Lynch



St. Patrick Day celebrated with fun and scholarship

The Kevin Barry Division 3 and Our Lady of Knock LAOH Division 1 gathered the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day at St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis' first Irish Catholic church dedicated in 1871. Held for the 148th year, the celebration began with a wreath-laying at the Celtic cross in the church courtyard followed by AOH Chaplain Fr. Glenn O'Connor saying Mass.

Hibernians assist as ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and members Eamon and Joseph Hegarty on bagpipes and drums accompanied Cantors Allison McGinley and Kathleen Miller. After Mass, the Cathedral High School Band led a parade from St. John's to the Indiana Roof Ballroom where a catered lunch awaited. After lunch, Jim McGinley, patriarch of 2018's Indianapolis Irish Family of the Year, introduced Master of Ceremonies David Ruhmkorff, who introduced United States Senator Joe Donnelly and Mayor Joe Hogsett. Both gave entertaining speeches promoting their own Irish heritage.

The AOH President's Award was given to an Irish Catholic of high character and achievement; President Bob McCurdy had selected Jerry Kennedy, the Division's historian and Indiana state treasurer. Entertainment included the St. Patrick's Day Rogues Pipe and Drum Band, the Irish Airs, with Hibernian Brian Cunningham, and Irish Dancers of the Richens Timm Academy.

Vice-President Jeff Veldhof presented to Fr. O'Connor \$3,200 to the St. Meinard Seminary funding a seminarian scholarship. A St. Patrick's Day program edited by Hibernian Pat Miles provided names of scholarship donors, information on AOH activity, and general Irish heritage. Hibernian Kehoe, Katie White, and Denis Moriarty scholarships (\$1,500 each) were presented to high school students Liam Collier (Roncalli), and Mary Ann McGinley and Katie Quinn (Cathedral).

The day concluded with raffles: two tickets to Ireland won by Hibernian Bill Farrell; two tickets to Las Vegas winner Fr. O'Conner and Waterford Crystal winner Fr. Jim Wilmoth.

Wisconsin

AOH blooms in Wisconsin

The Rev. William J. Kelly, S.J. Division exuded excitement and faith as they kicked off a week-long celebration with fellow Irish culture enthusiasts, topped off with their annual march in the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin St. Patrick's Day Parade, in which they paid homage to our ancestral flag by handing out green, white and orange flowers to parade attendees. To increase local awareness, a small flag on each flower makes note of the AOH and invites the community to visit their Division's Facebook page to learn more about how to become a Hibernian, and the impressive charitable work being done.

Division members are preparing for their Taste of Ireland event, a fundraiser and celebration of Irish culture that takes place each September. Through the hard work of our Milwaukee division, \$30,000 has been raised each of the last four years, resulting in an impressive donation to three extraordinary Catholic schools that serve a diverse, urban population.



At the parade in Wisconsin, from left, Rick McMahon, Dan Hounsell, Bob Botsford, Shannon Burns (Division Vice President). At the left of this photo is an image of the AOH flag among the distributed flowers.

Louisiana

Casler named Hibernian of the Year

The Louisiana AOH State Board, Archbishop Philip Hannan Division, James Cardinal Gibbons Division, Acadian Division, Republic of West Florida Division and Fr. Thomas "Mossy" Gallagher Division announced Joseph Christopher Casler as Hibernian of the Year for the Year 2018.

Born in Philadelphia in 1966, Casler and his brother Steven were raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, by their parents, Frances and William Casler. He attended the Canterbury School of Florida and then the University of South Florida, from which he graduated in 1988.

Casler then moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola University Law School, graduating in 1992 whereupon he went to work for Edward J. Womac Jr. and later CNA Insurance Company as staff counsel. Since 1998, he has worked for Progressive Insurance Company, serving as State Managing Attorney for its House Counsel operation since 2008. He is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

Casler is a former member of the Krewe of Bacchus and currently rides with the Zulu Fire Truck Krewe. He is also a member of the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club, with whom he has marched since 1993. He joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1996, wishing to further explore his Irish Catholic heritage. Over the years, he has served as Chairman of the annual Hibernian Charity Raffle and the annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet. He was elected State President of the Louisiana Hibernians in 2011, in which capacity he served until 2015.

As Hibernian President and then Past-President, Casler engaged the Hibernians to take part in the rebuilding of New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity; the cleaning, painting and refurbishing of St. Michael's Special School's fitness room; and has served as President of the Louisiana Hibernian Charity where he helped secure the Hibernians' permit to construct and maintain the Hibernian Memorial Park at the Celtic Cross site at West End Boulevard.

Since 2014, Casler has served on the the Board of Trustees for the National Hibernian Charity and was recently elected Chairman of that Board. In 2017, he organized and



participated in relief efforts for those affected by both Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and previously did the same for Hurricane Sandy victims in New York/New Jersey.

Joe is the father of Ava Eugenia Casler and lives in New Orleans. He was honored on Saturday, March 17, 2018, during Mass at St. Patrick's Church, led the Hibernians in the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade, and was honored at the St. Patrick's Day Banquet that evening at the Hilton Riverside.

AOH Brother leads Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade New Orleans, Louisiana

AOH brother Daniel Haggerty and his five brothers, Michael, Timothy, Patrick, Edward, and Bryan served as Grand Marshals of the 72nd Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Irish Channel Club was founded in 1947 by Hibernian Richard F. Burke Sr. to bring the residents of the Irish Channel a St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Channel Club has kept alive the traditions of the Irish in New Orleans, and the Hibernians have been proud to march in the Parade since the 1990s.



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

Kansas

Johnson County Kansas Hibernians on parade

The distinguished honor guard of the Fr. Donnelly Division 1 of Johnson County Kansas was prominently on display at the 2018 St. Patrick's Day parade on the streets of Kansas City Missouri. On a grey, windy, cold "Irish" day that demanded particular care while marching in their kilts, the Division carried the United States and Ireland flags along with a host of provincial and ceremonial flags.

Before the parade begins, the honor guard, as is the tradition, formed a semi-circle around Megan Allison standing at attention while she sang "The Soldier's Song" in both English and then in Gaelic. Upon completion of the singing the parade begins its 1.3 mile march down Kansas City's Broadway Boulevard. The marchers paused at the judges'

review stand where Ms. Allison beautifully repeated her rendition of the Republic of Ireland's national anthem "The Soldier's Song" again in the two languages. This was the sixth time in seven years she has performed accompanied by the Donnelly honor guard.

Ms. Allison is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a Music Therapy emphasis. At KU she was a member of the university's Chamber Chior. She is the daughter of Donnelly member Patrick McCluskey and his wife Denise. Her interest in Gaelic pronunciation for singing was first sparked under the guidance of, now deceased, Division member Patrick Cooke; further education came under Renate Rua of the Kansas City Irish Center.



New Irish Commemorative Park launched in New Orleans

Local dignitaries joined members of the Louisiana AOH and Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell of Austin, Texas, for a pre-St. Patrick's Day launch of an Irish heritage park in New Orleans. The ceremonial Sod Turning kicked off construction of Hibernian Memorial Park, a multifunctional green space that will celebrate 300 years of Irish history in the city.

Among those attending the March 16 event were Louisiana State Senator Wesley T. Bishop, State Representative Stephanie Hilferty, New Orleans Councilman Joe Giarrusso, former State Senator Edwin Murray, AOH State President Judge Jimmy Kuhn, AOH Hannah Division President Dan Foley and National AOH President Judge James F. McKay III.

The ground breaking took place at the Celtic Cross Monument, a 7-foot cross carved in Ireland of Kilkenny granite that will be the heart of the new 4-acre park. On November 4, 1990, members of the Irish Cultural Society of New Orleans dedicated the monument to honor the Irish laborers who dug the New Basin Canal from 1832 to 1838. The six-mile waterway linking New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain contributed to the economic

vitality of the city for nearly 100 years.

Located on the lake end of the filled-in New Basin Canal, Hibernian Memorial Park will trace New Orleans' rich Irish heritage through signage and statuary. The interpretive site will include dedicated areas for engraved tributes.

"The Hibernian Memorial Park is one of the first of its kind in this country, where we memorialize not only the many Irish immigrants who died as a result of digging the New Basin Canal, but also the generations of Irish who over these past 300 years have celebrated and maintained their Irish culture in New Orleans," commented McKay.

The project is an initiative of the Louisiana Hibernian Charity, a non-profit organization formed by the Louisiana AOH to develop and maintain the park. Major funding for its construction has been made possible through a grant from the Emigrant Support Programme of Ireland, with the support of local partners, including the Irish Cultural Museum of New Orleans.

For more information about the Hibernian Memorial Park project visit www.nolahibernianpark.org.



Kicking off construction of a New Orleans Irish heritage park with a ceremonial sod turning were (from left) AOH Hannan Division President Dan Foley, former Senator Edwin Murray, LA AOH President Judge Jimmy Kuhn, LHC board members Patrick Sens and Michael Kerrigan, Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell, LHC Board President James Moriarty and LHC Treasurer Bernard J. Eckholdt.



National AOH President Judge James F. McKay III applauds as Irish Consul General Adrian Farrell (left) congratulates Louisiana Hibernian Charity Board President James Moriarty on the ground breaking of Hibernian Memorial Park. The project was made possible through a grant from the Emigrant Support Programme of Ireland.



AOH members, dignitaries and well-wishers gathered at New Orleans' Celtic Cross Monument on March for the launch of the city's Hibernian Memorial Park.

Missouri

Pearse Division Christmas serenade

At their annual Christmas dinner members of the Padarig Pearse Division 1 in Kansas City, Missouri, serenaded wives, dates and guests to the glorious sounds of O'Donnell Abu. While not exactly memorable as a Christmas carol the song and singing made a great evening even more memorable.

Following a buffet dinner and a reception featuring Irish cheer, President Jerry Lonergan introduced the song and its significance and invited all members to the stage of the Irish Center's Drexel Hall to sing the official song of the AOH in America. Missouri State President Joe Flanagan provided the music and the chorus included state Secretary Jamie Dugdale who is in the midst of creating a new central Missouri division out of Columbia.

The audience sat enraptured by the Division's stirring rendition, or possibly in stunned silence, but it was a grand addition to a fun night dedicated to friendship and charity. Annually, the Division gathers to celebrate the season and remember the homeless and needy veterans in the region by collecting clothing items and shoes for the diocese's Morning Glory Ministries. There is also a raffle for a bottle of Jameson that this year raised \$150 that also was to be delivered to Morning Glory.



New officers were introduced and the festivities conclude with the announcement of the Hibernian of the Year. This year members unanimously selected Kasey O'Connor (14th from the bottom of the photo if you are inclined to count). Besides being newly elected Division vice president, Kasey's multiple volunteer activities include representing the Division and heading the committee that raised almost \$4,000 at the 2017 Kansas City Ethnic Fest. Over an August weekend members engage a diverse Kansas City population selling "Irish" turkey legs and lemonade made with lemons "fresh from the orchards of Kilkenny."

California

Division 1 and the Special Olympics of Southern California

AOH Division 1 Brothers of St. Patrick members had their first opportunity of 2018 to show their true Christian Charity by volunteering at the Special Olympics of Southern California's Regional Floor Hockey Competitions, which was held on February 10. Division Vice President Brian Gallogly and his wife Angela, Past President Ronn Knowles and his wife Priscilla, Marshal John Gallagher, Historian Emmet MacRaghnaill and Sentinel Kevin Fitzgerald served as Food Attendants to feed the wonderful and appreciative Special Olympics athletes.



Helping at the Special Olympics were Hibernians, from left, Kevin Fitzgerald, Emmet Mac and Brian Gallogly.

Fore! In New Jersey

Fr. Duffy AOH / All saints Grammar School 9 Hole Golf Outing will be held on June 4 at the Atlantis Golf Course, Little Egg Harbor, NJ. It will be a 2:30 p.m. shotgun — 12:30 sign-up.

Maximum 72 Golfers \$75 per golfer, \$75 Hole sponsors, includes cart, prizes, dinner and open bar from 5 'til 7. Dinner only is \$40. Room only holds 100 guests. Benefit is for All Saints Grammar School and other local charities. Contact : Bob Goodwin 609-978-0635 for reservations.



Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

The Spring Meeting of the Massachusetts State Board was held on March 31 at the home of Division 10 in Lynn, and plans for the 2018 National Convention were discussed among plans for AOH upcoming events.

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

Division 1 Holyoke: United States Veterans who are members of Division 1 received the new AOH Veteran Pins at an event over the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Those honored were Patrick Bresnahan III, Robert Cahillane, James A. Curran, Dr. William J. Dean, Kevin Dorman, Charles Haller, Thomas Keating, Owen Kelley, Jr., Daniel Knapp, Jordan Lemieux, Edward McCarthy, Charles O'Connell, James Sheehan, Peter Tollman, James McGill, Charles Healey, and Michael Ryan. The guest speaker was the Honorable Michael Ryan, retired Justice of North Hampton District Court, who spoke on Ireland's nonviolent revolution and the general election in 1918.

Division 8 Lawrence: Division 8 held a host of events during Irish Heritage Month. During the festivities, the Division announced the recipients of their 2018 awards. Those honored were Richard Cardinal Cushing Award – Elizabeth Cuddy; Irishman of the Year – the Rev. John W. Delaney; and the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award – Thomas M. Connors. Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera issued a proclamation declaring March as Irish Heritage Month in the city. The Irish Flag flew in the city park across from City Hall from March 1 through March 31.

Division 9 Plymouth: Division members marched in the Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 10 and the Scituate St. Patrick's Parade on March 18. Division members celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17 at the East Bay Grill.

Division 10 Lynn: On March 15 Toireasa Ferris, a Sinn Fein Politician from County Kerry, spoke on her father's book, "Hunger for Justice," to a large crowd at the home of Division 10. One of the Hunger Martyrs noted in the book, Joseph Patrick Murphy, was born in Lynn, MA. Martin Ferris, Toireasa's dad, was unable to attend as he was refused a visa to enter the U.S. Members of Lynn's Frederick Douglas' 200th Birthday Committee also attended. Douglas lived in Lynn for six years prior to visiting Ireland.

Division 14 Watertown: The Division held a traditional boiled dinner on March 17 with entertainment by the O'Shea Chaplain Academy of Irish Dance and Luke Johansen.

Division 18 Salem: The Division's Annual Memorial Mass was held on March 11 at St. Thomas Church, followed by their Communion Breakfast. The Irishman of the Year Award was presented to Robert Bash for his dedication and hard work for the Division.

On March 17, Division members celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and entertainment by DJ Tommy Murphy and the band Marj. The St. Patrick's Day celebrations wrapped up with a Shamrock Raffle.

Division 19 Lowell: Lowell Hibernians celebrated Irish Cultural Week with an Irish Concert followed by a Mass at St. Patrick Church. Following Mass, the AOH & the LAOH took part in the Irish Cultural Parade to Lowell City Hall where the Irish Flag was raised, and a wreath was laid at the Irish monument.

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



Hunger for Justice: North Shore Hibernians gathered at the Lynn, MA AOH on March 16 to hear Toireasa Ferris speak on her father's recent book, Hunger for Justice. Pictured from left, the Hon. Thomas Magee, Mayor of Lynn, MA; Richard Wall, Division 10 President, Lynn, MA; and Toireasa Ferris from County Kerry, Ireland.

Georgia



AB Donoghue Division: AOH brothers support the Saint Baldrick's Foundation pack some tee shirts. Pictured: Ryan Curry, Brian Betz, Sean Patricia, Mike Moors (President). Not pictured – Joe Norton.

Kentucky

St. Patrick season in Louisville

The Father J Ryan Division 1 kicked off St. Patrick Season with the annual Hibernian Heroes recognition, which serves to thank and honor Louisville's first responders. Various units nominate worthy candidates and the Division selects the winners. Recognized in 2018 were Angela Rarden, Metro EMS; Captain Michael Bryan, Jr., Louisville Fire Department; Travis Schoenlaub, Jefferson County Sherriff Department; and Nick Rodman, Louisville Metro Police.

Chuck Mattingly was selected Irish-Person of the Year. Since 1986, he has owned Horner Novelty, successfully rebuilding it in 2005 after a devastating fire. Deciding he needed more out of life than a profitable business, through prayer and personal reflection he connected with the Franciscan Shelter Kitchen and began volunteering in 2008. His passion for helping those who came daily for their meal grew stronger over time; in 2010 he became operations director and continues to enjoy helping the less fortunate.

On March 16, Hibernians led by Joe Fallahay joined Chuck and teamed with the kitchen preparing and serving a corned beef, cabbage and potatoes lunch to over 450 people. Chuck expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Hibernian volunteers.

The Division also spent two March Saturdays beautifying Louisville by planting 45 trees each day to honor the 45th St. Patrick Day Parade.

Hibernians and friends gathered at Goodwood Brewery March 8 for a "Blessing of the Kegs." Father Joe Fowler blessed a limited edition "Bomber Bottle" and "Big Fella & Bourbon Barrel Stout Keg." Following the blessings kegs were tapped at O'Shea's and a grand party ensued.

Mass honoring St. Patrick was held March 10 at St. Louis Bertrand Church. Afterwards, the 45th Hibernian parade proceeded for two miles before a crowd exceeding 100,000. With a Shamrock & Roll theme, all enjoyed the 225-plus parade participants. After the parade roads remained closed as everyone danced the night away.



Louisville "Bloody Monday" remembrance

The Father J. Ryan Division 1 annually honors those who lost their lives on Bloody Monday in Louisville, August 6, 1855.

A Historical Marker, located where once stood Catholic neighborhoods comprised of German and Irish immigrants, is a reminder of an election day when Protestant mobs attacked these neighborhoods. According to the Louisville Daily Journal on that day, the city was "...in possession of an armed mob, the base passions of which were infuriated to the highest pitch by incendiary appeals ... of the Know-Nothing Party." To impact voting results, the Know-Nothings placed armed guards at poll stations and by intimidation hundreds were denied the opportunity to vote. Violence escalated throughout the day and eventually over 100 businesses, private homes and tenements would be vandalized, looted and burned. The "official" death toll was 19 to 22 killed, however credible Catholic estimates were that more than 100 killed.

No one was ever prosecuted in connection with the riots. Louisville would lose population and in turn dozens of business closed, all with long-term impacts on the arts, education and charitable causes. Empty storefronts replaced once-bustling commercial corridors and many of the ruins lay untouched for years, a silent reminder of that terrible day.

After the 150th anniversary in 2006, the Division and the German-American Club raised funds to erect the Marker. Located between 10th and 11th Streets on West Main, the Marker presents what happens denoting it as the site of the burning of a row of frame houses owned by Irishman Patrick Quinn.

Beginning on St. Patrick's Day in 2015, annually the AOH and the LOAH have gathered at the marker to remember and memorialize the events, insuring the city does not forget this tragic happening. Following the on-site ceremony there is a parade through the city led by a bagpiper.

Pennsylvania

Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year Award

The Ancient Order of Hibernians held a party on March 1st for the Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year Award in honor of Kevin Shaughnessy in recognition of his many organizations and charitable involvements. The event kicked off the St. Patrick's Day season with the AOH Paul "Hook" O'Malley Man of the Year award presented and the event featured a proclamation by Congressman Matt Cartwright. Proceeds benefit All Saints Academy scholarships.



Joe Walsh, State Director of the Diocese of Scranton, Joseph Hosie, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania AOH, Kevin M. Shaughnessy, Man of the Year recipient, with daughter Peyton, Patrick O'Malley, AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 President, and James Connor, AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 Treasurer.

Georgia



AOH brothers recognized

Auxiliary Bishop Ned Schlesinger gave an inspired talk to the Division this past Month. The 2017 and 2016 Archbishop Donoghue Awards were presented to Dave Fitzgerald and Kevin Fitzpatrick respectively. The annual award is given by the Division to a Brother that most exemplifies the values of our order and dedication to Catholic-Irish interests in Atlanta.

New York

Long Island Hibernians and other Irish-American organizations gathered as they do each year on Easter Monday, April 2, at the Easter Rising Memorial in Mineola, NY, to commemorate the martyrs of the 1916 Rebellion in Ireland. The monument is a beautiful work of art, whose creation and ongoing maintenance was funded by the Easter Monday Memorial Committee.

The committee is comprised of various Irish organizations including the Nassau County Board of the Ancient order of Hibernians, the Nassau Police Emerald Society, the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens, Irish Northern Aid, The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Irish Americans in Government, the Brehon Law Society of Nassau County, and the Irish Studies Program of Hofstra University.

Speakers included Anna McGillicuddy, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Irish Consulate (NY), who joined representatives of the Rising Monument Committee for the ceremonies. Also attending were the Nassau County Executive, Laura Curran; the Town of Hempstead Supervisor, Laura Gillen; and members of the county judiciary, including Joy Watson; and the police and sheriff's department. Donal Mahoney performed the master of ceremonies responsibilities with great skills. A moving reading by AOH Historian Joe Gleason of the Proclamation.



American organizations gathered on Easter Monday for a meaningful commemoration.

Hibernians receive Irish Echo's '40 Under 40' Award

By Bro. Denis P. McGowan

On Friday, February 23, five Brother Hibernians were the recipients of the prestigious "40 Under 40 Award" from the Irish Echo, America's oldest Irish newspaper. The award was given to each of our Brothers for their distinguished service to the Irish American community and for their successful careers.

The 11th annual 40 Under 40 Award dinner was held at The Manhattan Club at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan. This year's recipients included the following Brother Hibernians who have rendered great service to our Irish American community and the public in general.

Brother Clive Anderson, president and owner of the Pelham Funeral Home and Cremation Service, and a founding officer and treasurer of the Westchester County Board's Thomas Addis Emmet Division 17, New Rochelle, NY. Brother Anderson is a member of the Irish Business Organization, the Danny Fund and the American Ireland Fund.

Brother K. Desmond Dahill, of BB&T Capital Markets, is the president of the Bergen County Board's Father Solanus Casey Division 32 in River Edge, NJ. Brother Dahill also serves as a delegate to the Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County and is a member of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick.

Brother Kieran Mahoney, of the City of New York Human Resources Administration Public Engagement Unit, currently serves as the Queens County Board's recording secretary and president of Division 9, Flushing, NY. Brother Mahoney is also the president and chairman of the Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Brother John Paul Martin, Esq., an attorney and founder of the law offices of John P. Martin, serves as New York County Board's Thomas Cardinal O'Fiaich Division 7's recording secretary and serves on the Board of Directors of the Emerald Isle Immigration center and on the Planning Committee of the June 13th, 2018 Celtic Cruise.

Brother James McGlashin, a teacher with the New York City Department of Education. Brother McGlashin is the organizer and founding member of the Westchester County Board's Thomas Addis Emmet Division 17, New Rochelle, NY. He is also the Gaelic Football Club Rockaway Rovers and is one of the youngest Division presidents in our Order!

Congratulations to our Brothers for receiving this high honor from the Irish Echo, and for their service to our Order and to the Irish American community. They are shining examples of Hibernianism in action.

West Virginia

Teaching the Faith

Msgr. McSweeney named Division 1 chaplain

The Most Reverend Bishop Michael J. Bransfield, of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has appointed Rev. Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney, Chaplain of Division 1, located in Wheeling, WV. Father McSweeney, as he prefers to be called due to his humble nature, is a retired priest with over 40 years of service.

The beloved priest is extremely proud of his Cashel, County Cork, roots and decades spent in West Virginia. McSweeney's life's work has been speaking the Catholic faith and encouraging all he encounters to learn about their faith. His lifelong devotion to teaching children won him the Bishop's Cross Award. He once said himself "A priest is not a priest for himself; he finds his true identity in love and service of God's people, whom he is privileged to know, love and serve as God's anointed one." A priest's life, his preaching and teaching the good news, always points to Christ who is "the same today, yesterday and forever." Father McSweeney also attended his first St. Patrick's Day parade in nearby Pittsburgh, PA, riding behind the banner in the trolley.

Division 1 is known for hosting the world's largest Irish Road Bowling Event, consisting of nearly 150 teams and over 730 bowlers. For the past several years, the winner has been awarded the properly named, "McSweeney Cup."



New Hampshire

Irish Heritage Month declared in Manchester

At the urging of Rev. William J. Shanahan Division 1, the month of March 2018 was recognized as Irish Heritage Month in the State of New Hampshire and in the Division's home city of Manchester. Responding to letters from the Division President, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig and New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu both issued Proclamations recognizing the month's cultural importance to Irish Americans throughout the city and the state.

In a ceremony at City Hall on March 6, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig issued a Proclamation declaring the entire month of March as Irish Heritage Month in the City of Manchester. To the strains of bagpipes, members of the AOH and LAOH marched in procession behind the Division's colors into the City Hall chambers, where they were met by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen assembled in session. Mayor Craig issued the Proclamation to Division President Mike Farley, who then presented a large Irish Tricolor flag to the city for use in celebrating Irish Heritage Month in the future.

Recognition of the contributions of Irish Americans to the State of New Hampshire throughout its history was included in Governor Sununu's Proclamation, which extended the month-long celebration of Irish culture and heritage to the entire Granite State.



Visit www.louisvilleirish2018.com
for all your convention needs

Virginia

Virginia AOH Divisions celebrated Irish American Heritage Month with gusto from beginning to end.

ROANOKE - March 10: The Father Lynch Division held the annual Saint Patrick Dinner and Silent Auction at Roanoke Catholic School. Division chaplain Fr. Stephen McNally gave the invocation to get the festivities started. A menu of corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie and soda bread was served to over 200 people. Former Roanoke Mayor and AOH member David Bowers provided entertainment which included Major Burt Mitchell, Pipe Band Director at Virginia Military Institute, and Celtic dancer Anne Sampson. The evening raised \$5,800 from a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and raffles for three "baskets of cheer." The Division will present \$3,000 in scholarships to students at Roanoke Catholic School. Other charities, including the Blue Ridge Women's Center, will also benefit.

RICHMOND - March 13: At the March business meeting, the Major Dooley Division addressed the ESPN "sports" commentator's pronouncement that the University of Notre Dame should remove the Fighting Irish logo as it is "offensive" mascot. The division resolved that it fully supports the use of the Fighting Irish logo by Notre Dame and encourages the University to stand strong for its history and identity and to rebuff all attempts to undermine its traditions.

March 24: The annual St. Patrick Irish Festival Parade in Richmond. Each year the Festival raises more than \$150,000 for local Richmond charities. The Major Dooley Division "Trip for Two to Ireland" raffle winning ticket was drawn at the end of the Festival. Proceeds are donated to Richmond area Catholic Churches and schools.

Fredericksburg — From March 6 through the 23, 12 Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division (SP01) brothers volunteered time and knowledge as the division celebrated Irish American Heritage Month at three Fredericksburg libraries over the three week period.



On March 18, the VAAOH State Board led several Virginia Hibernian Divisions in the 38th annual Ballyshanners' St Patrick Day Parade. The crowd was three to four deep on both sides of the entire parade route. The Grand Marshals were Bernadette and Pat Troy a couple that has contributed incredible time and personal effort to the Irish American community in Alexandria and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

O'Connor Division makes grand donation

On March 11, the Saint Bede John Cardinal O'Connor Division and Knights of Columbus Father James Lee Rizer Council 6828 held a joint St. Patrick's Party in the Kaplan Parish Hall of Saint Bede's in Williamsburg, VA. More than 200 persons enjoyed bagpipers, a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, along with Irish step dancers, prize draws and the music of the Fiddler's Green Irish Band. Great Celtic fun was had by all and the event raised \$1,000 for St. Bede Ministries.



Pictured is Division President James Hubbard and KofC representative Robert Burke making the presentation of the joint party proceeds donation check from the event to Pastor Monsignor Timothy Keeney of Saint Bede.



The Meagher Division's annual IAHM Mass was celebrated on March 15th by State Chaplain, Fr. Jerry Wooton at St. Patrick Church. Father Wooton's homily highlighted the life of St. Patrick and how his humility and perseverance brought Christianity to pagan Ireland. On March 17, the division co-sponsored and was the lead element in the 16th Annual St. Patrick Day Parade and Irish Festival. The parade was in memory of trailblazing Fredericksburg brewer and AOH brother Jeff Fitzpatrick. Although the weather was threatening, an estimated 500 people line the parade route and attended festival inside the Bowman Distillery.

The Mourning of the Green

**by Joseph Deehan
Harp and Shamrock Division, Greenville, SC**

The gentle, multi shaded hills of green I tread
welcome me, murmuring the sorrow of the land.
It shows no traces of ancestors' blood once shed
by Cromwell and his murderous band.

Generations endured the rule of oppressors and their pillage.
Under shadow of fear peasants sought solace
from hedgerow teachers and priests in town and village,
their freedoms crushed under direction from an English palace.

Calamity then doubled down its wrath with potato blight,
so they trudged the famine trail to embark on famine ships
and brace stormy seas that roiled day and night.
Those remaining carried on with stoic hearts and pursed lips.

The Round Tower today stands in solitude,
witness to rapacious power of centuries past.
The people left were strong, not a withering brood,
for all the torment faced they were able to outlast.

Long gone are the souls who endured the pain
but they cast tears from high above
and drench the fields to cleanse evil's stain
from Ireland, the land they loved.



ALEXANDRIA March 10: Third annual St. Patrick Irish Hooley was sponsored by the Herbert-Cady Division. Attended by more than 400 guests, this annual Irish traditional party includes great food, Irish dancers and of course Irish music. In attendance were, from left, Fr. Edward Hathaway, Pastor, Basilica of St. Mary; Terry Riley, President Herbert-Cady Division; Mayor of Alexandria, Allison Silberberg; St. Patrick (Jim McLaughlin); and the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington. At right, AOH Life Member Pat Troy entertains with his trademark Unicorn song.

South Carolina

Richard (Smitty) Smith, SC State Treasurer and State Board member as well a member of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division here in Bluffton, asked me to pass along this news piece about our brother division up in Greenville, SC that is doing good works for the less fortunate in Tanzania. I know we are beyond the deadline for the next issue and will be competing with all the news about St. Patrick's Day events in the subsequent issue, but whatever you can do to get these lads some ink will be greatly appreciated.

"The Harp and Shamrock Division of Greenville, South Greenville has established a charity project to promote the "Safe Water Now" organization which gathers money to purchase ceramic water filters for the people of Tanzania in Africa. This nonprofit in turn directly supports the efforts of an local Tanzanian company which produces a water purification device that cost 40 US dollars. Each device is large enough to provide a family clean drinking water for 5 years. If you want to hear more about this effort please view the Safe Water Project Cause found on the SCAOH.org website."



"South Carolina State President James Lawracy presents a \$1,000.00 check to the "Safe Water Project" Chairman Tom Ennis with Greenville division President Daniel Regan and Past National Director Len Byrne participating."



State President Jim Lawracy, left, and Division President Tim O'Connor drew the lucky winning ticket.

And the winner was...

Each year the South Carolina State Board conducts a state-wide limited ticket sale raffle with a first place prize of a trip to Ireland for four people for one week including air fares, car rental, B&B lodging and four rounds of golf. Drawing of the winner always takes place on St. Patrick's Day and this year it was hosted by the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division of Bluffton at one of our local pubs.



State President Jim Lawracy, left, and Division President Tim O'Connor drew the lucky winning ticket.

New York

By Michael Byrne, NYS AOH Sports Chairman

NY AOH celebrates Gaelic Football

The NY State AOH held their first Annual 7-a-side Adult Gaelic Football Tournament in Gaelic Park on Sunday, April 8. Ten teams participated in the competition. The teams hailed from Nassau and Suffolk counties, Connecticut, Boston, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. The opening teams paraded around the field behind a group of approximately 40 musicians from three different pipe bands – The Kerry Pipers, Glor na Gael and Tara Pipes and Drums.

The games were exciting and played at a fast pace. A large group of Hibernians and true Gaelic lovers braved the cold weather to show their support.

St. Barnabas was the triumphant team who took home the cups! They beat NY Celtics in the final of the B Division and they beat the Aidan Mc Anespies from Boston in a closely contested match in the final of the A Division. Hats off to St. Barnabas! This team calls the Bronx home. All their players are Irish American. They came up through the ranks from the NY Minor Board of the GAA.

All the money raised from this event will go directly to college scholarships for students active in the Gaelic Athletic program. We plan on making this an annual event. What better way to promote our Irish heritage and culture! These young Irish Americans are the future members of the AOH and LAOH. Let them know who we are and what we stand for.

The Gaelic Athletic Association is an active organization throughout the United States of America. I would encourage other states to run similar events to promote our culture and our organization.



Pipe bands, The Kerry Pipers, Glor na Gael and Tara Pipes and Drums, prepared for the opening ceremony and the parade around the field.



The Long Island Gaels battled Saint Barnabas.



The tournament champions, Saint Barnabas, from the Bronx, posed with New York AOH State President Victor Vogle, right, and NY AOH Sports Chairman Mike Byrne, on the left. Photos by Rose Byrne

New York



AOH forming a Division honoring FDNY Lieutenant

NY AOH State Secretary John Manning announced that a division is being formed in honor of FDNY Lieutenant Kevin C. Dowdell, who made the supreme sacrifice at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Lt. Dowdell was a Hibernian who served with Rescue Company 4, Queens, where he received a medal for his brave rescue of a woman from a Queens diner after it had exploded and collapsed. He went to Oklahoma City as a member of FEMA to help in the recovery of victims after the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building. Lt. Dowdell was one of 18 Hibernians who were killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01.

The newly formed Lieutenant Kevin C. Dowdell AOH Division 4 Breezy Point, NY, hosted their inaugural meeting on February 22 at the Breezy Point Catholic Club, located at 204-10 Rockaway Point Blvd., Breezy Point, NY 11697. The Division proudly counts Lt. Dowdell's two sons, Patrick and James, as members.

The evening events included the conferral of the Shamrock Degree on more than 20 new members of the Order. Assisting in the ritual were National Organizer Tim McSweeney, National Directors Liam McNabb and Dan Dennehy, National Deputy Organizer Keith Reynolds, State Organizer Kevin Cummings, and State District 5 Director Martin Crimmins.

The evening concluded with the nominations, elections and the installation of the new division's board of officers with State Secretary John Manning serving as the new division's president. Walter Cooper, Queens County President presided over the installation ceremony.

For more information, contact John Manning at queenscountyaohpres@gmail.com or (917) 589-0047.



AOH National Director Appears on Sirius/XM Catholic Channel

On March 8, AOH National Director Liam McNabb was a guest with Fr. Dave Dwyer on The Busted Halo Radio Show, which is broadcast on The Sirius/XM Catholic Channel (Sirius/XM Channel 129). The Catholic Channel was established on Sirius/XM in 2006 and is operated by the Archdiocese of New York. The Catholic Channel can be heard throughout the entire United States and Canada.

The Busted Halo Show is hosted by Fr. Dave Dwyer CSP of the Paulist Fathers. The Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle is a community of Catholic Priests who work preaching to younger audiences through current and emerging media platforms and the use of the latest technology. The Paulist Fathers also serve as Catholic campus ministers at universities all over the United States.

On the show, Director McNabb was able to discuss the history and important contributions of the AOH to both the United States and the American Catholic Church. He was also able to promote the National Board's recent efforts to boost membership through its national ad campaign.

Liam presented Fr. Dave with gifts, which included a custom AOH Scarf, Lapel Pin and a membership card! (Welcome to the AOH, Fr. Dave!) The visit was a tremendous success and is seen as the next important step in promoting the contributions and good works of the AOH.



Hibernians on Fifth Avenue: Nassau County's Division 8 in Glen Cove, NY, marched in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue. Photo by Pauline Moran Stafford.

New York

Brady, Bateman honored in Westchester

The Westchester County AOH Dinner was held on Saturday, April 7, at the Mansion on RT 22 in White Plains, New York. — Brian O'Reilly, Recording Secretary, Division 18, Peekskill.

Hibernians honored Pipe Major for 69th Regiment, Joe Brady, and past National Historian Bob Bateman. Westchester AOH 2017 Guest of Honor Derek Warfield returned in honoring Bateman and Brady and joined Andy Cooney for a terrific set.



Bob Bateman was awarded the Spirit of Freedom Award with his grandson Griffin, from Derek Warfield and Liam Murphy.



Honorees Bob Bateman and Joe Brady



Martin Galvin, Jamie Hamilton, Derek Warfield, Denis McCarthy, Bob Bollbach.



Grand Marshals celebrate 30 years!: The Hibernians of Division 8 in Nassau County, NY, organize the only AOH/LAOH St. Patrick's Parade in the county. This year was its 30th annual parade! As many previous Grand Marshals as could make it returned to Glen Cove for a reunion photo.



Rockland County holds its 56th annual St. Patrick's Parade in Pearl River: Pearl River's Francis Duffy (95), Parade Commander, a U.S. Marine wounded in combat on Iwo Jima and awarded the Silver Star, led the Rockland AOH St. Patrick's Day Parade. Frank McDonough drove the honored guest in his antique automobile.



Utica on parade: Jim Sullivan of the AOH portrays St. Patrick in the Utica, NY, parade. Photo by Tom Loughlin, Jr.

Ladies Hibernian News

Missions & Charities

IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION FOR MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

If you want your Missions & Charities donations/Mass stipends to be included in my final convention report, you must mail to me no later than May 14th. I will be mailing the final deposit of my term to National Treasurer, Marilyn Madigan, by Thursday, May 24th. Monday the 28th is Memorial Day and Marilyn needs time to make the deposit before May 31st. All monies deposited by that time will be distributed to the Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters and Appeals for Aid at the convention. Any checks not received by me in sufficient time to make the deposit will be held and forwarded to the new National Missions & Charities Officer elected in Kentucky.



APPEALS FOR AID

Information for Appeals for Aid was emailed to all State Missions & Charities Officers and State Presidents in March. If you did not receive the information, the Instructions and Application can be found on the National website at www.ladiesaoh.com under Missions and Charities.

Thank you!

See you in Kentucky!

Mary Ann Lubinsky

National Missions & Charities Officer



Ladies AOH National Board

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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

President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



As you read this message, I ask that you pause to say a "thank-you" prayer to Our Risen Lord who endured His sufferings for each of us. Now, we look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit who will be with us for all time.

On behalf of the National Board, I want to give public thanks to the State Presidents for the support they gave to their State Secretaries and State Treasurers for completing the 2017 Annual Membership Reports and Annual Financial Reports as specified by the National Secretary and the National Treasurer. As you are aware, these State Reports are dependent upon the completed work of the County Board and Division Secretaries and Treasurers. Thus, the work of these officers is also recognized.

Once again, I am personally inviting you to participate in the 2018 Biennial National AOH-LAOH Convention being held July 11-14, 2018 in Louisville KY. By the time you read this message, the LAOH "Call to Convention" will have been sent to all State Presidents and State Secretaries. This "Call to Convention" should be read at all State Board, County Board, and Division Meetings.

If you have not registered for the Convention, I encourage you to do so now as the fees will increase after June 1. You should immediately make your hotel reservations directly with the Galt House Hotel that is serving as our 2018 Convention Site. Please refer to the information provided in this issue of the Hibernian Digest for Convention Registration Information and Galt House Hotel Reservation Information or go to www.LouisvilleIrish2018.com, the Convention website.

The Ohio State Board Degree Team has provided information about of the exemption of the LAOH Degrees on the LAOH National Website (www.ladiesaoh.com) under the "2018 AOH/LAOH National Convention" button. Please forward your registration information directly to the Ohio State Board Degree Team as stated on the application form.

I encourage you to check the "Members Only" button on the LAOH National Website as the Convention information that is being sent via email to State Presidents for dissemination to the State's entities will also be posted on the LAOH National Website for easy access for the membership. A major change in convention procedures as mandated by the National Constitution will be implemented for the first time at this 2018 National Convention.

This new mandate requires that all National Board Officer Reports are to be emailed to each State's delegation three (3) weeks prior to the start of the National Convention. So, it is imperative that email addresses be provided as requested by the National Secretary when the State Secretary provides a list of the State's delegates, alternates, and observers and the recommended committee assignment for each member of the State's delegation thirty (30) days prior to the start of the National Convention. As a "safety net," I am asking State Presidents to ensure that your delegation has access to all National Board Reports prior to coming to the National Convention as there will be no packets available for the Convention participants at your designated seating area as the LAOH General Session is convened.

As you begin your preparation to attend the 2018 National Convention, I recommend that you review ARTICLE XVIII NATIONAL CONVENTION in the LAOH National Constitution as it prescribes timelines for reports, the appointment of committees, and proposed amendments to the Ritual and Constitution. Your Division, County Board, and State Board Presidents will serve as your best resource in answering your Convention questions. I am hopeful that each State will bring its fully allocated number of delegates/alternates to the 2018 National Convention.

May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, continue to bless our work as we prepare for the 2018 National Convention.

Michigan



The Michigan LAOH Catherine McAuley Division created a float for the Detroit St. Patrick Day Parade. Their float included Fr. Solanus Casey praying to a statue of the Blessed Mother who he had great devotion to.

Organizer

by **Mary Hogan, National Organizer**

ALL IRISH NEED APPLY - Suggestions to increase membership Sisters, increasing our membership is the job of every division and every member in our Order. One of the most common questions I receive is what can we do to attract new members? You should always be on the lookout for potential new members. There are many things that divisions may do to increase membership; *always have membership info available for potential members*. I have summarized some suggestions below. For a complete list and expanded details of each, Membership posters, business cards, and talking aides when you are doing a membership event please go to our Nat'l website. www.LadiesAOH.com or contact the National Organizer, Mary Hogan LAOHBKLYN@AOL.COM or 917 699-9290.

Membership Drive: do a membership drive in a Parish Hall, advertise in their parish bulletin, this will attract Catholic women. Ask local Catholic Clubs (K of C, Rosary Societies, Catholic Daughters) permission to come and speak about being a Hibernian.

Print inexpensive business cards, post cards give them to your members to handout at fairs, festivals, membership drives, local street fairs. Include a website or Facebook page if you have one. If you do not have a website, list the National website [www.LadiesAOH.com] so the potential member can get a sense of what we are about.

PUBLICITY: Put an ad in Church Bulletin, Irish or community newspaper. Irish people read Irish newspapers. Many Irish newspapers have special editions for St. Patrick's Day, take advantage of the larger than normal readership.

Whenever you have a division event or project ALWAYS take a photo and send to a local newspaper; invite the press, send to local cable TV stations, radio for the community event bulletins. These are usually free or very nominal in fee.

Plan events for different ages. Different types of events attract different age groups, ex. 'Theology on Tap', Paint Night (Irish Theme). **Have a 'paint night', a Wine and Cheese Night, Have a Irish Bowling Night, a movie night, a book club:** Have an event open to the public. This type of event tends to attract younger members. Have a small social gathering, advertise the event and invite potential new members to an informal gathering to get to know us.

Post Flyers about LAOH, on community, supermarket, parish bulletin boards, Irish Pubs, Irish gift shops, Irish companies, or restaurants; always ask permission first.

Have a display at community, parish festivals, fairs, Libraries. Include photos of local Hibernian events, activities, charity work, history, or topical Irish news events. Let everyone see what we do while having fun. Do something to attract attention: give out free name tags "have your name written in Irish"; this attracts people and gives you a chance to promote the LAOH and membership.

Contact local Catholic or Cable TV stations, ask if you can put up an advertisement or do they allow local groups to post a video?

Sponsor a speaker on a woman's issue and invite the public for free. **Sponsor an Irish dance teacher for 4-6 sessions.** Advertise it.

Ask your own members to each bring in one new member per year. Our own members have varied interest, various types of employment, family members, they belong to other community groups; don't forget this resource. **Go through your list of past members; invite them back.**

Work with the local Irish Consulate. Ask to be put on their mailing list, attend events for other Irish groups. Ask consulate to advertise our membership or sponsor a social event to encourage membership in the LAOH. Remember the Consulates deal with many new comers from Ireland and they are looking for friends; the LAOH affords them many opportunities for friendship.

Target High Schools or Colleges. LAOH membership starts at 16 years of age, students will bring friends; it gives us a younger image.

Nominations and Endorsements for Nat'l Office

CAROL SHEYER is nominated for the office of NATIONAL PRESIDENT, endorsed by the Ohio State Board in a letter received from the Ohio State President Clara Joyce to National President Patricia O'Connell.

KAREN KEANE is nominated for the office of NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, endorsed by the State of New York in a letter received from the New York State President Jacqueline Gilroy Clute to National President Patricia O'Connell.

MARILYN MADIGAN is nominated for the office of NATIONAL SECRETARY, endorsed by the Ohio State Board in a letter received from the Ohio State President Clara Joyce to National President Patricia O'Connell.

MARY ANN LUBINSKY is nominated for the office of NATIONAL TREASURER, endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Board in a letter received from the Pennsylvania State President Rae DiSpaldo to National President Patricia O'Connell.

SANDI SWIFT is nominated for the office of NATIONAL HISTORIAN, endorsed by the Missouri State Board in a letter received from the Missouri State President Sharron Olsen to National President Patricia O'Connell.

COLLEEN BOWERS is nominated for the office of MISSIONS AND CHARITIES, endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Board in a letter received from the Pennsylvania State President Rae DiSpaldo to National President Patricia O'Connell.

CATHY TURCK is nominated for the office of CATHOLIC ACTION, endorsed by the State of New York in a letter received from the New York State President Jacqueline Gilroy Clute to National President Patricia O'Connell.

To read the nomination letters from the State Presidents, please see the LAOH National Website members only page.

Virginia



We are excited to share the news of the formation of a new LAOH Division:

The Daughters of Erin, Division 1 Loudoun County, Virginia.

Virginia LAOH President Lori Forbes and Vice President Kathy Sullivan instituted our division on February 27, 2018. They installed 14 members including all required Officers. Our members are excited to support the charitable works of the LAOH and to continue to foster the bonds of friendship and unity within the LAOH community. We look forward to participating at both the State and National level. Erin Go Bragh!

Division President: Margaret McCarthy
Email: mmmac1@verizon.net

Montana



Montana Governor, Steven Bollock, with Mollee and Keiran Boyle. Keiran played "A Soldier's Song," the U.S. National Anthem, and When Irish Eyes are smiling on his violin at the Irish Flag Raising Ceremony on March 16, 2018, in the Montana State Capitol Rotunda.

South Carolina



St. Ciara of Beaufort, SC Local Winner and runner up as well as SC State Winner. Pictured are: SC State President, Cheryl Daniels (L) St. Ciara President, Maureen Binder, and SC State Historian, Kathleen Kelley (R).

We are extremely proud to have this year's National winner.

Pennsylvania



R to L: Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Maggie Cloonan, Past National LAOH President Peggy Cooney



(L-R): PA AOH State VP Pat O'Brien, National LAOH Catholic Action Colleen Bowers, Ireland Minister of State David Staunton T.D., Honorary Irish Consul Western PA Jim Lamb, Ireland Minister of State Aide.



On Devine Mercy Sunday, the members of LAOH Maud Gonne 32, Carnegie, PA, celebrated their 25th Annual Communion Breakfast with their Brothers from AOH Sean McBride 32. Sister Patrice Hughes was named 2018 LAOH Div. 32 Hibernian of the Year, and Kitty Kon was the 2018 Service Award recipient. Present at the Breakfast were: Patti Flaus (President), Maureen Horgan, Gerry Abbott (Financial Secretary), Kathleen Bado (Historian), Maureen Sueffert (Treasurer), Maureen Donnelly (Secretary), Nancy Maher, Kathleen O'Donnell, Lorrie Carroll. Front row: Sister Patrice Hughes (Chaplain) and Pattilee Starrett.



Pittsburgh's Hibernian of the Year AOH Div 9 Kevin Conboy, Pittsburgh's St. Patricks Day Parade Grand Marshal LAOH Div 11 Maggie Cloonan

Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email.
www.ladiesaoh.com

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016

Kentucky



The women of the LAOH Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1 attended mass at Saint Louis Bertrand Church in Louisville, Kentucky to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day before the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade. The LAOH reinstated an annual traditional of naming Hibernian Princesses for the Saint Patrick's Day parade. The princesses attended mass with the LOAH and AOH and rode on a float in the Saint Patrick's Day parade.



Molly Dobson, president of the LAOH Mother Catherine McAuley Division 1 presented former LOAH president and current LAOH Kentucky state president Julia O'Dwyer with the Saint Brigid's Award at the AOH's annual Wearing O'the Green.

Ancient Order of Hibernians - The Voice of Irish America



**Re-Elect President James F. McKay,
Vice President Danny O'Connell, Secretary Jere Cole, Treasurer Sean Pender.
Your Voice of Irish America!**

Photo taken in the White House, March 15, 2018, Shamrock Ceremony.

New York

Nassau Hibernians parade with joy

Nassau County Hibernians were on parade on a cold March 4th in Mineola, NY, as they joined with contingents from other organizations to proclaim pride in their heritage. The Mineola parade was organized by the Irish American Society of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



Glen Cove Hibernians Andrew Stafford and Jerry Herbert enjoyed the parade.



Hibernians from all around Nassau marched in Mineola.

photos by John O'Connell



Division 8 President Eric Hill, right, and Bill Doherty (Glen Cove AOH's Parade Grand Marshal 2018) joined other Nassau Hibernians for the Mineola March.

Welcome To The 2018 AOH LAOH National Convention in

Louisville, KY

Register for the Convention Full Package to enjoy all the good times!

All of your convention needs can be found at

www.louisvilleirish2018.com

You're invited to
Louisville, KY

For ONLINE REGISTRATION
and RESERVATIONS please go to

www.louisvilleirish2018.com



AOH LAOH 2018

National Convention
July 11th - 14th

The Galt House Hotel

\$125 plus taxes and fees per night per room including free wifi. Parking is a flat fee of \$10 per day. Phone reservations available Call (800) 843-4258, mention Hibernians <https://aws.passkey.com/go/AOHLAOH18>

Registration

(For Convention events only; does not include hotel registration. Please print neatly)

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State, Zip Code _____
Email _____ Telephone _____

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (circle one) Membership # _____ Division # _____ County _____ State _____

Complete Package: \$200* if reserved by **June 1, 2018**. Reservations made after June 1, 2018 and thereafter: \$220*.

Full Package includes:

Icebreaker Reception	"A Taste of Louisville"	Casual Attire
Irish Night	Irish Chicken and Pork	Business Casual
Installation Banquet - Choice of (circle one):	Salmon or Beef	Black Tie Optional



À la Carte Options:

- Icebreaker (Wednesday July 11th): \$65 *
- Irish Night (Friday July 13th): \$90 *
- Installation Banquet (Saturday July 14th): \$95 *
- Registration Only: \$20

Amount of payment: _____

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.

Make Checks Payable and send to:

2018 AOH LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION
PO Box 32037
Louisville, KY 40232

* Includes \$20 Registration Fee

including Links to:

- ❖ Package Registration
- ❖ Hotel Registration
- ❖ Things to Do
- ❖ Items for Purchase
- ❖ General Information
- ❖ and more each month



We will be staying at the famous Louisville hotel...The Galt House. The hotel is in the heart of downtown and located on the Ohio River close to everything Louisville has to offer.



Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
2018 National Convention in Louisville, KY
Souvenir Journal

The Journal will be 8.5 inches high by 5.5 inches wide and is available for all your messages and advertisements. Purchase your advertisement in the Souvenir Journal which will be published exclusively for the 2018 National AOH LAOH Convention to be held in the historic Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY, from July 11th through July 14th, 2018.

Available Advertisements are:

(Please check the appropriate box to indicate the size and price for your advertisement.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front Cover \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Framed Color \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Back Cover \$400 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (B/W) \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover Contact Chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (B/W) \$85 |

Attach all ads to this form

Ad must be in a clean scannable format or camera ready. Electronic version encouraged with source files. Digital file types must be in pdf and jpg format. **NO FAXES WILL BE ACCPETED**

All advertisements will be published as sent so please proof your entry

Please email ads, questions, or call requests to:

2018conventionads@gmail.com

Ads and payment must be received by **June 8th, 2018**

Mail to: AOH LAOH 2018 National Convention Journal
c/o Julia O'Dwyer (Chairperson)
PO Box 32037, Louisville, KY 40232

Pay via PayPal at www.LouisvilleIrish2018.com and click on link for Ad Journal

All checks should be made payable to AOH LAOH 2018 National Convention with "Journal" on the memo line



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