

NY State honors Ireland's 1918 Freedom Mandate



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New York Hibernians on the steps outside the Assembly chamber in the State Capitol in Albany. More photos, page 20.

New York Hibernians from Suffolk County to the City of Buffalo, led by State Presidents Victor Vogel and Jacqueline Clute, were applauded in the State Senate and Assembly chambers on April 24, and won State Legislative Resolutions honoring Ireland's 1918 Freedom Mandate. The AOH and LAOH picked April 24th, the calendar day of the 1916 Rising, to honor the

historic election where Ireland stunned Britain by voting for the Easter Rising and a free Irish parliament or Dail Eireann. The ceremonies in both state houses preceded a celebration at the Albany AOH Hall, where Senator Phil Boyle presented a framed copy of the State Senate Resolution to the State Presidents. Full story, see page 20.

Hear the message of brave souls

By John D. Fitzmorris III

Both Irish and Irish-Americans know full-well the viciousness and depravity once directed at members of the Catholic clergy and religious. The long, sad history of the Penal Laws and acts of oppression against Catholics – both in Ireland and America – serves as a reminder that there are still places in this world where nuns and priests serve God's people under a cloud of fear and anxiety for their own lives.

In 2014, Sister Bernadetta Boggian returned to her convent in Burundi and found the bodies of two of her fellow sisters. Later that night, Boggian herself had been beaten, raped and decapitated. The cause of the murders? The killer claimed the convent was constructed on his family's land. The Missionaries of Charity, an organization founded by Mother Theresa, was first attacked by gunmen in Hodeida, Yemen, in 1998. Years later, in March 2016, gunmen once again attacked the organization in Yemen, targeting a retirement home. Four nuns were among the 16 victims, adding to the 6,200 civilian casualties lost to the country's civil war.

On April 26 of this year, Fr. Moises Fabila Reyes appeared to have died of a heart attack following a reported kidnapping, amid a wave of violence against clerics. Back in February, two priests were gunned down as they returned from Candlemas celebrations in a corner of Mexico rife with drug cartel violence and increasingly lethal for prelates. Frs. Ivan Anorve Jaimes and Germain Muniz Garcia were killed as they drove between the cities of Taxco and Iguala in Guerrero state, about a hundred miles south of Mexico City. The two slain priests were musicians, who performed in remote hamlets and "approached people" and "evangelized" through music. Twenty-five priests have been killed in Mexico since 2012.

"In a few days, Mexico has experienced the worst public safety

crises of its modern history. Not only are young people being disappeared and killed, the dimension of this barbarity has reached all levels of society and the Church has had a 'Black April,'" the Catholic Multimedia Center wrote in an article. "Three priests have died in violent circumstances, raising indignation and concern among bishops across the country."

On May 1, militants killed a Roman Catholic priest in Bangui, the violence-wracked capital of the Central African Republic where Catholic and other faith leaders had made headway recently mediating between factions. Former members of a militant group named Seleka were accused of killing Fr. Albert Toungoumale-Baba on May 1 at the Notre Dame of Fatima Church. Of the hundreds of worshippers gathered at the church, at least 24 were killed and 170 injured by militants who sprayed bullets into the crowd and detonated grenades. The prior month saw the murder of Fr. Joseph Desire Angbabata, who served in a parish east of Bangui. The priest had intervened to protect refugees camped at the church compound from the rebels.

In the Philippines, Fr. Mark Ventura was shot dead on April 29 after he celebrated Mass at a gymnasium. The priest was blessing children and talking with the choir members when an unidentified male wearing a motorcycle helmet emerged from the back of the gym and shot the victim twice.

On April 25, church and government officials in Nigeria confirmed that two priests were among the at least 15 people killed when gunmen attacked a Catholic church in Ayar-Mbalom, a community in Benue state where the Muslim north meets the Christian south, and where violence that has both religious and ethnic undertones. Father Joseph Gor and Father Felix Tyolaha of St. Ignatius Catholic Church were celebrating early morning Mass

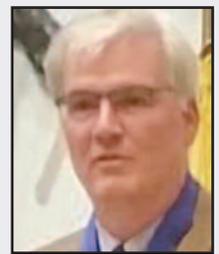
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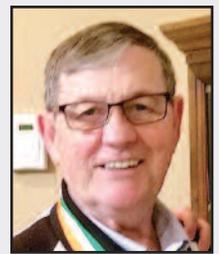
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The National
hibernian digest



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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$8.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

A bi-monthly publication dedicated to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The National Hibernian Digest is the complete chronicle of the ideals, hopes, and achievements of Hibernians everywhere. The National Hibernian Digest is printed and mailed out of Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9998 and additional mailing offices in February, April, June, August, October and December. Office of publication is Ancient Order of Hibernians, West Caldwell, NJ

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, P.O. Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007 The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editor@hiberniandigest.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.



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Re-Elect

William (Bill) Sullivan

AOH National Director

Unanimously Endorsed

by

The Massachusetts State Board AOH

The Connecticut State Board AOH

The Essex County Board AOH

and

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly Division 8 AOH

Lawrence, Massachusetts



Hibernian Experience:

- Currently AOH National Director & Liaison to New England
- Past National Board Irish Way & Study Abroad Scholarships Chairman
- Currently Division President
- Past Massachusetts State Board President
- Past Massachusetts State Board Vice President
- Past Massachusetts State Board Secretary
- Past Essex County Board Recording Secretary

A LEADER TO BE PROUD OF – A DEDICATED HIBERNIAN

"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

I hope that all of you had a meaningful and Holy Easter and that your batteries have been recharged and you're ready for Louisville in July. We have a great deal of ground to cover in conducting the business of our Noble Order during the next two years.

The recent media campaign embarked on by our National Board in the past 10 months has shown remarkable results. We can track as many as 600 new members since its inception. We have also the creation of new Divisions as far away as New Mexico and Arizona and also on the East Coast and in New York.

We were all disappointed with the outcome of the Eight Amendment voting in Ireland. We can only continue to pray that the rights of the unborn child will one day be respected in Ireland. We make the same prayer for the rights of unborn children in this country as well.

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal will be presented to Dennis Mulcahy, who will be honored on Saturday, July 14, at our Installation Banquet. This is the most prestigious award that our Order bestows. This Medal is presented to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor.

The BREXIT and immigration issues are still vital for our members as well as the citizens of Ireland. The window for BREXIT solutions continues to shrink with no workable plan in sight. The American immigration issue is also always on the front burner of Congress until something more sensational on the national level moves it aside. It is also frustrating to mention that the United States still does not have an Ambassador to Ireland. We will continue to monitor the political attitude in both Dublin and D.C. on issues important to Hibernians and continue to make our position clear.

On another note, it seems like yesterday that I was sworn in as your National President in Atlantic City. I will arrive in Louisville with the intention to again be your National President for two more years. I appreciate the support you have given me in my first term and hope I can continue to count on you over the next two years.

God Bless.



national secretary

by Jere Cole

Convention Season

As we sit here now on the eve of the convention there are still a few (25) divisions that have not paid their Per Capita for 2017. This means these divisions will not be permitted to participate in the convention in Louisville. The good news is that statistically our membership has been essentially the same over the past two years.

Please remember that after the convention, you are to submit a Form 9 with all officers listed. This should be done even if there are no changes. In order to stay ahead of the paperwork, we encourage you to submit Form 40s as you encounter the changes throughout the year and not wait until the annual update.

Forms 9, 11 and 40 have all been changed and are available on line from the AOH website. You should always go there and fill out the form electronically to forward to my office. Please discontinue using older forms that you may have. The Form 40 will remain the primary vehicle for change in information.

This year as you know we implemented many changes to the way we conduct our business. Increasingly, we are relying on electronic means to communicate and that puts a lot of pressure on the divisions to make sure they are electronically maintaining records.

Believe it or not there are still many division in which none of the officers have an email address, and that will ultimately slow our communication. As I indicated last year you are strongly encouraged to have a financial secretary who will maintain the division's records on a computer. And further, you are all encouraged to upgrade and update your computer capabilities as we will increasingly rely on this method of communicating. In those divisions in which the financial secretary is not comfortable with the computer, it is suggested that you appoint a deputy financial secretary to tackle these issues.

In order to initiate the transfer process, a transfer card must be completed by the division that the member is coming from. The member must be in good standing and a vote is taken. The current financial secretary submits a signed transfer card to the new financial secretary, who sends the card along with a completed Form 40 to the national office. The Form 40 should be marked with an "N" for new. Without a transfer card, we are unable to add the new member to your division.

This year we began recording veteran status for those members that have served our country. Again, please be certain to use the latest Form 40, which is available online from the AOH website, as that clearly has a place to indicate the veteran status. Veteran status will be shown on your membership card.

Also, we get requests from time to time to add a degree date to a member's record. Please know that we need that degree to be verified by a major degree candidate list from the ceremony.

Immediately following the convention, we will be finalizing the next wave of changes and will begin to roll out the new procedures.

As always, you can get your changes to our office by U.S. mail, fax or email. Address is P.O. Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007. Fax 973-572-0051 or email to jcole4838@gmail.com
Thank you.



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

When you read this article, the convention will be upon us. As national convention chairman, I want to thank the local committee, especially Julia and John O'Dwyer. Without their combined efforts the convention could not succeed. I witnessed first-hand the effort and hard work of everyone involved. Thank you to all the Kentucky Hibernians involved.

It has been an exciting two years for me serving you as National Vice President. As with every step in my life, I have learned so much from others throughout the last two years. I learned so much from so many of you during the 10 years of service to the national board. Today, I want to thank each of you for the opportunity.

During the last 10 years, I have had the opportunity to serve the AOH as Immigration Chairman, as Organizer, as Treasurer and now as Vice President. As immigration chair I focused on our constitutional charge of working for a fair and equitable immigration policy between the U.S. and Ireland. As organizer, I used skills developed working as a college football coach and administrator to recruit Hibernians. I had the opportunity to develop the first electronic brochure and distribute it for local use throughout the country. As treasurer, I had the opportunity to learn the basic operations of the AOH and then modernize our systems. During this time, we corrected an ongoing issue with the National EIN number, we modernized our accounting system moving to QuickBooks, and we established an investment policy that has allowed us to build a solid reserve for our future.

Now, as your vice president, I have had the opportunity to combine the skills so many helped me develop to help move the AOH into a modern Marketing, Promotion and Advertising campaign. Although this has been simply a first step, it has been an important step. The AOH must continue to move forward, to Market what we do, to Promote the Order at every opportunity and to Advertise who we are: Irish, Catholic, Americans. This fresh clean approach, developed by young Hibernians combined with more seasoned Hibernians, has given us a direction for future growth and success. This will be a long road but working together we will continue to grow the AOH of the future, the Voice of Irish America.

I hope to see you in Louisville and again in Orlando for the 2020 convention. These functions provide an opportunity for you to help us improve as an organization and set our direction for our future. Each and every Hibernian in attendance is a valuable part of our success. Additionally, the conventions provide us the opportunity to network, to learn how to help us improve on all levels of the Order. Conventions also provide us an opportunity to celebrate our heritage as part of the Largest and Oldest Irish Catholic organization in the United States.

When I first ran for national office I was asked who was my mentor? Today I realize how many of you have mentored me over the years. I thank all of you out there who have taken time out of your life to help me and others develop as Hibernians over the years. Although too many to list, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank a few who have gone over and above to teach me so much. Ron Hagan, Ned McGinley, Seamus Boyle, Brendan Moore and Judge Jim McKay. These men have provided leadership to the Order and at the same time have made the effort to help me and so many others to develop the skills needed for our success. In closing, I must recognize two individuals that without what they taught me, I could not be a success. The two men who have taught me some of the most important lessons of life, my Hibernian teacher, Tom McNabb, and my Father, Jack O'Connell. Thank you and God Bless.



national chaplain's report

By Archbishop Thomas John Rodi

May 25, 2018, was a dark day in the life of the Irish people. By an overwhelming majority, the voters of Ireland approved repealing the constitutional protection for the life of the unborn. It would be an understatement to say that this was a disappointment. This was profoundly disturbing. The failure to respect God's gift of life and the dignity of innocent life is an egregious offense before God.

What should be our response to this vote? First, we adjust to the reality that life is so lightly valued in our society. Evidence of this is seen, not solely in the Irish referendum, but in many ways, including the slaughter of life on the streets of our communities. We cannot presume that the majority of people share our value that life is to be protected. Then, we need to renew our efforts to give witness to our respect for life by our words and actions.

The devil would love nothing more than for men and women of faith to become discouraged and lose hope. The bible calls us to "Hope in the Lord." It is for us to persevere in our faith despite the challenges and setbacks.

I remain hopeful. At the same time I am not optimistic in the short run. Hope and optimism are not synonyms. On the cross the Lord was hopeful but not optimistic. He knew he would endure His passion, but He also knew that His Father was in charge and His Father would bring good out of evil, even the darkness of the cross. There is great darkness in the world today. It is for us to remain hopeful. We do not know what the future holds but we know Who holds the future. Abortion is evil. Evil will not have the last word. Evil always falls of its own weight. God will have the final say and our Father, who is faithful, asks for us to remain faithful to Him.

A Call to Action on the McGuinness Principles

By Sean Pender

Leading Irish-American organizations are united in unveiling the McGuinness Principles, named for the late Martin McGuinness, who dedicated his life so ardently for freedom and peace in Ireland. April 10, 2018, was the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, when the people of Ireland overwhelmingly decided to pursue their nation's identity strictly through peaceful means. Although the Good Friday Agreement has brought peace to Ireland for two decades, elements of the Agreement have never been achieved. To renege on an international treaty is not only dishonorable, but dangerous to this peace process, which is admired around the world. Irish Americans determined to seek full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement have crafted The McGuinness Principles, including Equality, Respect, Truth, and Self-determination. We are asking for your help to support this effort and add your voice to support this important undertaking.

Review the McGuinness Principles at: http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/McGuinness-Principles_2.pdf

Visit the www.mcguinnessprinciples.com website, to register your email to receive updates.

Irish American Organizations: Please encourage your Irish organization to add its support to this project and produce a resolution to publicly endorse the Principles. Email your group's name and location to istandwithmartin@gmail.com and your group's name will be added to the list of groups who have endorsed the Principles. A template for such resolution is available for download at: <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Irish-American-group-resolution.pdf>

Elected Officials: Please contact your elected municipal, county or state legislators and ask that their body pass a Resolution in support of The McGuinness Principles. A template for such Resolutions is available for download at: <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/McGuinness-Principles-Resolution.pdf>

Please email photo-quality copies of any resolution passed by legislators or your organization to: bobbollbach@gmail.com for inclusion on the website.

Additionally, elected officials can issue letters or statements in support of The Principles those statements can be emailed to bobbollbach@gmail.com

Labor Unions and members, please ask that your Local and District join other unions by resolving to support The McGuinness Principles. Resolution template is available for download at: <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Union-McGuinness-Principles-Resolution.pdf> Once passed, scan and email the resolution to istandwithmartin@gmail.com so it can be listed on the website.

Students, Individuals and Groups are encouraged to demonstrate widespread U.S. support for The McGuinness Principles, by visiting a nearby iconic location (i.e.: Golden

Gate, St. Louis Arch, Statue of Liberty, etc.) with an "I support the McGuinness Principles" sign, available for download at: <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/mcguinness-principles-support-materials/> Send your photo to istandwithmartin@gmail.com for inclusion on the website.

Videos Wanted: We also invite personal videos of people or groups stating support for The Principles. Please state your name, or that of your group and location and voice your support of the McGuinness Principles. Send to istandwithmartin@gmail.com for inclusion to the website.

The McGuinness Principles 100: We intend to focus on 100 Irish and American Leaders from the above groups stating their support of the Principles. If you know someone whom you feel should be included, please ask them to share video stating their name and their support of the McGuinness Principles. Send to: istandwithmartin@gmail.com. It will be added to the website.

Social Media: Post support for the McGuinness Principles on social media, update your profile page, add a frame and use #mcguinnessprinciples when you post.

Facebook - McGuinness Principles

Website - www.mcguinnessprinciples.com

Twitter - @mcprinciples

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/mcprinciples/>

Volunteer Now: We are seeking regional representatives for the project. Please send your contact information including an address to Sean Pender at paddyspeed@yahoo.com

2018 Midterm Elections: The coalition of groups supporting the McGuinness Principles plans to use the 2018 U.S. Midterm Elections to garner political support for the Principles. We need your help to approach both Congressional and Senatorial candidates and ask them to pledge, to endorse, support and advocate for The McGuinness Principles.

A template for both Congressional: <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/McGuinness-Principles-Congressional-endorsement.pdf>

and Senatorial endorsements <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/McGuinness-Principles-Senate-endorsement.pdf>

are available for download. Send endorsements to: bobbollbach@gmail.com Endorsers will be listed on the website

The Time to Act is Now: Your ACTION NOW is important, as any future US-UK treaties or trade agreements or implementation of Brexit must not negatively affect the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. The McGuinness Principles and those who endorse them, seek full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement by insisting that the United Kingdom meet its long-standing commitments to the people of the island of Ireland and support the appointment of a Special Envoy to the North of Ireland.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

Summer weather invites us outdoors to enjoy the season. Many AOH Divisions continue to meet every month of the year and some Divisions choose not to meet during summer months. While it is critical to continue momentum from monthly meeting to meeting, I understand the need for a break from operations for a month or two during better weather and vacation season. However, there is a benefit to bringing members together to keep them engaged and focused on supporting the group and each other. Many Divisions organize family picnics or cook-outs at a local park or participate in a local charity walk. More Divisions have introduced "Irish Road Bowling" to their local communities in recent years to be outdoors and promote our rich culture. Giving members a reason to come out in the name of Hibernianism will continue to strengthen the base of the local group and not lose any momentum or teamwork gained in previous months.

For Division officers, summer months are the mid-point of the calendar year and a good time to evaluate your Division's status and progress during the term thus far. Are officers fully aware of their responsibilities and are they working together? Are there projects or initiatives in coming months that need attention, or is there an opportunity to create something new and involve more Brothers? Has your Division experienced growth in membership this year? If so, what is working that you can continue? If not, what changes can be made to reach more prospective members?

On another note, as the National officers' terms conclude at the convention in Louisville, I hope to continue to serve another term as a National Director. I'm honored to serve on the National Board and have enjoyed representing New York State as well as the collaborative work with Divisions and County Boards. I'm thankful for the support I've received and the openness of the many Divisions that have shared successes, challenges and ideas to strengthen and grow the Order. I hope to be able to contribute and serve the Order for years to come.

Deadline for Aug-Sept issue

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



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers, as I close out my term as National Director and Project St. Patrick Chairman, I would like to thank all the members who have supported and helped spread information for PSP. I would like to thank our National Board for their confidence and support. And also, Past National President Ed Wallace, for his vision in initializing Project St. Patrick. The past four years have gone by very fast, and the strides that have been made have been very positive. I feel that PSP will be even more successful in the future. The current Easter Appeal is winding down and the response is excellent.

The replies from various Dioceses across the country is amazing and the responses received from the young men and women who have received grants throughout my tenure have been spiritually enlightening.

I would also encourage everyone to keep Project St. Patrick in your Division, County and State agenda, all year round. And to appoint a Project St. Patrick chairman. This will allow us to get more information to our members. It is part of our obligation to support these young men and ladies who have devoted their lives to God. And remember that PSP prayer cards are a great way of showing your support.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cooperation and great support of PSP. As my four years as National Director come to a close, I reflect on my many contacts and friendships that I have made, not just in Pennsylvania and New Jersey but throughout the country. Brothers, I am a proud Irish Catholic and a proud Hibernian. Thank you for all that you have done and for your commitment to our Order.

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



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Bill Sullivan

Summer has finally sprung here in New England after a long cold, wintry spring! Here in the northeast many Hibernians are looking forward to renewing friendships, making new friends and meeting their brother and sister Hibernians from around the U.S., while enjoying the fine hospitality of the Louisville and Kentucky Hibernians. The four plus days spent in this grand historic city on the Ohio River will set the course for the AOH and LAOH for the next two years and likely well beyond.

At our National Convention this July, there will be many breakout sessions and workshops given by all National Committee Chairmen as well as by several of our National Officers. I strongly encourage everyone to attend as many of these sessions and workshops as possible. This will allow you to enhance your knowledge from some of the best who are truly knowledgeable in their field. Whatever information you hear, please take it back and share it with the rest of your Division members at your next few Division meetings. Not only will you, but your officers and brother members will profit from this information, and your Division will become a stronger and better Division as well! Remember – Knowledge is power!

The great summer 2018 is upon us and in one of my previous articles I wrote on various ways to recruit new members during July and August. At this time of year, many fairs, Irish festivals and other such outdoor events are held. Please take advantage of these venues and have a membership recruiting booth! At your booth display photos that show the multifaceted activities that your Divisions and members are involved in. Make those pictures count!

Need recruiting materials for your recruitment booth? Contact our National Organizer, Tim McSweeney. Tim's email address is: Newjack12007@yahoo.com

Recently I had the opportunity to attend State Board Meetings in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York and Division meetings in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. I am happy to report that activities, events and good works are ongoing on all fronts. It makes one proud to be a Hibernian!

It is hard to believe that 24 years have passed since we last met in Louisville in 1994! Time does pass quickly, and the Louisville Convention Committee has been hard at work for two plus years. When you meet a convention committee member thank them for their hard work. It is nice to be appreciated!

On April 19, longtime member and Past President of Division 19 AOH in Lowell, MA, James C. Campbell, passed away. My sincere condolences to our Hibernian Brothers in Lowell on his passing. Jim played a key role when Division 19 was reorganized in the early 1980s. Though Jim had had some health issues in recent years, he was a regular attendee at his Division meetings. Without doubt, Jim will be greatly missed by many, but especially by his own Brothers in Lowell. May God grant him eternal rest.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity two years ago when you elected me in Atlantic City as one of your six National Directors. It has been a busy and rewarding experience and I hope that I have lived up to your expectations

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net I look forward to seeing you in Louisville!



ORGANIZER

by Tim McSweeney

I'd like to thank National President McKay for allowing me to serve as your National Organizer for the last two years. It has been a rewarding experience that has enabled me to contribute to the growth of this organization. Working in collaboration with fellow National Board and many State Organizers, we have started a pathway to continued growth in the future by combining new technology with proven grassroots recruitment. As we continue to grow, keep in mind that every member of this organization is an organizer; we are all responsible for growing our membership and ensuring that this Order is still around for generations to come.

Printable Recruitment Materials

We are currently working to develop downloadable and printable recruitment posters and tri-fold brochures. This will enable divisions to customize the posters and tri-fold brochures with their contact information. Simply customize and download the posters and brochures on to a thumb-drive and take it to your local print center. A few poster options will be available. Recruitment materials will still be available in print through this office. The new material will be debuted at the National Convention and be available on the National website thereafter.

Please make it a point to attend the National Organizer break out meeting at the convention and I look to seeing everyone in Louisville.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

St. Louis has a long history as a major hotbed of soccer in the United States, known mostly for the major amateur clubs that achieved national distinction in the U.S. Open Cup and National Amateur Cup. Six different teams won the U.S. Open Cup between 1920 and 1957.

St. Louis University won a string of consecutive NCAA titles during the 1960s. Success at the amateur level paid off in bigger ways, as St. Louis players had a prominent role on the national teams. There were six players plus the assistant coach from St. Louis who were on the team that defeated England in the 1950 World Cup. In fact, every World Cup squad has had at least one St. Louis player on its roster. In addition, 29 St. Louis soccer personalities are enshrined in the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

When the North American Soccer League began play in 1967, the St. Louis Stars pioneered a developmental policy that emphasized recruitment and development of local American talent, bucking the league's trend towards employing aging international stars.

While researching his 2001 book, *The St. Louis Irish: An Unmatched Celtic Community* (Missouri History Museum Press), the Reverend William Barnaby Faherty, a prolific author, historian and Hibernian, found that as far back as the 1880s, Irish Catholic parishes were fielding soccer teams and organizing clubs to "galvanize" parishioners' loyalties. Faherty, who died in 2011, singled out those parishes whose children were taught by the Christian Brothers and played in soccer leagues on St. Louis's near North Side as particularly important in fostering parochial life there. "It was predominantly an Irish-American phenomenon," Faherty wrote. "Young men in the German parishes tended to get their exercise in hard work in the family enterprise or at the gymnastic societies introduced by the liberal Germans who arrived in the middle of the century."

According to Dave Lange, longtime soccer journalist and author of the 2011 book *Soccer, Made in St. Louis: A History of the Game in America's First Soccer Capital* (Reedy Press), the Irish were among the first to play and teach soccer here. But Lange wrote that the people who imported the game to St. Louis in the late 19th century were from all over the United Kingdom, not just Ireland. Scottish, English and Irish priests, he says, were teaching the game not only to unify their parishes but also to steer children and young adults away from American football and rugby, which were also gaining popularity in the late 1800s. "They were trying to teach kids a safer sport," wrote Lange. "People were actually getting killed playing football." Soccer took root. According to Lange, those early youth soccer networks created in the 1880s gave the city a leg up over other U.S. cities when it came to the world's most popular sport. "The direct result was that St. Louis was the only city in the nation turning out generation after generation of native-born high-level players of diverse ethnic backgrounds until the 1970s," wrote Lange.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dennis Parks

While traveling in Ireland this past April, I had a chance to meet with Dr. Tim Campbell, the Director of the St. Patrick Center in Downpatrick, N. Ireland. According to the St. Patrick Center's website, "it is the only permanent exhibition in the world dedicated to Ireland's Patron Saint."

It is also one of the beneficiaries of our Annual Christmas Appeal. Dr. Campbell stated that "the funds received from the AOH helps the Center provide cross-community education programs involving school children."

For the past 20 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, these children of nationalist and loyalist backgrounds have gotten a chance to learn together in an environment of peace. I can tell you, Brothers, we are making a difference in N. Ireland.

Let us continue to do this important work and make this year's Christmas Appeal a success.

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



Denny Parks with Dr. Tim Campbell at the grave of St. Patrick.



Director's report by Dan Dennehy Immigration Chairman

Anticipating the AOH LAOH National Convention in Louisville, we should reflect on Hibernian accomplishments since the 2016 Atlantic City Convention and focus on the tasks ahead. As a National Director and Immigration Chairman, I have witnessed much growth in the Order. New Divisions formed, a renewal of many others and the widening of respect and appreciation of the AOH. More and more, we are accepted in leadership roles and bestowed well-deserved honor for our work. Highlights include widespread media coverage of the convening of the new National Immigration Working Committee, the young Hibernians honored at the Irish Echo 40 Under 40, and others honored for service to the greater community.

This progress can be attributed to both tried-and-true and new methods of communication that has to lead to an understanding of our longstanding issues and a clear-eyed, informed readiness to address new issues as they arise. We can ensure this growth, if each one of us celebrates our achievements, heralds our accomplishments, and demonstrates what we stand for to an ever-larger audience. Every issue of the National Hibernian Digest heralds great and welcome news of achievements of our members, informs us of issues that may affect Irish, Catholic and American society, and marks the passing of great Hibernians. We must take that information and more and share it with the greater community, its leaders, organizations, social media and news organizations. I have learned from many years of Hibernian and Irish Immigration advocacy that we are at the forefront of these and many issues. It is our responsibility to be informed messengers and representatives. To see our goals achieved, we must make our news, everyone's news; for the Good of the Order, and for the continuation of our culture, faith and heritage.

Our AOH Immigration Working Committee continues to focus on how to help our fellow members and others realize the historical and current need to address immigration as Hibernians. In early May, Irish Senator for the Diaspora Billy Lawless invited me to join him in Washington, D.C. We met U.S. Congressional members and attended events related to the visit of an Irish government delegation, The Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Good Friday Agreement. The delegation joined Senator Lawless and Breandan Magee of Chicago and me for substantive meetings with Congress members, Irish and U.S. State Department officials and other Irish and American leaders.

We took the opportunity to work on the many issues of Irish Immigration, the possibility of a mutual agreement to resolve issues between Ireland and the United States. Also current issues of Visa Denial, which Irish applicants and those seeking renewal of previously issued visas are experiencing at the U.S. Embassy in Dublin. Also discussed was the lack of a U.S. Ambassador in Ireland to assist in the Immigration issue or a U.S. Envoy to Northern Ireland to help with the visa issue experienced by many in N. Ireland, including many who played important roles in the Good Friday Agreement.

I would like to thank AOH Immigration Working Committee members Keith Carney and Bobby Mahoney for meeting with me and facilitating some of our legislative meetings.

I am also proud of being part of the team that drafted the McGuinness Principles and our Call to Action, which National President McKay has shared with all our members in his May email.

I thank our National President Judge Jim McKay and my fellow members in New York and across the U.S.A. for entrusting me with confidence as a National Director and Immigration Chair and look forward to our future work together. I hope to see everyone at the Convention and would be grateful for your support for my reelection as National Director.



Rituals & Degrees

by JJ Kelly
Chairman

As is stated on our National web site, the main purposes of our degree programs are to "Waken a pride in the ancient race of our forefathers and develop an interest in the history and destiny of that race." In recent reports, I have discussed some of the officers involved in our Major Degrees exemplification. In this article, I'm going to try to put it all together in a way that all can understand and appreciate without violating the "secrecy" of our ceremonials.

Have you ever noticed the dark blue rectangular pin worn by many members of our Major Degree Teams (MDT)? Have you wondered what it was all about and what the various elements on the pin signify? First of all, not all are authorized to wear the pin. Depending upon the various team by-laws, the MDT Chairman will present the pin to team members when they become qualified. In the case of my own Brian Boru MDT, a team member is qualified to receive and wear the pin after successfully participating in five Major Degree exemplifications.

The pin depicts the Major Degree Crest, which was designed by Al O'Hagan, of the Round Tower MDT. The Crest features an ancient Round Tower surrounded by the emblems of the principle officers of the lessons, which we have discussed in previous articles.

The Round Tower symbolizes timeless strength. In the upper left quadrant is an open book with the pages showing ancient Celtic crosses. This is the emblem of the High King (Ard-Righ) and symbolizes Order and Obedience. The upper right quadrant depicts the Native Irish Wolfhound, emblem of the Brehon, whose lesson is Friendship. The lower left quadrant shows the Oracle's Flame, emblem of the Bard, whose message is to preserve Unity and Harmony. In the lower right are Crossed Quills, emblem of the Ollamh, who teaches us about Patriotism and Christian Charity.

Note the emblems are separated by the Round Tower and a horizontal line of Shamrocks, which we claim were ancient tools used by early Christian monks to teach the Holy Trinity. Above the crest is a headgear of the type used by early defenders of homeland and faith. On either side of the headgear are pikes, symbolic of the weapons used to defend church and clergy at the time of oppression in Ireland.

Once again, 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 introduction to the Major Degree Crest will make you just a bit more curious and interested in our Major Degrees. As with all discussions of our ceremonials, in a public forum such as this, we cannot go into more detail and explanation. But, in the Inner Chamber of the Hibernian Brotherhood, there are no limits. So, if you haven't taken the Major Degrees, do so at your earliest opportunity. If you have taken the Major Degrees, are you fully aware of the historical background of the degrees? Are you interested in joining an existing MDT? Or are you interested in forming a new team in your area which may not have a certified team? If the latter, contact me. I'm ready, willing and able to assist in any way I can.



'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.



North Carolina

Worthy causes helped by Na Cara Division

The 2018 Patrick J. Rooney Hibernian Fund Raffle for a four-person trip to Ireland concluded with a brunch and raffle drawing at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. The annual charity raffle is organized by the Na Cara Division in Guilford County, NC. All 150 tickets were sold as in previous years.

A wonderful brunch was prepared by Brian Harvey, including French toast casserole, herb roasted chicken and Tuscan seasoned pork tenderloin. Division President Bob Jackson presided over the event and the winning ticket was drawn by Father Bill Lesak.

This year's winner was Sallie Kelton, of Greensboro, who bought lucky ticket #45 from division member Mike Doyle. When contacted, Sallie could barely contain her excitement. The Na Cara Division wishes Sallie and her family an unforgettable trip to Ireland.

The Na Cara division also awarded Deacon Larry Lisk the Hibernian of the Year award in recognition of his role as division chaplain, his ongoing service at St. Paul the Apostle Church and in ministering to prisoners.

Since 2005, the Na Cara Division has raised and distributed over \$100,000 to a number of worthy causes via the raffle. Donation recipients include the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Victory Junction Gang Camp, Project St. Patrick, Heal Our Heroes, and Room at the Inn, as well as the local Catholic schools and parishes.



anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Normally, the summer months would be a quiet time on the anti-defamation front, with those who peddle defaming merchandise going into hiatus till the next St. Patrick's Day. Unfortunately, we are seeing an alarming trend of ignorant and malicious Irish bashing from the talking heads of the media across the political spectrum. Joy Reed and Chris Matthews labeled Irish American as congenital racists and wife beaters. Ann Coulter attributed Irish immigrants with bringing unprecedented levels of crime to America and ironically parroted the simplistic narrative of the New York Draft Riots of 1863 that is usually put forth by progressive academia. It is hard to believe that such sweeping generalizations and inaccuracies would be attempted against any other group.

However, the prize for defaming ignorance must go to talk show host Mike Savage. In a recent broadcast in response to a caller named "Mike" he stated that during WW II the Irish government were Nazi sympathizers and had "allowed U-Boats to refuel in Ireland," Heartbreakingly, Savage said to "Mike" "You know this right?" and "Mike," who identified himself as Irish American, said "Yes." Mr. Savage then stated that "there has always been a streak of anti-Semitism in the Irish."

I don't want to stray into the domain of our worthy Historian, but the urban legend of U-Boats refueling in Ireland has been disproven repeatedly. It all stems from one incident, early in the war, when a U-Boat captain put ashore in neutral Ireland with neutral sailors that had been taken on board after sinking a merchant ship. I would like these conspiracy theorists to tell me where Ireland, at the time one of the poorest countries in the world, got the fuel in wartime to refuel U-Boats. Ireland was indeed neutral during the war, but it is well documented that the government of Ireland pushed the bounds of neutrality in favor of the Allies, not the Germans. The weather report upon which Eisenhower committed to the D-Day landings came from a weather station operated in County Mayo. Anticipating that someone will mention that de Valera signed the book of condolence on news of Hitler's death, I would argue that this speaks more to de Valera's well known (and ill considered) punctiliousness for protocol than any fascist sympathies. As to Mr. Savage's claim "there has always been a streak of anti-Semitism in the Irish," perhaps he should note that in addition to arguing for Catholic Emancipation Daniel O'Connell championed Jewish Emancipation in parliament and that both Dublin and Cork have both in their history elected Jewish Lord Mayors.

Brothers, there is a lot of "fake news" being spread about our noble heritage and we have to counter it. As President Kennedy noted, "The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie - deliberate, contrived and dishonest - but the myth - persistent, persuasive and unrealistic." We can't be like "Mike" and as Irish Americans endorse blatant untruths about our heritage. No group of people are perfect, there are heroes and sinners in every nationality, race and creed, and that includes the Irish. However, we should demand balance and accuracy; it is not much to ask for. With diminishing emphasis on history in our schools, we can't let the ignorant get away with defining us by virtue of having a microphone or syndicated column. We have to set the record straight, especially with the next generation, and ensure that they are as proud as we are to identify with our heritage.



national webmaster

by Jeff Nisler

Brothers, I would like to bring your attention to our re-designed online division directory on aoh.com. Simply stated, we have a lot of outdated info from many divisions that we need to get up to date. If you are so inclined, I invite you to look at the directory entry for your division, hall, county and state boards.

We have added a new feature which will allow you to submit an update of your info.

If you can not find your unit, please let me know at jeff.nisler@aoh.com, and I will add your unit to the system.

To make an update, first locate your division and then click its "view" button, which shows more detail than the list, then click on the "edit" button.

Anyone can make suggested changes, and when properly submitted, they are reviewed and approved by our panel of admins before the changes are authorized and released and made public. Online help for the directory can be found on the directory page.

This info from the directory is used by our online member application form.

When a candidate fills in an application online, the server will determine the closest division to the candidate, and notify our panel of organizers.

The application will be routed to the division, county, state and national organizers if they are setup in the directory.

If the division organizer has his email, cell phone and mobile carrier setup, he will also get an SMS text message letting him know that he has a new application in his email.

When these applications are received at the division, remember that they have come to us without a traditional sponsor, so please be open, but cautious in your screening.

We have had this in place for a few months now, and have seen this tool perform quite well for National Organizer Tim McSweeney and his team. Now we want to see its use spread to all the divisions and boards.

We will discuss improvements to this process, and others, at the convention in Louisville.

Happy surfing my friends,

— Jeff Nisler, AOH National Webmaster



political education

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Last August, then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson proposed eliminating the U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. The Ancient Order of Hibernians immediately signaled in a letter to the Secretary of State their opposition to this move. The AOH noted that while the Good Friday Agreement had brought two decades of peace, that significant sections of the agreement had not been implemented; in fact they were being stonewalled by the British government and its partners, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The devolved Stormont government was in collapse and Brexit threatened repartition of the island of Ireland with a "hard border." Given the grave threat to the Good Friday Agreement and the legacy of one of America's signature diplomatic achievements, the AOH stated this was the wrong time to signal a U.S. retreat from Northern Ireland.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle joined us in our concern. A bipartisan letter signed by 32 Congressional Representatives was sent to the President calling for the appointment of a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. In September 2017, President Trump stated he would maintain the role of Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, and the Hibernians issued a statement of appreciation. In February, at a time of meeting with the Tánaiste Simon Coveney, Tillerson reaffirmed the administration's commitment to appoint a special envoy and stated they were reviewing a list of names.

Now, unbelievably, in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in response to a question regarding the appointment of a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that he did not know if a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland would be appointed, and was unaware both of the commitment to appoint a special envoy, nor of the letter signed by 32 elected representatives.

Despite the fact that Secretary Pompeo was recently appointed to replace former Secretary Tillerson, it is hard to believe that if indeed the process of appointing a special envoy had matured to the point where a short list of names was being considered that he would not be briefed on it. It is equally incredible that he would not be aware of a letter signed by 32 members of Congress reflecting both sides of the aisle. Such a lack of knowledge by the President's chief advisor on foreign affairs is deeply concerning and calls into reasonable question the sincerity of the administration's previous commitments.

Yes, there are a great many crisis and challenges in the world today, but the safety and security of the people of Ireland are as worthy of U.S. attention as the people of the Middle East or the Korean peninsula, the concerns of the Irish American community and commitments made to them accorded equal respect. Brothers, this cannot go unchallenged, we can't set a precedent that we can be placated and dismissed with commitments never fulfilled. I urge all of you to take five minutes and go to <https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactusform> and tell the Secretary of State that we expect commitments made to be honored.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Bím ag siúl go minic i bPáirc Prospect i mBrooklyn, Nua-Eabhrac. *I often walk in Pr.Pk. Tá roinnt dealbh timpeall na háite, agus tá ceann ag an ngeata thiar de dhuine darb ainm Stranahan. There's a statue there... Tá dealramh ar an sloinne sin gur sloinne Éireannach atá ann. That surname looks Irish. Mar atá, faightear an sloinne in Éirinn, go háirithe i gcontae an Dún, ach níl sé coitianta, agus tá gach dealramh ar an scéal gur sloinne Albanach é. Although found in Ireland (esp. Down), it's actually Scottish. Dar ndóigh, tá Gàdhlig na hAlban an-chosúil le Gaeilge na hÉireann, agus ba an teanga chéanna iad fadó. Their Gaelic and ours were once the same language long ago, of course. Ba iad Gaeil na hÉireann a chéad cur faoi in Alba fadó. The Irish settled Scotland originally.*

An James Stranahan seo a bhfuil an dealbh de, ba de shliocht na hAlba é, ach rugadh i Nua-Eabhrac é in 1808. *This S. was of Scotch descent, but born in America... Polaiteoir ab ea é. He was a politician. Chuir sé faoi i mBrooklyn in 1844. He moved to... I measc a lán rudaí eile a rinne sé, bhí sé ina uachtarán ar Choimisiún Pháirceanna Bhrooklyn, agus ba eisean a fuair airgead agus tacaíocht chun Páirc Prospect a bhunú. Amongst many other things, he was president of the commission that got Pr. Pk. created. Bhí baint aige le tógáil droichead Brooklyn, freisin. He also had a connection to building the B. Bridge. Ní nach ionadh go bhfuil dealbh de ag príomhghéata na páirce seo! No wonder his statue is at the main gate of this park!*

Ar shiúl eile a dhéanaim go minic, téim trasna droichead Manhattan. *On another walk I often take, I cross the M. Bridge. Tógadh an droichead seo idir 1901 is 1910. It was built... Tá plaic ar thúr thiar an droichead faoina thógáil agus na hinnealtóirí is polaiteoirí a raibh baint acu leis, roinnt méaraí na cathrach ina measc. There's a plaque on the east tower about its construction and the engineers and politicians and mayors of NYC connected with it. Agus is é an t-ainm atá ar dhuine díobh siúd ná George B. McClellan. One of those name is... An aithnaíonn tá an t-ainm sin? Do you recognize that name? Ginearál i gCogadh Cathrach Meiriceá ab ea é, agus iarrthóir in aghaidh Lincoln sa toghchán in 1864. A Civil War general, who ran against Lincoln... Ach ní heisean a bhí ina mhéara ar Chathair Nua-Eabhrac, ach a mhac, Sóisear McClellan. But it wasn't he who was mayor of NYC, but his son, George Jr. Bhí a athair marbh faoin am sin. His father was dead by that time. Sloinne eile a fhaightear in Éirinn uaireanta an ceann seo, ach atá in a shloinne Albanach, de réir dealraimh! Another last surname sometimes found in Ireland this one, but which is apparently of Scottish origin!*

Is fiú na comharthaí is dealbha i do thimpeall a thógáil faoi deara!



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack

Historian

The exciting story of the Catalpa rescue by Past National President Seamus Boyle in the February/March edition of the Digest should resonate with every Hibernian heart, for one of the traits of our race is compassion for our fellow man – especially our hereditary kin. There's also a pride in being associated with that story as Irish-Americans whose forefathers funded the deed. In a conversation with Mrs. Greta Mulhall, wife of the Irish Ambassador, that pride was also evident for she is a native of Perth, Australia, and familiar with the places involved in the rescue.

Today that pride is also evident in the face of George McLaughlin, a native of Brooklyn, NY, who now lives in Providence, RI. George is making history by writing the concluding chapter in that remarkable story. It began when he was told that there was a Fenian named James Wilson, buried with his wife, Lucy, in St. Mary's Cemetery in nearby Pawtucket. He learned that Wilson was one of six men rescued from Freemantle Prison by the ship, Catalpa, on Easter Monday, 1876. The others were Michael Harrington, Thomas Hassett, Martin Hogan, Robert Cranston and Thomas Darragh.

George also learned that in 1866, Fenian John Devoy was arrested for recruiting within the British Army and sentenced to 15 years. The military who had been recruited were sentenced to life in an isolated Australian prison; escape was considered impossible. Wilson found a friend in Catholic priest Patrick McCabe from Gowra, Co. Cavan, who smuggled out letters. One went to Devoy in America beseeching rescue. Devoy, who'd been paroled into exile, became a leader in Clann na Gael and arranged for the rescue, which almost failed when a British gunboat threatened to fire on the escaping ship. It was only Capt. Anthony's quick thinking that saved them when he raised the American flag and shouted: "If you fire on me, you are firing on the American flag."

Finding no marker on Wilson's grave reflecting his part in the Catalpa rescue, George worked with his son, Tomas, to place that marker. Then, it was as if he received an invisible letter from the Catalpa Six to tell their story, little realizing that it would take 15 years; he's still at it. He organized the Fenian Memorial Committee of RI with Tomas and set a goal to find the other five men and indicate at each grave that here lies a man who suffered for Ireland's freedom. Upon finding Hogan's grave in Chicago in 2014, he worked with local activists to fund a marker. When unveiling the marker, one of those at the ceremony was the great great grandson of Capt. Anthony who brought with him the historic agent's banner that flew beside the American flag raised by Catalpa on that memorable day. The next to be recognized were Cranston and Harrington buried in Philadelphia. That ceremony took place in May, and in attendance were the Watkins brothers who had unearthed the Irish victims at Duffy's Cut. The last two to be recognized are Harrington and Hassett, both of whom sleep at Calvary cemetery in Queens, NY. If anyone would like to be a part of history, find and photograph their gravestones (if any) and send me the pictures, I will join George on a visit to the site to determine what is needed to complete the story. And the conclusion of the Catalpa story will have been written — but there's a footnote to be penned!

What of Father Patrick McCabe? Shortly after the Catalpa escape, he fled Australia. George's research traced him to serving as a rural parish priest in Minnesota under Bishop John Ireland from Kilkenny. He became pastor of Saint Mary's Church in Waseca County where a great Celtic cross stands over his grave and George intends to place a marker there. A stained glass window to his memory, saved when the church was razed, was re-installed in nearby Sacred Heart Church. To put an imprimatur on the whole story – that church is the one that George's wife, Annie, attended as a child!

Isn't history wonderful?



Past National President Seamus Boyle, left, George T McLaughlin, Tomas McLaughlin, Robert Henon, AOH Div. 39, at the grave of Thomas Darragh.

Echoes Of Irish History Father Abram Ryan

By Mike McCormack, AOH National Historian

Born in Limerick on August 15, 1839, to Matthew and Mary (Coughlin) Ryan, Abraham Joseph was an outspoken Irishman who put his emotions in verse for which he is remembered today. He inherited the emotions of an Irish soul, which led him to become involved in causes from the Fenian Brotherhood to religious orders. Ordained in 1856, he taught at Niagara, NY, and Cape Girardeau, MO.

He believed in states' rights, comparing the federal government's attempt to legislate for the states to Britain's attempts to legislate for Ireland. He supported the Confederacy and reportedly even changed his name to Abram so he wouldn't have the same name as Lincoln. He entered the Confederate army as a chaplain in Sept. 1862. One story has him being reprimanded by Union Gen. Butler for refusing to perform a funeral service for a Union casualty. Fr. Ryan replied, "I was never asked to bury him and so I never refused. In fact, it would give me great pleasure to bury the whole lot of you!"

His cherished cause

He is revered for his poems and one in particular, The Conquered Banner, was a powerful expression of defiant disappointment at the southern loss. It became a foundation document of The Lost Cause, an intellectual movement that sought to reconcile southern society to defeat without losing pride. At his funeral, one eulogist declared: "The lost cause became incarnate in the heart of Fr. Ryan, who cherished it as his forefathers had cherished the cause of Ireland."

After the Confederate defeat, The Conquered Banner won the hearts of the south; no verse ever stirred a heart more profoundly. It was read in every southern household; southern children memorized it as sort of Confederate catechism; and its words are still found throughout the south chiseled on monuments and cemetery gates. A story published in The Confederate Veteran in August 1897 told how the verse came about. In an interview, Fr. Ryan said he was in his room when news came of Lee's surrender; "I bowed my head upon the table and wept long and bitterly. A thousand thoughts came rushing through my brain; I could not control them. Our banner was conquered; its folds must be furled, but its story had to be told. I looked around for a piece of paper to express the thoughts that cried out within me. All I could find was a piece of brown wrapping paper. I seized it and wrote the 'Conquered Banner'. Then I went to bed, leaving the lines there upon the table. The next morning the regiment was ordered away and I thought no more of the lines written in such sorrow on that fateful night. What was my astonishment a few weeks later to see them appear above my name in a Louisville paper! The woman who kept the house had gone into the room to throw the piece of paper into the fire when she saw that there was something written upon it. She said that she sat down and cried and, copying the lines, sent them to a newspaper. And that was how the 'Conquered Banner' got into print."

'Erin's Flag'

Father Ryan's love for Ireland was just as fervent as evident in another verse entitled Erin's Flag. That verse was an immediate favorite among the Irish, north and south. Father Ryan died in Louisville, Kentucky, in April 1886, but his poem was still being recited into the next century. A New York Times article dated May 23, 1909, read: "Father Ryan's poem, 'Erin's Flag,' was recited by Miss Katherine Collins at a largely attended meeting of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, held in this city last night."

Both poems can be found online, and are worth reading. Father Ryan is remembered in the city where he died by the AOH Fr. Abram J. Ryan Division. There is also a statue of him in Father Ryan Park in Mobile, Alabama; it, too, was erected by the local AOH.

The fact that Fr. Ryan was a Confederate only proves that no matter which cause he chooses to follow or on which side he stands, the devotion of an Irishman is always intense, commendable and true to that cause.

Colorado



Collins Division being of service

On May 12, The Michael Collins Division of Denver, Colorado, had a volunteer work day at the St. Patrick's Catholic Mission Church in North Denver. The St. Patrick's Catholic Mission Church serves as a home to the Capuchin Poor Clares. The day consisted of landscaping and groundskeeping work done by the Hibernians. Many Collins Division members, as well as one Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division member, attended the work day.



veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

Here it is, already going on two years since the last National Convention and we're excited to again be preparing for the next one in Louisville, Kentucky, in July. How time flies. At the risk of repeating what I've shared with you in the past, my ambition when I was honored to accept this appointment by our worthy National President at the last convention, was to establish more effective communications with all Hibernian military veterans regarding benefits as well as news, events and activities they may be interested in. The concept of creating an AOH veterans pin had not yet been conceived or proposed.

I am pleased and grateful to report that significant progress has been made on the former goal, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of the National Secretary's office and the enhancements made to the National Membership Database, which now includes the veteran's designation field. The addition of this field has allowed me to obtain an extract of contact information for all registered Hibernian veterans, currently numbering almost 2,000 men. To make sure that YOU are registered, please be sure to talk to your Division President and/or Financial Secretary when the membership rosters are distributed each year for that purpose and ask them to be sure to mark the "veteran" indicator for your record. If the update has been made correctly to your record, the word "veteran" should appear in the upper right corner of your membership card. I'll be using an extract of the contact information to begin to send out periodic direct communications to veterans and also to help form a veterans committee. I envision that the committee will hold scheduled conference calls to develop strategies to assist and educate Hibernian veterans, and this will be a subject of discussion at the Veterans Affairs break-out meeting at this upcoming convention.

As to the Veterans Pin, I could not be happier or prouder of the progress made with that project. It was a concept first proposed by brother Danny Eakins, of Ohio, then followed up by the formation of a small National Board committee made up of Vice President Danny O'Connell, Secretary Jere Cole, Historian Mike McCormack, brother Eakins and myself. Mike submitted an image of the pin design that was ultimately adopted, and a Hibernian brother jewelry maker named Ed Johnston, of Rhode Island, produced, and still produces, the pin, at a minimal cost. The pins have been proudly presented to Hibernian veterans of military service, whether they served during armed conflict or times of peace. Some brothers have passed on, sadly, since they were presented theirs, but it was ensured that they wore them on their lapels as they were laid to rest. The creation and presentations of the pins have been widely applauded and I have been extremely honored to have pinned them on many brother Hibernians. I cannot overstate how meaningful the pin has become to so many of the brothers who have received them, and I totally support the Divisions ordering some to have on hand to present to veteran brothers. The pins may even be used to help attract new members who are veterans and who also otherwise qualify for AOH membership. Please go online to the AOH.com website, pull up the "National Board Order Form," and send your order in today to the National Secretary's office.

Finally, I recommend that the LAOH consider adopting a similar chair position and appoint a Veterans Affairs chairperson. I'm sure, and have been told, that there are many LAOH members who have served our country and would be interested in a similar program for themselves.

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



pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh
Chairman

Ireland, My Condolences

To say that I am dismayed at the results of last Friday's referendum is an understatement. For a vote that many expected to be razor close, the repeal coalition triumphed by a 2:1 margin. Some news outlets have called this vote "a body-blow to the anti-abortion movement in Ireland." I call it a body-blow to Ireland's conscience.

So what's next? Now the government will move to pass a bill allowing abortion up to 12 weeks, with allowances for "extreme cases" after that. Taoiseach Varadkar has already made conciliatory noises to the affect that such fundamental change will seem radical to many and that time and mutual respect will help heal those wounds. I wish him and the government good luck on that end.

America can now serve as a crystal ball for Ireland; providing examples, both positive and negative, of its chosen future. Repeal proponents framed a 'yes' vote as championing women's health, compassion, gender equality, economic empowerment and societal progress; but a quick look at the past 45 years of American history show that to be a murky hypothesis at best. When you critically weigh the impact legal abortion has had economically and socially on the U.S., you learn that the longer it's been the norm the more negative consequences exist.

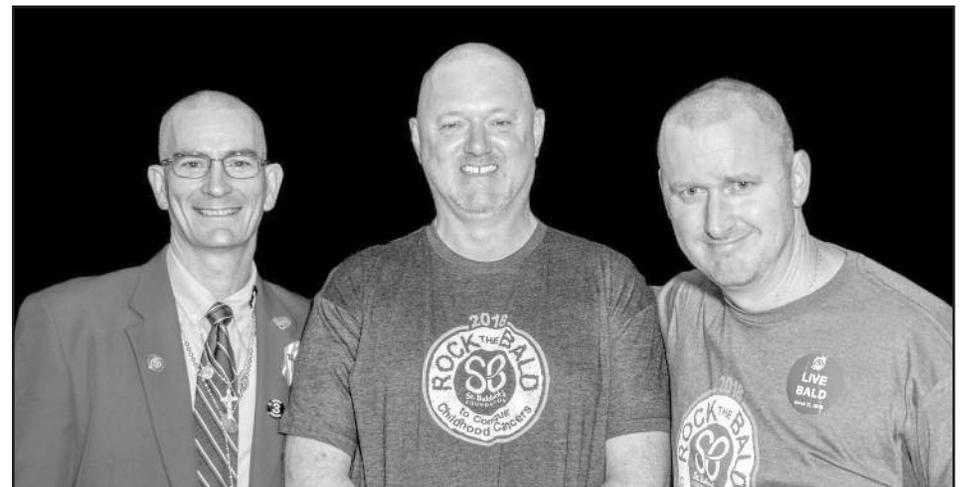
Take my generation, the Millennials, as example; we are the most "wanted" generation conceived throughout human history. Born at least two decades after Roe v. Wade, wide distribution of contraception, and changes in sexual/societal norms due to the "sexual revolution," my generation should be the beneficiaries of the above mentioned promises. Yet we are beset by stagnant wages, increasing economic inequality, and the very real fear that social milestones and safety nets enjoyed by our predecessors (i.e., social security, pensions, retirement, homeownership) will be inaccessible to us.

Millennials have come-of-age in a world that measures the value of life against the inconvenience it demands; a world that forged us in the ashes of 9/11, through the fire of unceasing warfare, under the constant threat of terrorism. Our saints are those who provide us a brief distraction from this bleak reality. We venerate those individuals and institutions that preach reward without prerequisites or consequences, because the world around us already suffers. Is it any wonder that my generation are the victims and perpetrators of more mass shootings than any before it? Are you surprised to hear that the most wanted generation suffers from higher levels of anxiety and depression, that even with "planned" parenthood we are the unhappiest generation?

When our conscience can be awakened, we seem to care more about the loss of a gorilla than the 762 homicides in a city only 300 miles away. We cry over the feelings of individuals while ignoring the thousands incarcerated in a nation home to over 22 percent of the world's prison population. Thousands take to the street demanding the right to end a life through abortion (where over 98 percent are elective in nature), but the world is surprised no one will march to end capital punishment.

This is the lesson Ireland should have taken from America. Over 45 years we have built a society that does not value human life, we only value our own lives. It's the difference between making abortion an exception rather than the rule. So as Ireland begins to form and debate their new legislation, let us pray that they heed the lessons already learned by others. Pray for those who view abortion as their only option, pray for anyone scarred by its evil, pray for the lives that will be cut short because of it, and pray that many change their minds.

Alabama



Father Tracy brothers shaved.

Division raises funds to fight childhood cancer

The Father Tracy Division raised over \$70,000 in three years for Childhood Cancer Research in Huntsville, Alabama.

Father Tracy Division is proud for a third year to have led the effort with incredible community members to present the third Live Bald that successfully raised \$17,935 for St. Baldrick's Foundation in 2018, raising funds for childhood cancer research. The Father Tracy Division is honored that this worthwhile event to date has raised over \$70,000 that have gone straight to support St. Baldrick's childhood cancer research grants throughout the country. And, for the third straight year, many brothers were shaves that helped raised additional money as well as hosted smaller fundraiser events during the year that helped contribute to this much worthy cause.

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

— John O'Connell, Editor

CATHOLIC ACTION

continued from page 1

when attacked. Gor had recently posted on social media: "Living in fear. The fulani herdsmen are still around us in Mbalom. They refuse to go. They still go grazing around us. No weapons to depend on ourselves."

These are but some of the stories that should call Hibernians to act. The violence against Catholic priests and nuns, often because of their ministry to the poor and less fortunate, are reminders to us of the terrible days past in which priests had their thumbs and forefingers amputated to keep them from being able to raise the Host in consecration or nuns were thrown in prison and subjected to all forms of indignities. Those who bravely stand up today for God's poor are no less deserving of our prayers as well as our protection. Rather than erecting barriers to those who seek refuge, we Hibernians should be focusing our energies on the Christian Charity that moves us to open our hearts to the oppressed and share our treasure in a manner that facilitates the work of our clergy and religious abroad. Whenever we all see a foreign priest or nun invited to speak at your parish Masses, the reaction among many is to shut down and wait for the end. Rather, let us hear the message these brave souls have to convey, and let us all see them in the same light as the Irish priests and nuns who labored in the darkest days of the oppression of the Church.

Blessed Solanus Casey inducted into The Irish American Hall of Fame

On April 28, Blessed Solanus Casey was inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame. The event took place at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. More than 260 people gathered to honor the eight men and women that comprised the 2018 class of inductees.

Since its inception in 2011, the Irish American Hall of Fame has recognized 78 inductees from diverse backgrounds. Blessed Solanus Casey, recognized for his religious service, was part of a group of inductees that included Vice President Joe Biden (public service), James T. Farrell and Doris Kearns Goodwin (Arts and Humanities), John Phillip Holland (Science), Charles Feeney (Business and Industry), Charles Comiskey (Sports), and Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D (Education). Mark Doyle was the recipient of the Hometown Hero Award for his work with rebuilding the lives of U.S. military veterans.

Kevin Blute (NJ) and Paul Gowdy (MI), Past Presidents of AOH Divisions named after Blessed Solanus Casey, attended the event. They were joined by Sister Anne Herkenrath, a great-niece of Blessed Solanus and Brother Richard Merling, Co-Vice Postulator for the Fr. Solanus Cause for Canonization and the Director of the Solanus Guild. Sister Anne thanked the AOH for nominating her great-uncle.

Special thanks to National AOH, MI AOH, Fr. Solanus Casey Bergen County Division 32, Myles Scully Division #1 in Yonkers, and Westchester County Division 18 in Peekskill for their support of the induction event.

Note: The Irish American Hall of Fame is separate and distinct from the Irish America Hall of Fame, which is based in New Ross, Co. Wexford. For more information about the Irish American Hall of Fame and the Irish American Heritage Center, please visit: www.iahof.org

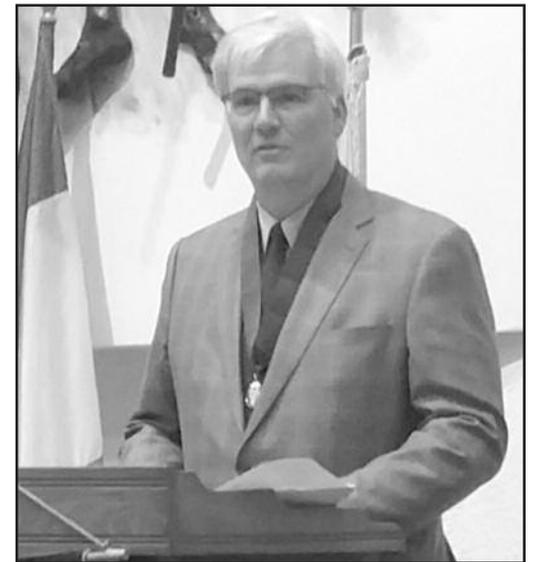


Kevin Blute and Paul Gowdy, both past presidents of Fr. Solanus Casey AOH Divisions, join Sister Anne Herkenrath and Brother Richard Merling at the induction event.

New Mexico



Celebrating the installation of officers in the newly reorganized Albuquerque Division were, from left, Jim McCabe, standing in as Treasurer; Larry McGlynn, Sentinel; Paul McDonough, Chairman of the Standing Committee; Mick McGovern, Recording Secretary; Jim Larkin, Division President; the Hon. Jim McKay III, National President; Tom Farrell, VP; Bill Cook,



Division President Jim Larkin.



McKAY INSTALLS ALBUQUERQUE!

On April 22, 2018, National President Jim McKay traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to install the officers of the newly reorganized Brother Mathias Barrett, Bernalillo County, Division 1. This marks the return of the Hibernians to Albuquerque. Newly elected President Jim Larkin assisted National Organizer Tim McSweeney in forming the division. Mick McGovern, Rec. Sec'y; Tom Farrell, VP; Hon. Jim McKay III, Nat'l Pres; Jim Larkin, Div #1 Pres; Bill Cook, Fin. Sec'y.



Gerald R. "Jerry" Donohoe, 82, died on Sunday, February 19, 2018.

Jerry was born on December 4, 1935, in Pittsburgh, the son of the late Joseph Henry and Roberta Knotts Williams Donohoe, and came to Ohio and the Mahoning Valley in the mid-1960s.

Jerry was a founding and staunch member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Sean MacBride Division in Trumbull County since 1997. In 2008 Jerry received the Commodore John Barry Medal in recognition of his dedicated service to the Sean MacBride Division.

Jerry was instrumental in starting the Sean MacBride Division Scholarship program, which awards scholarships to high school seniors annually since 1999. Beginning in 2019 the Sean MacBride Division will rename the scholarship program the Jerry Donohoe Memorial Scholarship.

Jerry was an active member of the Rotary Club of Warren, Ohio. With the Rotary Club Jerry got an Ohio Historical Marker placed in Trumbull County commemorating the Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal 1839-1872. The significance that Jerry shared with many was of the role Irish immigrant labor from western Pennsylvania played in building the canal. As a Rotarian, Jerry also delivered meals with Trumbull Mobile Meals.

Jerry was a strong Irish Catholic and was an active member with his wife, Alice, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, in Warren. Jerry was a money counter for over 20 years.

Jerry married the former Alice Marie Clark on May 19, 1962, and they have been married for 55 wonderful years, and she survives.

The Sean MacBride Division participated in the 2018 American Cancer Society's Warren Relay for Life in Jerry's memory. Our division's motto for the relay was "Irish for A Cure." 2018 marks the 25th year for the Warren Relay for Life, which is the largest in Ohio and among the 50 largest in the United States.

John "Jack" Cronen, 88, of Bayville, New Jersey, died on May 9. Born in East Orange, he lived in Bayville since 1959. His family roots are from Cork and Mayo counties of Ireland. Mr. Cronen was employed with Western Electric and its many subsidiaries, retiring from AT&T with 33 years of service. He was an accomplished musician and an active and respected member of his community. His memberships were many, including: Bell Labs Symphony at Murrey Hill, 50th Armored Division Band, Pennsylvania State Champion with Archer Eppler Musketeers Drum and Bugle Corp, Ocean County String Band, Teacher of Rudimental Drumming, drum instructor with the St. Joseph's Cadets, played in various musical trios in the Ocean County area, Drum Instructor at St. Brendan the Navigator Pipes and Drums of Pt. Pleasant, Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore, and an active member of the Shamrock and Thistle Pipes and Drums. Jack proudly served his country in the Army National Guard for 7 years with the 50th Armored Division Band as drummer. He was a communicant of St. Barnabas Church and was their first President of the Holy Name Society. He was a Charter member and Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 4969 of Toms River. Also, Jack was a member of the Fourth Degree with John McMahon Assembly, and was a member and past President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and was awarded in 2002 Hibernian Man of the Year. He also belonged to the Sons of The American Legion Post 129.

Father Terry Lee: The Mill Hill Missionaries reported that **Fr. Terry Lee** died on April 27, in Calvary Hospital, the Bronx, New York, at 85.

They wrote: "Terry was born on November 4, 1932, in Cootehill, Co. Cavan, Ireland. His father, Thomas, who was a farmer, was married to Margareth (née McCabe). He had seven brothers and three sisters. One of his brothers, Hugh, also joined the Mill Hill Missionaries. From 1946 to 1951 he followed secondary education at our college in Freshford. Then he went to Rosendaal to study philosophy for two years. During the following four years he studied theology in St Joseph's College, Mill Hill, London. He took the Perpetual Oath on 7th May 1956 and was ordained priest on 7th July 1957 by William Cardinal Godfrey.

"After ordination Terry was appointed to study for a degree in agriculture at the University of Cork. After three years in Cork the course was transferred to Dublin. He complemented this with a one-year course leading to a Diploma in Higher Education in 1963. He was then appointed for three years to the teaching staff of our college in Freshford.

"Following this he was appointed to North America where he spent the next 52 years, almost his entire missionary life. He worked in St. Louis for 11 years, and subsequently served in Los Angeles and in New York. Most of these years he was appointed to Society positions as rector, regional bursar and consultant. In 1995 he was elected Regional Representative and was re-elected to this post in 1998.

"Terry dedicated most of his time to work that was vital to the Society's mission worldwide, in particular mission animation and fund-raising, but he also took great interest in urban pastoral work. The missionary zeal with which Terry applied himself to his work is summed up aptly in the words to be found in a General Council visitation report: 'I found Terry genuinely interested in his work and ready to do for the Society whatever he can.' The pastoral supply work which he continued in different parishes up until recently was much appreciated by the parishioners.

"In the last few years Terry's health had started to decline and he was admitted to hospital in 2016. He suffered from cancer in the neck, with secondaries to the lungs. Immunotherapy held the cancer in check for a while, but did not eliminate it. Last year he celebrated his Diamond Jubilee and despite advancing age and illness remained active and enthusiastic in his role as rector and in pastoral work."

Medal Of Honor Grove

By PNP Seamus Boyle

Brothers, it is my pleasure to announce that the work is basically completed on the AOH Obelisk plot at the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge Park in Pennsylvania.

Thanks to your generosity, the labor from the AOH in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Cobblestones from the Meehan family, owners of General Asphalt Co., and equipment and operators from the Operating Engineers Local Union 542, we have basically completed the project. Many of the visitors to the grove have commented on how beautiful it is and some of the recipients of the Medal of Honor have visited the site and are elated that we have done such a magnificent job of upgrading the site and recognized the recipients who otherwise would not have been recognized.

The only uncompleted work is the landscape of the site. Although the numerous trees have been cut down or were blown down by the storms in the past few years and have been removed from the site, we still need more trees planted and tons of fill and top soil to raise the lower ground to stop it from flooding. This past few months has been tremendously wet and with a creek in the back of our site the entire lower end has been flooded. We need to raise some funds to finish the project, bring it up to a point where it will be safe from flooding and with new topsoil, trees and grass seed it will be totally finished and will be there for many years to come without any further upgrades.

I am again asking our brother Hibernians, their county and state boards, to donate to this very worthwhile project and finally bring the project to a close. I would also ask any of the States to contact any of their military organizations to maybe get a group together to visit the grove and possibly do a full cleanup of their respective areas. Many of the states have been here and done a lot of work on their sites and in the past year Oklahoma, Maryland and West Virginia have replaced their Obelisks with at least three more ready to go this year and within the next few weeks Maryland will have their new Obelisk dedicated. If any state wants a picture of their Obelisk to see what kind of shape it is in, please let me know and I will get a picture of it and send it to you.

Thank you in advance for your donations and all your help in the past.
— Seamus Boyle, Past National President & Special Projects



Why I am a Hibernian

In 1960 I was sponsored by my father-in-law to become a member of the John F. Kennedy Division 1, Schenectady, NY. I'm still a member 58 years later because of the quality of members whose courage and friendship have kept this division alive and in good order for 138 years.

Thomas Hanaway

Colorado

Denver Hibernian changing lives for the better By Audrey Scott

Hibernian Digest Editor's Note:

Liam Driscoll, the hero of this story, is a Hibernian in Denver. The University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through leadership formation, research and professional service to ensure that all children, especially those from low-income families, have the opportunity to experience the gift of an excellent Catholic education. Reprinted with permission.

Tick. Tick. Tick. Tick.

Click.

Liam's eyes fix on the clock above the blackboard.

Tick. Tick.

Still no sign of one of his students.

"He showed up late if he showed up at all. Not just a few minutes, like right after the bell, but I mean 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. every day," Liam Driscoll (Alliance for Catholic Education, Denver) remembers.

Some of the students in Liam's class face challenges many of us can't imagine – homelessness, incarcerated parents and instability each way they turn.

"One child would come into school and fall asleep because he would be up all night taking care of his little brother, just one-and-a-half years old," says Liam.

Dr. Brian Collier (Faculty, ACE Teaching Fellows) remembered visiting Liam's classroom. "Mr. Driscoll really had his hands full with the rest of the class. I saw one child amp up his antics, but Mr. Driscoll calmly and quietly kept re-directing him, showing tremendous patience and love. If you ask me, a saintly amount of both of those things."

"Yes, he was disruptive, but I have several other kids that have traumatic home lives that lead them to act out in class, too."

One child is different. "From the start, he was incredibly open. Of all those kids, he was the one who needed help the most, yet he was one of the sweetest kids I've ever met. In the face of all the adversity, challenges and stressful situations, he was so upbeat and confident. It was almost humorous how confident he was," says Liam.

What would draw a 21-year-old, tough former college lacrosse player from Massachusetts to walk for even a minute in the shoes of an 8-year-old, underprivileged child?

The importance of belonging to an extended family community through lacrosse and four years at Xaverian Brothers, an all-boys Catholic high school in Massachusetts, "had a profound impact on my development as a student and as a person," says Liam. "That's where the ball started to really get rolling toward faith through action and God in all things."

At the College of the Holy Cross, Liam chose to major in religious studies and Asian studies with a concentration in peace and conflict. "That allowed me to center myself around social justice," he says. But right after taking the [Graduate Record Exam], having not done as well as he had hoped, his parents encouraged him to go the safe route and work in New York City. Liam says they told him, "You've given enough of yourself, please just get a normal job."

"I was so emotional and upset. I didn't know what to do," says Liam. His sister Lucy graduated from Notre Dame in 2013. She put Liam in touch with two of her closest friends, Elizabeth Jen (ACE 20, Sacramento) and Connor Geraghty (ACE 20, Los Angeles), who had graduated from the ACE program. He also spoke to Mary Pickens (ACE 21, Richmond) and Andrew Wittington (ACE 21, Chicago). "They talked me through what ACE was all about. I was totally hooked on the program."

Hooked, yes, but now what tools did Liam have to reach out to his students?

Sandwiches. Meatball subs to be exact.

"I didn't start with, 'You're not doing your homework. You're not showing up to school. You're gonna have to stay after!'" says Liam.

He added a touch of finesse.

Liam said to one, "I know how great of a guy you are, so between you and me, I am going to offer to keep you after every day. We're going to do homework for an hour and then we're going to play some sort of a sport and then I'm going to walk you home." That's essentially what he's done every day since.

"It was our little deal," Liam says. "If he gets his homework done five days in a row,

we'll eat lunch together and I'll get him a Subway sandwich."

"I thought this was all attention-seeking behavior," says Dr. Collier, "but lo and behold in a few short days he had earned that lunch and Mr. Driscoll followed through."

Following their agreed upon after-school program, Liam walks him to his grandmother's house. "It's about a 15-minute walk there and then about a two-minute walk back because he just goes so slow! We have these conversations, the same conversation almost every day . . . he quizzes me on who his favorite players are, who his favorite teams are . . . It's been so funny," says Liam.

"He is totally awesome. He's such a great kid. It's amazing. Why would he be happy? Why would he have this positive attitude? And yet he brings it every day and he has an incredibly strong faith." He engages in class now, but the one subject where he thrives is religion. "He said his grandmother would take him to Mass, or maybe he just likes it. It's the only subject where his hand is shooting up. It's really moving," says Liam.

The payoff.

"I'm so into it by now, that when I watch him every day I don't always see it, except for those monumental days when I test him a little bit and realize, 'Oh my gosh, that was awesome'. People who deal with him only once or twice a week see it and say there's major shift in his ability to be present, in the way he carries himself and takes care of himself," says Liam.

Does anyone else want in on the deal?

"I won't let anyone ever tell me that ACE isn't changing lives . . . it certainly is changing these students' and it absolutely has made Mr. Driscoll a teacher."

"A few other kids have started to stay after, too, and they'll just chill in the classroom and do their work." On some of those days Liam doesn't press the homework. "I'd just let them play and I would play with them because I don't know what is going on with these kids at home." He thinks an opportunity to play with a classmate will potentially be much more impactful than dogmatically following the rules. "They were having a lightsaber battle. This is the stuff that they need. That socio-emotional development: spending time with another kid and simply having fun doing kid stuff."

When asked about hopes for the future, Liam searches for the right words, "I hope that I can . . . well, instill some . . . trust, stability, I mean, there are a couple of tough eggs to crack in my class. Where these kids come from, some adults in their lives are tough to trust, so I don't think they trust a lot of us. I don't blame them, but I'd like to make some progress with them. I hope that I can be some sort of positive influence.

"That's easier said than done. Sometimes I can be a huge goofball and they might think what the heck is this guy doing?" says Liam.

But maybe that's exactly the thing that helps the kids relate to him. For now, Liam's willing to keep trying one meatball sub, basketball game, and light saber battle at a time.

Dr. Collier's experience with Liam and his class has made an impression. He says, "I won't let anyone ever tell me that ACE isn't changing lives . . . it certainly is changing these students' and it absolutely has made Mr. Driscoll a teacher."



Carrigan Division serves at Samaritan House Denver
On May 22, the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division served the women's evening meal at Samaritan House Homeless Shelter in Denver. Several Carrigan members were present as well as brother Kevin Croghan's wife, Naomi Croghan, on the right. The Carrigan division gives hundreds of hours of service each year under the guidance of Vice President Tim Henning, fourth from left, and longtime Carrigan member Samaritan House volunteer Mike Sheridan, far left.



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."

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The festive season of St. Patrick was not long past when Connecticut Hibernians turned to upholding the Charitable portion of our Motto. The JFK Division, of Bridgeport, set the standard when, on Good Friday, President Tom Keane led a contingent of AOH/LAOH volunteers to the Merton House where they proceeded to feed 130 needy patrons.

Next, in April, the Veterans Committee of the Monsignor Slocum Division, of Waterbury, held a ziti dinner, where they raised \$900 to help needy Veterans. In June, the Waterbury AOH held a pork chop dinner to which any Veteran or active military personnel were admitted free of charge.

The Waterbury AOH also honored our fallen veterans by marching in their city's annual Memorial Day Parade. The John A. Gilda Division of Danbury did the same by stepping out in Danbury's Memorial Day as they have done since 1976. In recognition of their efforts the AOH/LAOH Danbury Irish Center contingent was awarded the 1st Place trophy for best fraternal marching unit!

On May 20, a group of Hartford and New London Hibernians attended a Mass and breakfast to commemorate the Great Hunger, that was hosted by the Irish American Home in Glastonbury.

On Thursday, April 19, the General Phillip Sheridan Division of Stamford revived their spring Charitable Golf Classic at the Sterling Farms municipal course in Stamford.

Earlier in the month, the Stamford AOH held their 5th annual fundraiser to honor the memory of Bill and Felicitas Cody. All tips generated at this fundraiser were donated to the Bennet Cancer Center in memory of this popular couple who left us much too soon.

Since our last Digest article, I received a nice letter from Finbarr McGrath, who had been a popular member of both the Stamford and Danbury Divisions. Finbarr has lived in Florida for 15 years but still has fond memories of his days in Connecticut. He had emigrated from Cork City to Stamford, where he was known for his quick wit and ballad singing ability. Stamford's loss was Danbury's gain when a work change caused Finbarr to move to the Danbury area. He proceeded to transfer to the Danbury AOH where he quickly became a popular member and held the office of Recording Secretary. Finbarr is still an active Hibernian and helped to found the St. Teresa of Calcutta Division in the Villages (Florida) four years ago. The Division now has 50 members and is a big hit in the annual Villages St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Meriden Division 1 will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Saturday, September 7, with a Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Celebration at AOH John & Dot Kasey Hall.

Don't forget to check out Sacred Heart University's digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber

For news or info contact Phil Gallagher at: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



New London and Hartford Hibernians attended Mass and breakfast at the Glastonbury Irish American Home. Back Row: Paul Moriarity, Jim Shake, Jim Gallagher, Rick Connell, Tim Tully; Front Row: Kevin Morton and Pat Mahoney.



Members of the Danbury AOH & LAOH posed before McSorley's Old Ale House, where they refreshed after a bus trip to the Tenement Museum in Manhattan.

New Jersey



MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE CLEAN UP

NJ AOH members participated in the annual Medal of Honor Grove cleanup program in April. The Grove is the oldest living memorial honoring our nation's Medal of Honor recipients and is located at Freedoms Foundation's headquarters in Valley Forge. The natural woodland is designed as a memorial to fewer than the 3,500 recipients of our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. An area of land is designated for each of the 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. In 1985 the Ancient Order of Hibernians erected a 53rd monument dedicated to more than 160 recipients who received the medal but were not citizens of the United States and therefore had no home state.

Photo Credit Brother George Stampoulos: Official NJ AOH Photographer.



NJ STATE BOARD OFFICERS AND MAJOR DEGREE OF THE ORDER RECIPIENTS

On April 7, the NJ AOH State Board held its regular meeting, followed by a Major Degree of the Order Ceremony. It was hosted by The St. Patrick Somerset County, Division I and held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Somerville, NJ. Congratulations Brothers. From left, seated: Secretary Mike Rhodes, President Larry Prella Sr., Vice President Rich O'Brien, and Treasurer Jim Miller. Standing: Major Degree recipients.

Photo Credit: Brother George Stampoulos.

Kansas

Kansas Red-Blue Irish Road Bowling Rolloff

With a long history in Ireland and with appearances in America between battles during the American Civil War, Irish Road Bowling has held its place in Irish and Irish-American culture and sports. The Irish have also a long and proud tradition of serving their communities as police and firefighters.

The Kansas Hibernians of the Fr. Donnelly Division in Overland Park, hosted its 8th Irish Road Bowling score in Wyandotte County Park on April 28, inviting enthusiasts across the Kansas City Metro Area to once again test their mettle in this quintessential Irish event. The Donnelly men have delivered this special brand of Irish sport and entertainment to the Kansas City public since 2014, advancing the appreciation of Irish culture and supporting charities across Kansas City.

Again this year, the Donnelly Division's primary charities are the Duchesne Clinic of Wyandotte County, Kansas, and the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund or SAFE. The Duchesne Clinic provides health care for the county's uninsured and under-insured poor, and SAFE provides financial support for the surviving spouses and children of the area's first responders who have fallen in the line of duty.

As part of this Irish event open to all, the Donnelly Division organizes a special contest between area fire and police departments for bragging rights. This year six teams of police and fire from Mission, Overland Park and Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County squared off against each other on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. These men and women have supported the Donnelly Division and SAFE with their participation in the Red/Blue Irish Road Bowling Rolloff since the Hibernians' first 'score' in 2014.

In addition to SAFE, the Kansas Hibernians have also supported area firefighters with donations to the burn center at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Kentucky

New Division in Lexington

The Father J. Ryan Division would like to welcome the newest division in Kentucky, in Lexington, The Irish of Central Kentucky. On May 10, the Father J. Ryan Division held a Shamrock Degree ceremony at the Workhouse Ballroom. We are pleased to announce that 16 of our brothers received their Shamrock Degree along with seven of our Lexington brothers. The Lexington officers were also installed. They are President Bradley Miller, Vice President Kevin Miller, Financial Secretary Kevin Dougherty, Treasurer Joe Melody, Recording Secretary Terry Sweeney, Standing Committee Chairman David Lyons, Marshal Tim Dougherty, and Sentinel Andrew Moore.

We were also blessed to have National President Judge McKay and National Director John Wilson in attendance.

Just a reminder to visit the AOHLOAHStore.COM to purchase all your National Convention Souvenirs and purchase your tickets for a Private Hibernian River Cruise, Evan Williams Distillery Private Tour, Play in the National Golf Scramble.

Also all your convention needs can be found at www.louisvilleirish2018.com including links to: Package Registration, Hotel registration, Things to Do, Items for Purchase, General Information.

Also there are a few advertisement spots left in the 2018 National Convention Souvenir Journal: Gold Framed Color: \$250, Full Page (B/W): \$150, Half Page (B/W): \$85.

Please email ads, questions, or call request to: 2018conventionads@gmail.com

Father J. Ryan Division hopes to see everyone in Louisville in July for the National Convention. Come early and stay late!



National Director John Wilson, President of Lexington Division Bradley Miller, President of the Father Abram J. Ryan Division John O'Dwyer, and National President Judge James McKay.

Illinois



Division 32 members living their faith

The Division 32 brothers in this picture collected just shy of \$4,000 for Misericordia Candy Days on April 27 and 28 on a busy six corner Northwest Chicago intersection.

Joe Hickey, in a white apron, coordinated the effort that also received help from 30 Catholic school students, who are now eligible for Division 32 tuition scholarships. Misericordia is a Catholic human services organization that provides residences to over 600 individuals. It is one of the main charities supported by Division 32.

The Divisions' annual golf outing will be held Friday, June 8, at The Edgebrook Course in Chicago. It is the main fundraiser for our charitable account thru hole sponsorships and an ad book. Up to 80 golfers are expected to participate with a dinner to follow. For details on this and other Division 32 activities please check our Facebook page of AOH AOH.

We're happy to let everyone know: The AOH Div 32 annual picnic is set for Saturday, Aug. 25, at Bunker Hill Picnic Groves #7 in Niles, IL.

Pennsylvania

The Isle of Erin degree team recognized with Hibernian Friendship Award

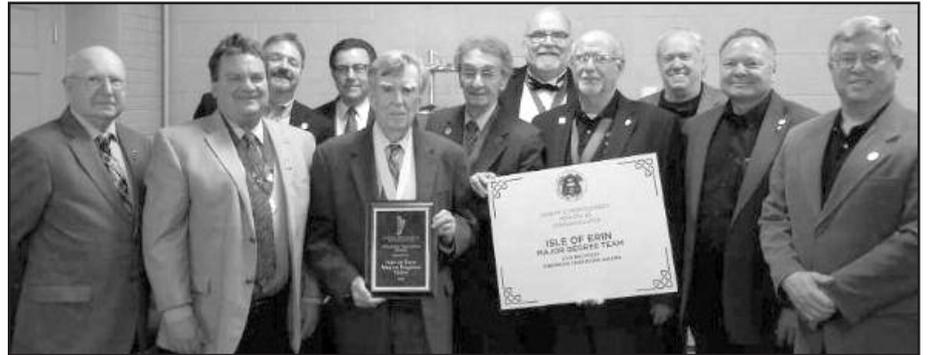
At the 12th annual Fleadh an Earraigh of the Joseph E. Montgomery Division 65, the Isle of Erin degree team out of the Notre Dame Division 1 of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, received the Hibernian Friendship Award.

The award was presented to degree team President Jim Murphy from Division 65 President Patrick Mulhern. The Joseph E. Montgomery Division is rich in history and charity works. The division just celebrated its 120th Anniversary.

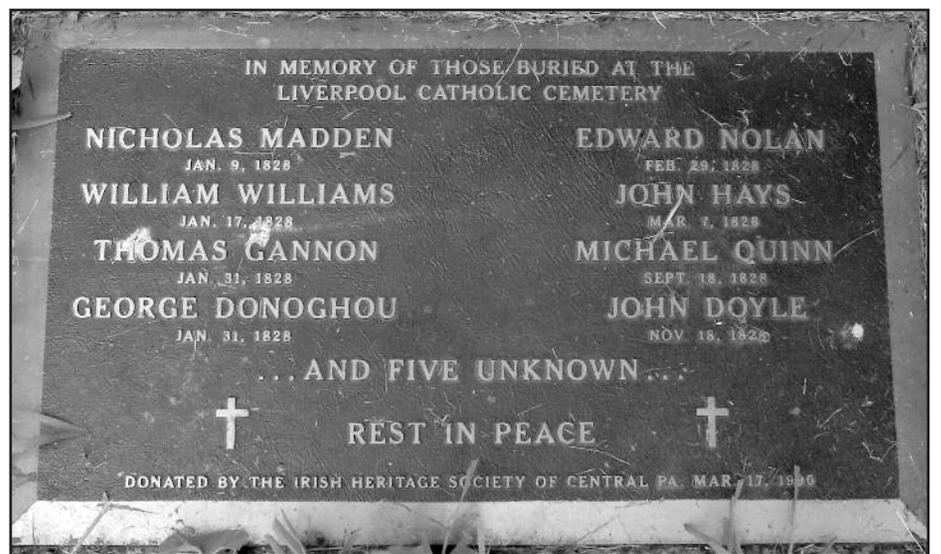
The award ceremony was held April 15th at the Spring Valley Banquet Hall in Springfield, PA. The Isle of Erin degree team was founded by the late Brother Paul McNulty in 1994. The degree team was certified by the National Director of Rituals - Degrees, Al O'Hagan, on March 26, 1995. Paul died assisting Brother O'Hagan and the Round Tower major degree team in 1995, when an artificial heart valve ruptured. Al O'Hagan was Chief of Escorts of the Round Tower, the position Paul would have had.

To date, The Isle of Erin team has conducted 89 ceremonies, bringing more than 3,400 Hibernians into the full membership of the AOH. Some of these include three monsignors, five priests, approximately 20 seminarians, a U.S. Senator, a Lieut. Governor of Pennsylvania, two judges, Walt Whitman, and even a member named Santa Clause.

The Isle of Erin major degree team is very happy to receive this Hibernian Friendship Award from our Brothers of Division 65 and the thanks them for bestowing this honor upon them.



At the award ceremony were, from left, Howard Williams, Honor Guard Captain; Jack Schneider, Business Manager/Trustee; Mike Brown, Treasurer; Don Lilick, Jim Murphy, Team Leader; Jack Rodenbough, Terry McGraw, Tom O'Hagan, Wilber Powers, James Mohr and Pete Hand.

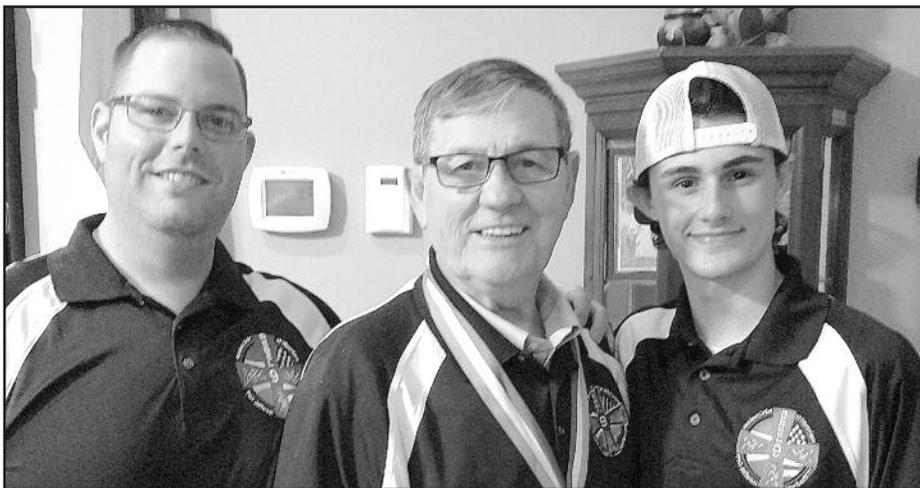


Canal Workers commemorated

Dauphin County Division 1, Cumberland County Division 1, together with the Irish Heritage Society of Central Pennsylvania, held its annual commemoration ceremony at the Catholic cemetery in Liverpool, PA, on Saturday, June 2. The ceremony commemorates Irish canal workers who died while digging a shipping canal along the Susquehanna river. Most of the names can be found on the plaque in the accompanying photo, which is courtesy of Karla Gabel. A great canal built between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh precipitated a surge in immigration, notably from Ireland. The men, such as the Irish immigrants who died in Liverpool, often succumbed to disease and the back-breaking labor. These canals enabled many thousands to reach the Middle West, to develop farms there, and then ship their produce back East.



New York



THREE GENERATIONS IN THE AOH

There was an important and joyous event in New York's Suffolk County Division 9 recently. National Life Member Walter Butler beamed with pride upon swearing in his grandson, and now they celebrate three generations of Hibernians. From left, Walter Butler Jr., Walter Sr., and grandson Jack Scheibly. Photo by Jeff Nisler.



HONORING VETERANS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

In a Memorial Day ceremony, AOH National Historian Michael McCormack, fourth from left, presented Certificates and Veteran's Pins to 10 Veterans in AOH Division 8 and LAOH Division 8/9, in Suffolk County.

West Virginia



The three scholarship winners, from left, Emily Emmerth, Rachel Drnach and Daniel O'Leary.

Scholarships awarded

The Bishop Whelen Division of the AOH, in Wheeling, WV, has awarded the winners of its annual scholarship. Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to worthy seniors based on grades, extracurricular activities, knowledge of Ireland and civic and religious activities. The scholarship has to be used for post-secondary education or training.

Minnesota



Shamrock Division of Minnesota AOH celebrates Founders Day

On a fine spring day, April 28, the Shamrock Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians met to celebrate Founders Day, install new members to our Order and award scholarships.

Established 38 years ago, the Shamrock Division has been celebrating Founders Day annually at St. Thomas Church in Jessenland, Minnesota. Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish settlement in Minnesota, gives a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of our Founders Day. The day was well attended by our local members and clergy.

The Scholarship Committee interviewed scholarship candidates and awarded a total of \$2,500 AOH Scholarships to five applicants. Scholarship selection was based on the applicants Irish heritage, education plans and how they plan to promote their Irish heritage in the future.

Induction of six new members through the Induction Ceremony was overseen by Chapter President John Devins. New members included: Phillip Lehner of Cleveland, Richard and Zach Effertz from Belle Plaine, John Bigaouette from Belle Plaine, Ken Balfe from Kilkenny and Mick McGuire from Montgomery. Following the Induction Ceremony, Catholic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Hession and Fr Berger.

Pictures and more information about the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our web site at hibernians-shamrock.com

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

Texas



At the Irish House in Austin, from left, LAOH President Bridget Cresto, Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, President Kevin Buechler, LAOH Shana Joyce, and Past President Michael Joyce.

Hibernians celebrate Taoiseach's visit

Members of the Monsignor Richard McCabe Division, along with the LAOH Golden Rose of Ireland, enjoyed several events celebrating Taoiseach Varadkar's visit to Austin in March.

Members of the division attended the Taoiseach's session at the South by Southwest festival. The conversation was spirited and engaging with subjects ranging from the role of technology in Ireland, Brexit relations, the current state of U.S.-Irish relations, and the changing culture of Ireland, in particular as it relates to opportunity for young professionals.

Prior to the session, Division President Kevin Buechler and Past President Michael Joyce attended a reception at the Irish House, Austin, by invitation of Adrian Farrell, General Consul of Ireland.

Missouri

By Bob Slater

St. Joseph's Division named for John Corby

The St. Joseph, MO, Division has formally adopted the name of the John Corby division, in recognition of one of St. Joseph's leading Catholic citizens of the 19th century. Corby had been the first president of the Hibernian Benevolent Society and was deeply involved in activities of the Catholic Church in St. Joseph. He also served as the city's mayor.

John Corby, a native of Limerick, Ireland, came to St. Joseph in 1845 and opened a dry goods business. He later got involved in the pork business, real estate and banking. Corby donated the land for St. Joseph's Cathedral and for the Daughters of Charity to build a hospital. An early history describes Corby as "a devoted member of the Catholic church, toward which he ever manifested the greatest liberality." Among the beneficiaries was the Convent of the Sacred Heart, a high school built prior to the Civil War to educate young women.

Corby's commitment to his Irish beliefs may be best illustrated by an incident involving the anticipated 1860 visit of England's Prince of Wales. Corby had in 1853 erected the city's first large public hall. When he was asked to make the building available for the expected visit, he located an architect who declared the building unsafe for such an event. The anticipated visit did not materialize, but the building remained safe for other venues – just not for English royalty.

When Corby died, childless, his wife arranged for the building of a memorial chapel, named St. John the Baptist, with a capacity of 350. Located outside St. Joseph's city limits, it was primarily a family chapel and never a formal parish. More than half a century after its construction, the impressive Gothic structure was converted into a private residence.

What is now officially the John Corby division was launched 20 years ago, after earlier divisions in St. Joseph had phased out through the years. The city in the 19th century had three separate divisions, but they had dissolved before World War II.

Pat Casey, a former AOH state president, is president of the Corby division. The organization annually sponsors the city's St. Patrick's day parade, and utilizes various fund-raisers to help promote Catholic education and work with Second Harvest Food Bank to feed the hungry. Other annual activities include a hedge-row Mass and a road-bowling tournament.

O'Toole named Irish Person of the Year

Lt Col. Lawrence M. O'Toole, Assistant Chief of Police of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, was honored recently as the "James Dailey Wahl Irish Person of the Year" at the 28th Irish Emerald Ball, in St. Louis.

Colonel O'Toole, a 33-year veteran of the department, is being honored for his many years of service to the city. The annual event was sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of St. Louis, recognizes individuals who have made contributions to St. Louis and the St. Louis Irish-American

community.

Proceeds from the Emerald Ball were donated to Colonel O'Toole's designated charity, Backstoppers, which provides needed financial assistance and support to the spouses and dependent children of all police officers, firefighters and volunteer firefighters, and publicly-funded paramedics and EMTs who have lost their lives or been seriously injured in the line of duty.

In addition to O'Toole, the Hibernians recognized Jim Mohan as the "Hibernian of the Year." Mohan was one of the original organizers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade. For over three decades, he has served as spokesman for the parade and numerous Hibernian events. Mary Jo Sullivan-Gallagher was honored as the "Lady Hibernian of the Year" Sullivan, a member of the LAOH since 2003, has been very active in both the LAOH Irish Northern Aid and the Irish American Club and promoted her Irish heritage by performing and volunteering at Irish functions. Kate Margaret Skredenske was selected the "Young Hibernian of the Year." Since joining the LAOH in 2013, members say Ms. Skredenske has become an essential to the work of the organization. She co-chaired the Irish Emerald Ball, and assists with the Irish Country Fair, and has spearheaded a number of LAOH charity efforts.



2018 Emerald Ball Honorees and AOH Honor Guard were, from left, Josh Pogue (Honor Guard), Hibernian of the Year, Jim Mohan, the Young Hibernian of the Year, Kate Margaret Skredenske (co-chair of the Emerald Ball), Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence M. O'Toole, Assistant Chief of Police, SLMPD, the "James Dailey Wahl" Irish Person of the Year, the Lady Hibernian of the Year, Mary Jo Sullivan-Gallagher, Jamie Britt (co-chair of the Emerald Ball) and Joe McGettigan (Honor Guard).

Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

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

Division 1 Holyoke

The 10th Annual Summer Picnic Hibernian Style was held on June 23. Division 1's 2018 Celtic Float won the 1st place religious trophy. The float was towed by Pat Hogan with co-pilot Amanda Olmo. Doing a terrific job of turning the Celtic Cross was LAOH member Barbara Twohig. The 2nd place finisher in the Irish Category was a tribute to St. Bridget and was towed by Charlie Popp with Mary Mulvenna as co-pilot.

Division 8 Lawrence

On May 19, Armed Forces Day, Division 8 held its annual commemoration of the Great Hunger at the An Gorta Mor Memorial in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence. In conjunction with this ceremony, the Division also awarded the newly created AOH Veterans Pins to members of the Division who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. AOH State President Paul Hogan of Holyoke and LAOH State Vice President Margaret O'Connor of Andover brought greetings from their respective boards. Richard Wall, AOH Essex County President of Lynn, brought greetings from the Essex County Board.

The Commemoration included a memorial service led by Division 8 Chaplain, the Very Rev. John W. Delaney V.F., a short address by Keith Jones of the Mass. State Dept. of Veterans Services; the awarding of the AOH Veterans Pins by Mr. Jones, and Division 8 AOH Veterans Affairs Chairman John Cuddy and prayers in Gaelic by Anne Collins, a member of Division 8 LAOH. A reception followed the service and pinning ceremony.

Division 9 Plymouth

On April 28, Division 9 hosted a commemoration of the Easter Rising at Scituate Harbor. Boston's Acting Consul General of Ireland Shane Cahill; Division President John Travis; Scituate Selectman John Danahey; State Senator Patrick O'Connor and State Rep. Joan Meschino were in attendance. The keynote speaker was Father Oliver P. Rafferty, S.J., a visiting professor from Boston College. This event has become an annual commemoration in the Town of Scituate (the most Irish Town per capita in the U.S.).

Division 14 Watertown

On Memorial Day, May 28, Division 14 invited all veterans of Division 14 to a pinning ceremony following their annual traditional moment of silence and prayer service. Mark R. Comeiro, USN, (Ret), Veterans Services Officer of the Town of Watertown, participated in the pinning ceremony.

Division 19 Lowell

Longtime St. Patrick Church parishioner Garrett Sheehan, one of the primary cogs in the wheel of success of the Irish Cultural Week, was honored as the 2018 Irish Person of the Year. Garrett, his daughter, Erin, and his grandchildren, helped raise the Irish Flag at Worcester City Hall after the parade from St. Patrick's. Congratulations, Garrett, and thank you for all you do!

Division 36 Worcester

Edmond J. Kelley, a member of Division 36, was awarded Division Life Membership. Mr. Kelley has been a Worcester resident and proud member of Division 36 since 1970. In 1981, Edmond received the Hibernian Award of the Year. He was President of Division 36 from 1985-1986. He has spent countless hours volunteering on many committees. His volunteerism continues to this day at the young age of 84!

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



Washington DC

by John Patrick Walsh, State President

Hibernians participate in EU Day at Irish Embassy

On May 12, State Treasurer Stephen Sullivan (D.C. Division 3) led a joint AOH-LAOH contingent at the annual EU Day at the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C. An annual event, EU Day acts as an “open house” for EU members to help promote each nation’s economy, culture and tourism opportunities.

Each year the crowd seems to grow and this was no exception, with the line estimated to be an hour long 30 minutes before the doors opened. Every visitor who passed by represented a chance to introduce the AOH and highlight our contributions on both sides of the Atlantic as Irish-Americans. D.C. Hibernians were honored to showcase the Order’s work to promote and preserve Irish history, culture and faith.

Brother Carney honored by Irish American Chamber of Commerce

Brother Keith Carney (D.C. 1), Past National Director, and CEO of FedNet, was recently selected by the Irish Echo/ Irish American Chamber of Commerce as one of their Top 50 Irish Small Businesses. For years Keith has helped support Irish causes personally and professionally, serving as an important set of eyes and ears for our Order on Capitol Hill. This service was recognized with Brother Carney’s selection as the Emerald Entrepreneur for Vision on May 18 in Philadelphia. Congratulations Keith and well done!

Brother Jack O’Brien honored with Life Membership

At the May state board meeting, I was thrilled to finally present Brother Jack O’Brien with his Life Membership medallion and card. Many of you will know Jack from his tireless work (often in partnership with our late Brother John McNerney) on the Barry Gate Memorial, Antietam/Gettysburg Monuments, and various projects honoring America’s adopted sons and daughters. While incredibly grateful for this honor, Brother O’Brien did not miss the chance to urge our support for his latest project: the restoration and upkeep of 1848 Young Irelander Leader Thomas Devin Reilly’s gravesite.

Through Jack’s unrelenting efforts with Mt. Olivet cemetery in Washington D.C., the Celtic cross that once lay broken and sunken has been restored to its proper place on the Reilly grave, but inscriptions worn away by acid rain still need to be replaced.



D.C. LAOH PSP Maria Humphries joins President JP Walsh and State Chaplain Fr. Jack Hurley at Irish Embassy EU Day. Not Pictured: PSP Ralph Day and State Treasurer Stephen Sullivan.



Brother John “Jack” O’Brien awarded Life Membership at D.C. State Board Meeting. From left, Division 5 President Don Connolly, State Historian Jack O’Brien and State President JP Walsh.

Texas

Hibernians partner with police, community leaders

Monsignor McCabe Division Sentinel Justin Berry embodies the AOH core value of leading through service. Berry, an officer on the Austin Police Department, not only saw opportunity to make a difference in the local community, but also challenged his Hibernian brothers to do the same. Berry was recognized by Interim Chief Brian Manley for his initiative, organizational skills and dedication to making the event inclusive. What made the project even more impressive was that the APD was the text below, an excerpt from the Austin ABC affiliate KVUE, and was posted on their website March 25.

AUSTIN — Givens Park in East Austin is known as a gathering place for the community, but at times it’s also been known for crime, drug use and litter.

Sunday afternoon both the community and Austin police came together to clean up the park, but while doing so they also built a stronger bond – a bond both groups said is greatly needed in today’s times.

It was about a month ago, during one of his car club get-togethers, that Jonathan Allen met Austin Police Officer Justin Berry. “They just got their grills going, they got their food marinated, they got the kids out here playing and they start packing everything up,” Berry said.

Berry said he didn’t understand why.

“In the black community, we kind of feel like we get pushed out when police come around,” Allen said.

Berry said that really bothered him. “We should not show up and people feel like they have to flee their own park,” Berry said. “That should not be the public’s perception of us. I know my fellow police officers. I know the content that is of their character, of their heart and it’s not what is portrayed out there in the world.”

Berry asked Allen to help him change that perception. The two became friends and together they planned Sunday’s Givens Park Community Clean Up. On Sunday, members of the East Austin community worked side by side with Austin police to restore beauty to the area.

“I’m really pretty excited about this,” Allen said. “I woke up this morning just energetic and doing jumping jacks. I didn’t think this day was actually going to happen.”

“For law enforcement, it has to be a partnership with the community, so it’s events like those that are taking place here today that help build that trust,” Interim Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said. “They help build that relationship.”

“We love our community and we want to keep doing it,” Berry added.



Members, from left, President Kevin Buechler, Sentinel Justin Berry, Vice President Nolan Maloney and Deacon Jay Vocelka. Missing, Chairman of the Standing Committee Cody Flack.

A perfect ‘Irish Stew’

The Monsignor McCabe division was proud to once again partner with BD Riley’s in Austin to hold another exciting Irish Stew contest filled with music, great food — and plenty of craic. Special thanks to our judges from our Friends of the AOH and the Consul of Ireland in Austin. The partnership between BD Riley’s and the division has raised more than \$5,000 in the past three years for local Catholic and hunger-based charities.



Competition winners were congratulated by AOH Treasurer Thomas Miner and BD Riley’s owner John Erwin.

New York

By Dan Dennehy, National Director

New division shows progress!

Thomas Addis Emmet AOH Division 17 of New Rochelle and the Pelhams, Westchester County have turned the tables on what many think about the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Since forming in October 2017, the Division meets in a place that Hibernians are quite familiar with for different reasons; the Pelham Funeral Home. Owned by Clive Anderson, a Cork immigrant and recent Irish Echo 40 Under 40 winner.

Myself and NYS Director Aidan O'Kelly Lynch attended the May meeting at Pelham Funeral Home to be greeted by a roomful of young Hibernians bursting with enthusiasm, fellowship and great ideas. We proudly presented their newly minted Charter to the Officers and membership. At that meeting, fifteen new members were sworn in!

Division 17 now has over 60 members! Most are under the age of 25 and are Iona College students or alumni. They have joined the AOH because they wanted to learn more and do more about their Irish, American, and Catholic heritage and the only organization that offered all of that to them was ours! They have started a Division Rugby team, are doing great charitable work in their community.

The Division President, James McGlashin, raised awareness of the need to restore a family plot of Robert Emmet's descendants in New Rochelle. Having raised the funds, the new Division is seeing that 14 Emmet graves are restored and reset including that of a U.S. admiral, a judge and family member who was a suffragette that raised funds for the 1916 Easter Rising. McGlashin secured a new grave-marker from the Department of Veteran's Affairs for Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Robert Temple Emmet and determined the location of the Founder of the Republican Party G.O.P. Judge Robert Emmet's burial place. On July 22, the Division will host a commemoration to unveil their labor of honor and new memorial at in Beechwoods Cemetery in New Rochelle. Contact Division President James McGlashin at jmcglashin1@gmail.com



Fifteen new Division members.



Charter granted to the Thomas Addis Emmet Division. On May 7, National Director Dan Dennehy and NYS Director Aidan O'Kelly Lynch presented the Charter to the newest Division in Westchester County in decades, the Thomas Addis Emmet Division. Accepting the Charter was Division President James McGlashin and his officers. The Division is comprised of mostly Iona College students and alumni and meets at the Pelham Funeral Home, owned by founding Division Treasurer Clive Anderson. Also that evening, 15 new Division members were sworn in. Photos by Dan Dennehy.

Tyrone AOH honors NY Clarke Memorial

County Tyrone Ancient Order of Hibernians at a special ceremony in Dungannon, honored New York State and Suffolk County AOH for its Thomas Clarke-Kathleen Daly Clarke Memorial in Manorville, in Suffolk County.

Tyrone County President Gerry McGeough presented plaques to New York State Secretary John Manning, and Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin, in Thomas Clarke's hometown of Dungannon, Ireland, on May 29, in an event co-hosted by the Thomas Clarke Gaelic Football Club at O'Neill Park. The New Yorkers, on behalf of State President Victor Vogel, presented a signed copy of the 1918 Irish Freedom Mandate measure passed by the State legislature, which was immediately put on display in the museum room.

The ceremony was opened by Tyrone County President Gerry McGeough. He noted: "Tyrone AOH is fully aware and deeply appreciative of the work done across the United States and particularly in New York State by the AOH, most recently the 1918 Irish Freedom Mandate. We do not often get the chance to thank you directly. Tyrone is especially proud that Thomas Clarke was a Tyrone man and a Dungannon man. We learned of the beautiful memorial that New York State AOH and Suffolk County have erected at his American homesite. We wanted to give special recognition to you and are grateful to your State President, Victor Vogel, and to you for coming and accepting these awards. County Tyrone AOH continues to grow, helped by groups like the Thomas Clarke Gaelic Football Club, here with us today, and the efforts of the AOH in America."

New York State Secretary John Manning said, "On behalf of the New York State Ancient Order Of Hibernians and representing our State President Vic Vogel, we are deeply grateful to County Tyrone AOH and the Thomas Clarke Gaelic Football Club for honouring us with these presentations."

Martin Galvin New York State FFAI Chairman, then presented a copy of the New York State legislature's measure honoring the centenary of Ireland's 1918 Mandate for Freedom to Michael Corrigan, the Chairman of the Thomas Clarke GFC, who hosted the ceremony. Galvin said: "It is very special for us as New York Hibernians to receive recognition in Ireland. One of the main objectives of the AOH in America is to promote Freedom for all Ireland. This year we will mark the centenary of the all Ireland vote where the Irish people voted an overwhelming mandate for freedom, for a 32 county all-Ireland parliament or Dail Eireann, and for the 1916 Rising. Tragically Britain answered this democratic vote for freedom with military oppression, sectarianism and partition and the price paid here in Tyrone and across the six counties. It never again permitted one all-Ireland vote."

Michael Corrigan, Chairman of the Thomas Clarke GFC, accepted the Mandate and announced it would permanently displayed in the Museum Room of the Stadium alongside a framed handwritten letter written by Thomas Clarke while in prison along with other historic items.

Other dignitaries included Dungannon Historian Bertie Foley, GAA official Art McCrory, Ladies AOH officers Michelle Robbins and Catherine Sewell, and Sperrins Mountains Environmental campaign activist Martin Tracey.



Martin Galvin with LAOH member Michelle Robbins.

Colorado

Colorado Divisions host National President and VP

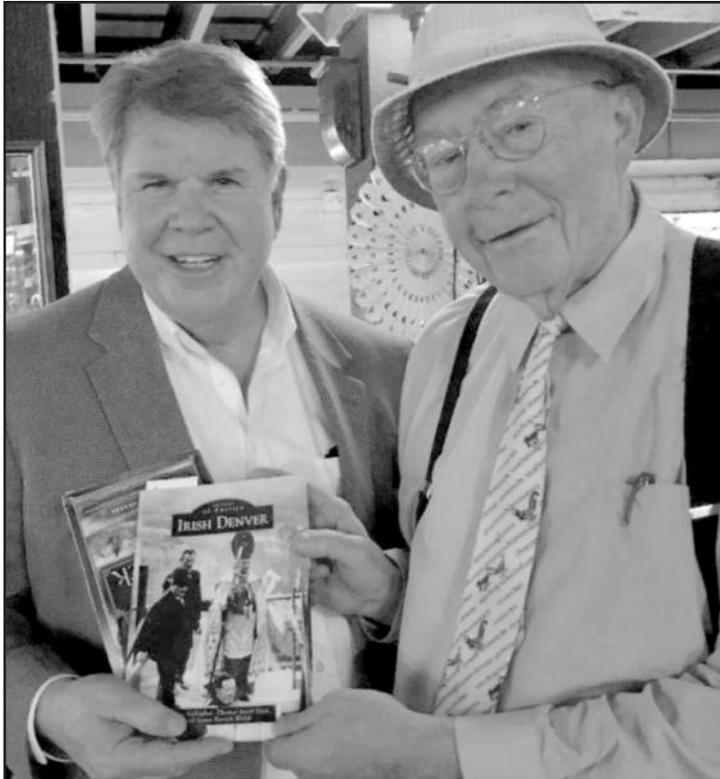
On May 25, the Father Joseph P. Carrigan Division, Michael Collins Division, and Ladies Denver Division 1 welcomed National President Judge James J. McKay and National Vice President Danny O'Connell to Denver, Colorado.

McKay and O'Connell visited Denver to view a potential site for the national convention in 2022. They spent two days exploring the city and visiting a prospective hotel.

Noel Hickey, member of the Carrigan Division and the owner of The Celtic on Market, hosted the three divisions as well as McKay and O'Connell for a gathering at his restaurant.

At the event, Tullamore DEW representatives offered a complimentary Irish whiskey tasting.

The three Colorado divisions were proud to host the top two national officers in their state, as the divisions are making a bid to host the national convention in 2022.



AOH national president Jim McKay with Dennis Gallagher, member of Michael Collins Division 1 of Denver and co-author of the history Irish Denver.

The National
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Division members confirmed

On May 12, John Tole and Kevin Croghan, both Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division, members were confirmed at a Mass at Annunciation Catholic Church in Denver, Colorado. Croghan's wife, Naomi, and Tole's fiancée, Shannon Fryman, were also confirmed. Fr. Charles Polifka, OFM, Cap., was the celebrant of the mass. Polifka serves as the chaplain for the Carrigan Division. Other members of the Carrigan division were there to support the confirmandees.



John Tole, bottom row, far right, and Kevin Croghan, top row, second from right, and Fr. Polifka, bottom row, center, after mass.



The two top national AOH officers, Judge Jim McKay and Danny O'Connell, both in center, visited Denver in May to meet with local Hibernian division members regarding the next national convention.

Indiana

Kevin Barry Division meets the Irish Ambassador

In a first time visit to Indianapolis, Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S., was introduced to and honored by members of a number of local Irish organizations, including Kevin Barry Division 3, AOH. The May 7 reception, organized by AOH member Kevin Murray, took place in the law offices of Forest Brown Todd, 201 N. Illinois St. In a well organized event, the articulate Ambassador Mulhall presented an informative and interesting account of Ireland's relationship with the U.S. – past, present and future. The evening was a treat for all.

Daniel Mulhall (62), from Waterford, Ireland, studied at University College Cork and graduated in 1975 with a BA, and later in 1979 with an MA, specializing in modern Irish history.

Mr. Mulhall joined Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1978. In 2001, he was posted to Malaysia as the Ambassador from Ireland; he was also assigned to Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. In 2009, he became Ireland's Ambassador to Germany. In 2013, he was named Ambassador to the United Kingdom. In 2017, Mulhall became the 18th Ambassador of Ireland to the United States.

Ambassador Mulhall's evening culminated with a very enjoyable trip to McGinley's Golden Ace Inn. Located on Indianapolis' eastside, it is Indiana's oldest Irish tavern owned by one family. The McGinley's are long-time members and active supporters of AOH.



Several AOH members in attendance at the event were: Lt to Rt. – Joe Cahill, Mike Beltrame, Chris Meehan, Ambassador Mulhall, Pat McNulty, Bob McCurdy, Pat Miles and Kevin Murray.

Ladies Hibernian News

LAOH National Treasurer

by Marilyn Madigan

Where has the time gone since our last National Convention? This has been a very busy and challenging term. I am grateful to all the Treasurers that I have worked with over the past two years. They are a dedicated group and our organization is lucky they are willing to serve.

During this term, some of our procedures changed. The first major change was that the National Accounts would be at the same financial institution. Officers and Appointees dealing with money kept their own records but everything was overseen by the National Treasurer. One month in to my term came the largest challenge for our organization. The letters from the IRS started coming in September in regards to the Tax Exemption Reinstatement Process. I want to say a special thank you to Kathryn Keane and her staff at Macanta for all their work with the reinstatement process. I am happy to report that all the Divisions, Counties and States that were submitted in 2016-2017 have been recognized as Tax exempt. The process continues with the new Divisions and State Boards. As tax exempt organizations, we are required to file annually the 990. Thank you to all Officers that dealt with the Tax exempt process and the filing of the 990's.

One of the most rewarding moments of being the National Treasurer is when you see the Year End Reports. I am serious about this!! The Year End Reports are a lot of work but rewarding when seeing all the donations to various charities throughout our country. We are a very generous order.

I have been honored to serve as a National Officer. With your blessing, I would like to continue to serve you. I am looking forward to the National Convention, meeting old friends and making new friends. Let us continue to live our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Ladies AOH National Board

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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

President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



By the time that you read this issue, we will be days from the start of the 2018 AOH-LAOH National Biennial Convention being hosted in Louisville KY. The local Louisville Convention Committee is busy finalizing the myriad of details that will enhance making all members' stay at the Galt House Hotel a great experience.

Your National Officers are also working to prepare reports for the service they have provided over the past two-years in the duties of their office or in the duties assigned to them. These officers are also preparing to chair committees that are related to some of their duties or to which they have gained experience through the years.

As I prepare to work with you as we, together, conduct the business of the Order at the 2018 National Convention, I ask you to pray with me, Come Holy Spirit. May we be blessed to be able to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit, namely, knowledge, wisdom, counsel, and patience as we share, deliberate, and make recommendations to benefit the full membership for the next two years. The decisions that are made at this 2018 National Convention will govern how we work at each level within the organization to meet our Mission as stated in our National Constitution, "While practicing Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, we will work to strengthen our Roman Catholic Faith, our Country, and our Communities; and perpetuate the religion, history, culture, and traditions of our Irish heritage."

I encourage all Convention participants to attend all general sessions and the individual committee sessions to which they are assigned or desire to attend. Your participation in these sessions should be two-fold: (1) to learn and (2) to share.

Let me take this opportunity to CONGRATULATE our LAOH 2018 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award recipient KATHLEEN SAVAGE of Massachusetts. She will receive her award during the Banquet on Friday evening.

I would be remiss, if I did not thank the State Presidents and State Secretaries for meeting the defined timelines for making committee recommendations, certifying delegate counts, and providing specified information so that delegate/alternate and observer credential cards may be prepared for the 2018 Convention participants.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you and to represent you as your National President during this 2016-2018 Term of Office. Each day I have renewed my commitment to serve and to focus on the needs of all members across the states, to focus on membership growth as well as to sustain our membership number, and to explore how we may be more effective and equitable as we carry-out the business of our Order. Thank you for the support you have provided me.

Pennsylvania

Columban Fathers Centennial Mass in Pennsylvania

On May 20, LAOH National Missions & Charities Officer Mary Ann Lubinsky, along with other PA LAOH, had the opportunity to attend one of the Columban Fathers' Centennial Masses being celebrated in different parts of the United States to commemorate their 100th Anniversary. The Mass was held at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in West Chester at 2 PM followed by a social. It was great having so many of the Columban Fathers at one Mass!



From left: Father Jim Dwyer, SSC; Eileen Modica, Montgomery County Division 2, Rae DiSpaldo, PA State President; Father Ron Kelso, SSC; Father Tim Mulroy, SSC; Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Missions and Charities Officer; Father John Berger, SSC; Father Tom Cusack, SSC; Father Gary Walker, SSC; and Bonnie Collins, Berks County Division 1. Thanks to Frans Lang, Development Officer of the Missionary Society of Saint Columban, for coordinating the afternoon.

District of Columbia

On Sunday, May 6, 2018, members of Division 9 of the DC Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians gathered at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC, for its annual Mass and ceremony in remembrance of the Nuns of the Battlefield. Ellen Ryan Jolly, past National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, was responsible for the initiation of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument Project. The Monument honors the Catholic nuns who cared for soldiers from both sides during the Civil War. The Nuns of the Battlefield Monument was dedicated on September 20, 1924. After Mass, the chaplain, Rev. John Hurley, began a ceremony by blessing the Monument. In addition to readings by Father Hurley, Ann Durkin Fisher, President, delivered remarks about the selflessness of the nuns, and Margaret Dee, Catholic Action Chairman, delivered remarks about Mrs. Jolly.



Ann Durkin Fisher, of the LAOH DC Division, is standing in front of the Nuns of the Battlefield monument.

Catholic Action

by Colleen Bowers, National LAOH

I want to thank you for entrusting me as your National Catholic Action Officer for the past two years. By now you should have all your quarterly and final reports for your Project St. Patrick & SOAR donations up to May 31, 2018. I will have an addendum for my final report at the convention ending June 30, 2018.

SPIRIT OF ST. BRIGID

This year we are having a Baby Shower for the Golden Arrow Center that the sisters of Louisville support through the year. As Catholics we believe in helping the mothers who have chosen life and this is a way to help this charity to provide local help to these mothers and children in their needs. I am including a list from the Charity, which details who they are and on this brochure the needs are listed. There will be a table near the registration desk and an additional table in the LAOH general meeting room. All are asked to participate in one way or another to make this "Spirit of St. Brigid Baby Shower". If you can't make a product donation we do accept monetary donations. All monetary contributions are tax-deductible and are used to pay for our operating expenses and items urgently needed by our clients.

WHERE:

2018 National AOH/LAOH Convention
Galt Hotel

Registration Area
Louisville, KY

BENEFITING CHARITY
GOLDEN ARROW CENTER

The Golden Arrow Center is a non-profit agency, which provides assistance to mothers and children. Established in 1997 as an outreach ministry of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, the center works in conjunction with the Schuhmann Center.

Who They Serve:

The Golden Arrow Center serves 200 households and 400 children per month. The Golden Arrow Center provides services to those in need without regard to race, color, religion (creed), gender, age or national origin.

Services They Provide:

On the client's first visit, she is given the Full Baby Closet Visit, which will provide the baby with diapers, formula, baby food, and clothing. Clothing and diapers are given out every two months upon completion of the clothing voucher. The clothing voucher was implemented in order to give clients a base to take ownership of their lives and decisions.

If you want to inquire about mailing items to the Golden Arrow directly Emily Nolan is the Director and her phone is 502-550-5584.

ITEMS NEEDED: Diapers & Wipes, Baby Food & Formula, Children's Clothing & Shoes (Age Newborn to 8 years), Maternity Clothing, Baby Toiletries, Baby Bottles & Bibs, Receiving Blankets

New Jersey

Passing On Our Culture

Katie Martin grew up in an Irish-American household in West Windsor, NJ and experienced things typical of many Irish kids: marching in St Patrick's Day parades, eating corned beef dinners and listening to Irish music. However, it was a trip that she took at the age of 16 that gave her a deeper exposure to her Irish roots. In the summer of 2016, Katie (along with her parents and 4 siblings) took a 14-day trip to Ireland to visit relatives as well as villages in Dingle and Cork from where her ancestors came. As Katie describes it, "Visiting Ireland opened my eyes to a culture I could never have imagined I came from. Experiencing such a personal trip inspired me to travel more and left me wanting to go back."

When she started school the following fall, she heard about a scholarship program run by AOH Division 10 of Mercer County, NJ. The scholarship, known as the Billy Briggs Memorial Scholarship, was created for students ages 15-17 who are interested in exploring, enhancing, and celebrating their Irish culture. The scholarship was created by the Division to honor the memory of "Irish Billy" Briggs, who passed away in 2008. Billy had a great passion for Ireland and its people and was the owner of Tir na nOg, Mercer County's resident Irish pub, and also a founding member of the Trenton St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Katie jumped at the chance to win the scholarship and was excited when she found out a few months later that she was a scholarship recipient. As a recipient she attended Gael Linn Irish College in County Donegal for 3 weeks in the summer of 2017. As Katie recalls of the experience, "I had the opportunity to meet and grow close to people who I would've otherwise never met. We've stayed in touch and I still talk to many of them frequently. I also got to experience the beauty of Donegal and learn much more about the Irish language and culture."

In addition to attending Gael Linn school in Ireland, Katie was also fortunate enough to experience another local program affiliated with the AOH Division 10: the Gael Scoil. The Gael Scoil is held annually in Mercer County, NJ. It is a fun filled two-day program offering young people an immersive tour of Ireland through its people, their history, culture and environment.

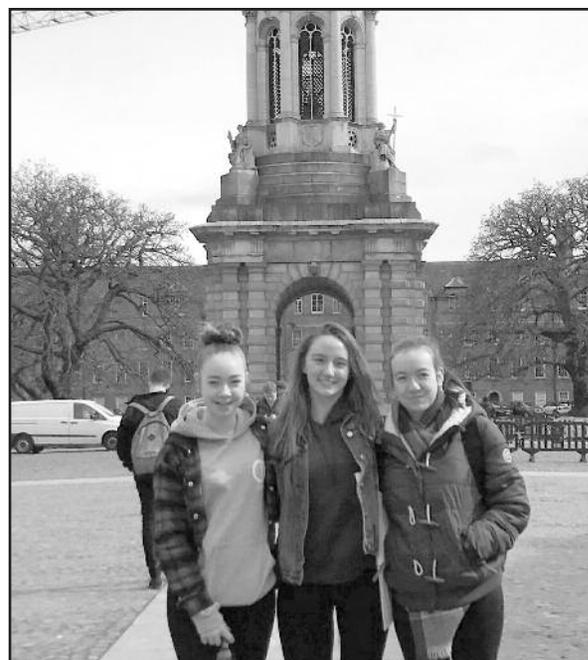
All of these experiences inspired Katie to think about the possibility of studying in Ireland after graduation from high school. In the fall of her senior year, she applied to

12 different colleges, but at the top of her list was Trinity College in Dublin. She was thrilled to receive her acceptance to Trinity in February of this year and immediately planned a long weekend trip to Dublin in order to get an in-depth tour of the College and the city. She knew after that trip that Trinity was the right school for her and accepted Trinity's offer in April.

Katie will be leaving on her next Irish adventure in August 2018 and will be studying Global Business at the prestigious Trinity Business School. As she looks forward to continuing her education, Katie feels that "The program I applied to is challenging, but to study Global Business in a city like Dublin is a once in a lifetime opportunity".

The LAOH hope to see her as a future member. Good luck Katie!

(Article submitted by Matt Martin, Division 10)



Katie, center, with 2 friends that she met at Gael Linn school in Donegal. Photo taken on her visit to the Trinity campus in March 2018.

New York

Freedom For All Ireland News

New York wrapped up the 2017-2018 FFAI Christmas Appeal Campaign sending over \$6,000 to National Chair Mary T. Leathem for the programs in need. This has been a banner year for the LAOH Nationally with contributions increasing by 100% from last year! The total amount of funds raised nationally by the LAOH for the Christmas Appeal this year is over \$19,000. What an incredible accomplishment – Sisters Take a BOW!

The NYS Boards of the AOH and LAOH under the leadership of Vic Vogel and Jackie Clute respectively, worked together this spring to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Irish Referendum. Through the election results back in 1918 the people of Ireland voted to set up their own legislating body, the Dáil which still exists today. NYS FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin and his team were responsible for working on two legislation resolutions recognizing this historic anniversary in both the NYS Senate and NYS Assembly. Many of our Sisters and Brothers from across the state descended upon Albany on April 24th to attend these legislative sessions and promote the Irish in America. Dolores Desch, NYS LAOH Chair worked with



Some of the LAOH members and officers who participated in the Hibernians' visit to the Legislature in Albany. Photos by John O'Connell

Chairman Galvin as well as the Albany local committee including Ciaran Gereghy, John Levendosky, Cliff Nolan and Cathy Davis to host an event at the Albany Hall following the legislative sessions. At the reception, all donations accepted at the door were forwarded to the Tyrone AOH/LAOH in the North of Ireland.

In April, National Secretary Karen Keane and NYS FFAI Chair Dolores Desch attended the NYC Launch of the McGuinness Principles at the Roosevelt House in NYC. The McGuinness Principles represent the mandates of the Good Friday Agreement which 20 years on, have not been fully implemented. The Principles are simply, Equality, Truth, Respect and Self-Determination. The event was hosted by NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. The Comptroller shared his memories of visiting Derry to meet with Martin McGuinness and Ian Paisley to discuss the investments of the NYS Pension funds in Northern Ireland Business. Also in attendance at the event at the Roosevelt House were Martin's two sons, Emmet and Fiachra who spoke of their father, his legacy and the need to see the Good Friday Agreement requirements fully implemented. At the LAOH NYS Board Meeting in May, the NYS delegation voted to endorse the McGuinness Principles.



State Presidents Jacqueline Clute and Vic Vogel receive a framed copy of the special resolution from State Senator Phil Boyle.

Michigan

St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award Winner turns 90.

The Ethel Kennedy Division in Macomb County had their annual Irish Display promoting Irish Culture/Heritage at the Roseville Library. Their display was for the month of March and had a great mixture of Waterford, Beleck, jewelry, books, clothing and CD's. They also dedicated half of the display showcase to Blessed Solanus Casey with books, posters and magazines. They won second place for a float they built with the AOH Fr. Solanus Casey Division for the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. The float had a Porter's Lodge, and a cutout of Fr. Solanus as the greeter. Their charities included collecting gently used clothing, shoes and household items for the Second Hand Rose Resale Store, in Mt. Clemens. The store supports Turning Point an organization for woman and children that have experienced domestic violence.



L-R Loretta Sisung, Maureen Shelton, Sr. Ann Currier, Karen Mayes and Mary Reeber are some of the Mary of the Gael Division members in Monroe, MI who recently celebrated Sr. Ann Currier's 90th birthday. Sr. Ann is an IHM nun, Chaplain and member of this Division. She was awarded the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award in 2014. Sr. Ann resides at the IHM Motherhouse and actively helps those in need on a daily basis; collecting items and driving them to various shelters. When asked how she is Sr. Ann always always replies, "greatly blessed." We all feel 'greatly blessed' to know her.

Our Lady of Limerick Division of Genesee County continues to have their monthly Mass at different churches in the Flint area. They sold corn beef sandwiches and Irish stew as a fundraiser and served as judges for the Miss Hibernia pageant at the pre St. Patrick's Day Party put on by the Flint AOH. Along with the AOH they formed an honor guard at the Mass on St. Patrick's Day celebrated by Bishop Boyea and many priests of the Flint area. They are planning on their bi-annual Bunco night to benefit St. Luke New Life Center.

St Brigid of the Bay, in Bay County reported their division donated personal items to a local nursing home and the Rescue Mission, brought food items to Our Lady of Peace Food Pantry, and adopted four families for Easter. They are working on a date for a fundraiser to Little River Casino.

Massachusetts



Pictured are members of Div.10, Lynn and Div.14, Watertown at Memorial Day Parade in Watertown.

New York Hibernians gather in the Catskills

The New York State Board held its annual spring Hibernian Weekend on May 4-6 in Greene County, in the Catskill Mountains.

The gathering began on May 4 with the James F. Hayes Golf Outing at the Sunny Hill Golf Course. The event included the presentation of the first Tommy Thompson Best Dressed Golfer Award, in memory of the beloved and greatly missed Suffolk County Hibernian who recently died. Thompson was a happy fixture of the spring board meeting weekend for many years, and well known to be a true Hibernian. An enjoyable post tournament dinner was held at the Shamrock House, in East Durham.

The very well attended board meeting on May 5 accomplished many important tasks. It also was held at the Shamrock House.

Many attendees stayed the weekend at the Shamrock House, the Black Thorne Resort, and other motels in the East Durham area, including the famous Gavin's Hotel and Resort, where many Hibernians enjoyed themselves at the pub each night, with entertainment by Andy Cooney and other Irish bands.

Fr. Henry Reid said Mass at out Lady of Knock Chapel in East Durham on Sunday, May 6.

Photos by John O'Connell



State and National Board officers stand in support of the McGuinness Principles. (See National Treasurer Sean Pender's article, page 4.) From left, National VP Danny O'Connell, National Director Dan Dennehy, National President Judge Jim McKay, Sean Pender, NY State President Vic Vogel, State Chairman of Political Action Neil Cosgrove, National Secretary Jere Cole and Past State and National President Brendan Moore.



National Board officers joined state officers to celebrate Hibernian action in getting state resolutions passed in the Legislature honoring the Irish 1918 Freedom Mandate. From left, National officers Tim McSweeney, Liam McNabb, Sean Pender, Jere Cole and Danny O'Connell, New York State President Vic Vogel, National President Judge James McKay, and State FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin.



Holding their newly awarded Missions & Charities certificates for outstanding service to our Motto, these Hibernians were honored for their division's or county's generosity.

Irish American Heritage Museum Executive Director Elizabeth Stack, PhD, was a special guest before the state board meeting began on May 5. She spoke of the museum, in Albany, and of its accomplishments, its goals and its needs, and of the gratitude the museum has for the AOH and LAOH. Elizabeth, a native of County Kerry, is formerly the associate director of the Institute of Irish Studies at Fordham University, where she taught Irish-American History. The museum is located at 370 Broadway, Albany, NY. (518) 427-1916. Visit <https://irish-us.org>



NY Hibernians gathered after the State Board Spring Meeting closing Mass on May 6 at Our Lady of Knock chapel in East Durham.

NY State honors Ireland's 1918 Freedom Mandate

PHOTOS BY JOHN O'CONNELL

Hibernians from Suffolk County to the City of Buffalo, led by State Presidents Victor Vogel and Jacqueline Clute, were applauded in the New York State Senate and Assembly chambers, and won State Legislative Resolutions honoring "Ireland's 1918 Freedom Mandate." The AOH and LAOH picked April 24th, the calendar day of the 1916 Rising, to honor the historic election where Ireland stunned Britain by voting for the Easter Rising and a free Irish parliament or Dail Eireann. The ceremonies in both state houses preceded a celebration at the Albany AOH Hall, where Senator Phil Boyle presented a framed copy of the State Senate Resolution to the State Presidents.

Senate

Senator Boyle opened the state Senate session with the "Irish Freedom Mandate 1918" topping the agenda. The bill, recently passed in both the Senate and Assembly, recounted the history of the 1918 Freedom Mandate, then went on to commend the AOH-LAOH for making this key chapter in Irish history properly remembered by New York State.

Despite a last minute schedule change and early morning session, a strong AOH-LAOH delegation attended, led by both State Presidents, National Secretary Karen Keane, State Secretary John Manning, Hibernian Digest National Editor John O'Connell, State Treasurer Regina Begley, Past Presidents Jim Burke, Tim McSweeney and Chip McLean, and FFAI Chairs Dolores Desch and Martin Galvin among other state and county officers.

Senator Boyle spoke of the import of the resolution and his pride in being a member of the AOH. Senator Martin Golden, then stood to speak about his own pride in Irish heritage, his wish for the reunification of Ireland and the major part in Irish history played by the "exiled children in America." Senator Klein then talked about the Irish desire for freedom and hardships the Irish over came, in common with the experiences of so many American immigrants to America.

The Senators stood and applauded the AOH and LAOH for raising this important issue. The Senate then suspended to permit the AOH-LAOH to come forward for photographs.

Assembly

Nearly 100 AOH-LAOH members packed the gallery for the Assembly session that afternoon. State VP Tom Lambert, National Directors Dan Dennehy and Liam McNabb, LAOH State officers Joann Gunderson and Cathie Doherty, among many

others, joined as Speaker Carl Heastie welcomed the delegation. Bronx County President Bob Nolan was designated by his cousin, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, to sit alongside her as a special representative for the AOH-LAOH.

Assembly Sponsor Cusick spoke about how the legislature honored the 100th anniversary of 1916, and should not forget that in 1918, Ireland voted popular support for the freedom proclaimed in 1916 and to have a free Irish parliament. Assemblywoman Nolan followed and spoke about the resolution.

Celebration at the Hall

Hibernians then went to the Albany AOH Hall for a celebration co-hosted by AOH Division 5 led by Ciaran Geraghty and John Levendosky and LAOH Division 1 led by Dolores Desch and Cathy Davis.

The highlight of this event was the formal presentation of a framed copy of the State Resolution by Senator Boyle to State Presidents Victor Vogel and Jacqueline Clute. State President Vogel noted that Senator Boyle was a member of the AOH and thanked him and all the Senators and Assembly members who voted for these important Irish resolutions and all the AOH-LAOH members who lobbied for their support.

An Aide to State Comptroller DiNapoli spoke about the Comptroller's backing on the MacBride Principles and recently the McGuinness Principles.

National Director Liam McNabb praised the united effort from around the state which had gotten the votes to pass these Resolutions.

New York State AOH Freedom-for -all-Ireland Chair Martin Galvin noted:

"In 1916, Irish patriots proclaimed and fought for Ireland's right to freedom. In 1918 the Irish people voted for that freedom. This year we mark the centenary of the 1918 all-Ireland election where by electing 73 Sinn Fein candidates out of 105 pledged to a free Irish Parliament rather than a British parliament, the Irish shocked Britain and voted popular support for the Rising and freedom.

"Sadly we must remember that Britain's response was to jail many of those elected, outlaw the Irish parliament and today six counties are still denied freedom for all Ireland."

LAOH FFAI Chair Dolores Desch then concluded by speaking about the 1918 Irish election, where women were allowed to vote, and Sinn Fein campaigned on a platform of national freedom as proclaimed in 1916. She called for support for initiatives such as the McGuinness Principles to finally see freedom for all of Ireland.



New York Hibernian officers celebrated the passage of state legislation in recognition of Ireland's 1918 Freedom Mandate. At the podium of the New York State Senate Chamber on April 24 were, from left, state LAOH FFAI chair Dolores Desch, Senator Phil Boyle, AOH State President Vic Vogel, State LAOH President Jacqueline Clute, AOH FFAI chair Martin Galvin and Senator Martin Golden.



Hibernians gathered in the state Assembly chamber to witness the members recognize the AOH and LAOH efforts to secure passage of legislation honoring the 1918 Freedom Mandate. The Hibernians present were applauded by the Assembly members present. In the front, from far left, were State President Vic Vogel, FFAI Chair Martin Galvin, Cathy Davis of Albany Division 1, State President Jacqueline Clute, State VP Tom Lambert, FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, Public Relations Chair Jeri Hess, Catholic Action Chair Catherine Norton Doherty, Treasurer Regina Begley, Past State President Karen Keane.



New York Hibernians at the Albany Hall.