

## Father Donegan to be honored with MacBride Award

Hibernian Presidents Jim McKay and Carol Sheyer announced in Belfast City Hall that Father Gary Donegan has been selected the 2019 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award recipient, by unanimous consent.

The worthy presidents were in Belfast leading a group of more than three dozen Hibernians on an official Freedom For Ireland Tour, to present over \$86,000 to approved FFAI program recipients to announce Fr. Donegan as the McBride Award recipient, and to hold formal meetings in Belfast and Dublin. Much more on the FFAI Tour in the next Digest.

Guests of Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey, the large group of Hibernians on the FFAI tour gathered to witness the announcement. Father Gary was overwhelmed when he graciously accepted the honor.

Nominated by AOH National Director Liam McNabb, AOH National Organizer Tim McSweeney, and NYS AOH President and National Project St. Patrick Chairman Vic Vogel, Fr. Gary is a Passionist priest, from County Fermanagh, who served as rector of Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne in North Belfast for 15 years. During this time, Holy Cross lost 99 parishioners during the Troubles – the largest loss of life in any parish.

Fr. Donegan's years at Ardoyne also included the blockade of Holy Cross Girls' Primary School in 2001, a suicide epidemic that saw 13 teenagers die in six weeks in 2004, and a series of parades disputes, which finally saw agreement in 2016.

Fr. Donegan is credited with having shown unwavering



Fr. Gary Donegan, second from left, has been named the Hibernians' 2019 McBride Humanitarian Award recipient. The announcement was made by AOH President McKay, left, and LAOH President Carol Sheyer, right, during an official visit with Belfast Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey.

dedication to achieving peace and reconciliation for the north Belfast community, playing a key role in talks and negotiations and contributing to building a shared society. He worked across the religious divide to help people dealing with issues related to legacy, economic, social and generational challenges.

He was instrumental in Holy Cross Ardoyne Trust's transformation of the former Holy Cross Boys' Community School into a community facility called the Houben Centre, and that is **continued on page 23**

## Hibernians March for Life in D.C.



The AOH National Board and members of several State Boards and Hibernians from around the country marched for life in Washington, D.C. on January 18. National officers at the banner were, from left, Director Ed Halligan, Secretary Jere Cole, V.P. Danny O'Connell, President Judge James McKay, Treasurer Sean Pender and Director Dennis Parks. Photos by National Editor John O'Connell. More photos on page 24.

### By John Patrick Walsh, Pro-Life Chairman

The pipes were calling on Constitution Avenue during the annual March for Life as Hibernians from across the nation gathered to stand witness for the unborn. At the urging of President Jim McKay, this year's contingent was led by two of our Pennsylvania brothers playing the bagpipes. Additionally, the new national banners, introduced by National Organizer Tim

McSweeney in Louisville, helped make the Hibernians a recognizable presence to those in attendance or watching live on EWTN.

Special thanks are due to Frs. Henry Reid (NY), John Hurley (DC) and Deacon Stephen Mitchell (DC) for celebrating our

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The National  
**hibernian digest**

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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**All fore charity**

The 2018 Division 32 Charitable Report per Brother John Moriarty is in, and \$9,893 was donated. The four largest donations were \$2,500, for Roman Catholic school students for five scholarships: \$1,000 for Misericordia, and \$500 each for Seminarian Colm Mitchell and a lady recovering from a serious accident. The rest were smaller donations to dozens of well deserving causes such as: a Viet Nam U.S. Army Vet who suffered a stroke; Make-A-Wish; an education fund for a deceased brother's children; Chicago Police Memorial Foundation; Young Irish Fellowship; St. Gregory Social Care; Honor Flight Chicago; and the Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen. Division 32 Hibernians are always on the lookout for causes such as these worthy of financial support.

For 2019 this amount is anticipated to increase slightly. The main event to fund 2019 charities will be the Friday, May 31, D32 Golf Outing at the Edgebrook Golf Club. Golfers, hole sponsors, and door prizes are sought for this annual event that helps fill the charitable donation coffers. For details on this and other Division 32 events, check Facebook AOHAOH.





## president's message

by Jim McKay III

By the time you read this article, we will be well into the "green season" of our year with all the preparations of 2019 St. Patrick's Day events. I hope all goes well with the celebrations across the country honoring our Patron Saint of Ireland.

Many Hibernians recently descended on Washington, D.C., for the Right to Life March. It was one of the biggest turnouts we've had for this very solemn commemoration in recent memory. The weather cooperated as much as it could for January; the sun was bright and warm across our faces. This year we had something special as we had two pipers from Pennsylvania, thanks to Brother Joe Hosie, which let everyone know from afar who we were. It really added to our presence and made us much more cohesive as a group.

The recent upheaval in the North of Ireland that is caused by BREXIT is ongoing, unfortunately with no end in sight. Our National PEC Chairman Neil Cosgrove has been covering the story daily and keeps us informed with in-depth articles on the subject through the Hibernian Digest as well as our monthly email blast. These are difficult times in the North as well as in the Republic and all Brothers should try and stay abreast of the developments there.

On a brighter note, this is also the time for our Freedom For All Ireland Appeal, which is winding down from the collection mode. This committee is being led by very competent and enthusiastic Brother Martin Galvin from New York and he led a tour in Ireland in the early part of February to distribute funds. The cutoff date for the request of monetary donations was the end of January. We have over 15 donation requests for aid. We will be meeting shortly to make the determination if these requesting groups fit our criteria and what amounts they should be given. As is the national policy, donation amounts will be published annually by category in the Hibernian Digest.

As you all should be aware, the Project St. Patrick's Easter Appeal has begun. It is headed by our very competent Brother Vic Vogel and I know he has already hit the ground running. It raises funds for seminary and religious scholarships throughout the country. These funds will be distributed through the many Dioceses and Archdioceses throughout this country.

This is the year for state conventions and we ask all State Presidents to turn in the dates that the state conventions have been planned so that we may publish them in the Digest. We would also like to thank all those Division Presidents who were present on the State President's conference call last month. It was a huge success, we had over 40 callers. We plan to have several before the end of the year.

The AOH biennial President's Dinner is scheduled for October 19th in Washington, D.C. A bloc of rooms has been set aside at the Marriott Metro Center on the Hill in downtown Washington. This bloc is for an exceptionally good rate, which you don't generally run across in that area, so those who are interested should act now. The banquet that evening is also scheduled at the Marriott and in the tradition, a Mass will be held prior to the festivities at St. Patrick's Church one block away from the hotel on that day. That evening we will present our very prestigious Sean MacBride Award. As per our constitution, this is a joint event of the AOH/LAOH. Nominations were taken from both organizations for which both National Boards voted for their selection. The recipient for 2019 will be Father Gary Donegan, from Co. Fermanagh. For years Father Gary had been assigned to the Holy Cross School in Ardoyne, which as most of you may remember, was the scene of a great deal of anti-Catholic bigotry by the Unionists in that area. Much of this bigotry was caught on news cameras and telecast all over the world. All during that time, Father Gary showed the resilience and patience of a true Irish hero. Father Gary has recently moved to the Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre in Crossgar, Co. Down. However, despite having been moved to a different area, he is still very much involved in helping to deliver a practical peace and reconciliation in the North of Ireland.

I hope you all have a memorable and holy St. Patrick's Day and hope that your state conventions are successful and fruitful.

## Email blast enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

The national email system provides an opportunity for the National Board to share information with members between publications of the Hibernian Digest. This system also gives us instant contact with our members when we need a call to action on any Hibernian issue.

Most recently, the call to action went live as Neil Cosgrove, Political Education Chairman, activated the system to promote the approval of Edward Crawford as Irish Ambassador.

Neil prepared a letter to be sent to each member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee. Then he prepared talking points and direct telephone numbers for each Senator.

Finally, we initiated a blast to every member in each state involved requesting immediate action.

If you do not receive our email blasts and wish to be a part of our call to action team, please be sure to get your email updated on your membership information. Your financial secretary can update your information today. We need you as part of our team.



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

The month of February rolled in bringing with it my first experience with hospice care. My father, Jack O'Connell, officially transitioned to hospice care on January 30. He passed away on February 11. This new experience, this new challenge, would simply be impossible to handle without my family. Beginning with Abbie O., my immediate family, my extended family and friends, and my Hibernian family. I'm not sure he knows it, but Judge McKay spoke to me about this last fall as we prepared for our convention meeting in Orlando. His words changed my whole outlook on the day-to-day care of my parents. I have embraced every moment, every opportunity to be with mom and dad, good days became great days and bad days became good days.

The discussions I've had with the Judge, Brendan, Seamus and so many of my Hibernian brothers and sisters, on the phone, by email or in person helped prepare me for what lies ahead each day moving forward. What an incredible group we have here. Wow, you have helped me be at peace. Brendan shared something Pope Francis wrote last year: "no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted." This came to mind today as I left my parents, returning to work, and thinking about how amazing, generous and incredible they have been. As I approached my office, I spoke with Jim Green about AOH business, about my parents, especially Dad, and as we prepared to end the call Jim said, "Peace be with you." Wow, what an incredible group of people make up the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Although difficult to write at this moment, thank you John O'Connell for the deadline extension, Pop would not be happy if I neglected my Hibernians duties. So here goes....

Our annual giving, The Label Program, is in full swing. So many have been so generous on behalf of our charitable work. Donations have ranged from \$1 to several hundred dollars; each donation as important as the next. This opportunity to help others is one we should embrace. The key to success in this our only direct-ask from our membership, is participation! As of today, 4.89 percent of our membership, 1,473 members, have chosen to help Hibernians Charities. Thank you all, you are the core of our success. I would ask the remaining 95 percent to consider a label donation today.

As we approach Irish American Heritage Month and St. Patrick's Day, our marketing efforts are in full swing. We will be in a full court press beginning with the Irish Echo's top 40 under 40 Irish Americans. It is no surprise to me that the AOH has five members of this elite group this year. Congratulations Patrick Dowdell, Michael Joyce, Kevin O'Keefe, Leander Patterson and John Patrick Walsh. In the hands of brothers like these the future of the AOH is bright.

Our first-ever effort with EWTN begins spreading the word about the work of the Hibernians to Catholics around the country, and our efforts with Irish Central will be tripled during this time. What can you do to be part of this effort and help guarantee our success? You can recruit, recruit and recruit at every turn. Over the next several weeks you will be with more Irish Catholics than maybe the rest of the year combined. Now is the time to invite them to join. Remember, [www.aoh.com/join](http://www.aoh.com/join) gets them to our application.

I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers. The road of life should never be traveled alone and, as a Hibernian, I know I have extended family from coast to coast so I will never be alone. We are the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Throughout the next several weeks as we celebrate our heritage, remember who you are: you are a Hibernian, make us proud! Peace be with you, Danny O.



The late Jack O'Connell and his son, our AOH Vice President.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

By the time you read this I trust you have all paid your per capita, which was due on Feb. 15, 2019. If you have not paid please do so immediately. **You will be happy to know that as of Jan. 31, ALL 2019 cards were distributed to the divisions.**

As you heard now for some months, we are in the process of radically changing the routine record keeping of our Order. Unfortunately, in the changeover to our new system, some of your data (Form 40s) may not have been included in the 2019 cards you just received. We will correct this but please understand our priority was to get all divisions their cards in January. Now that is achieved, we may circle back to fix any issues or omissions, or perhaps you will be able to fix the data through your Financial Secretary.

Over the next few months your individual Financial Secretaries will be responsible for updating your membership roster. The changes they make will be validated on our end and cards will be printed and forwarded back to your division.

Essentially what this entails is that the database will be available securely through our website [www.AOH.com](http://www.AOH.com). Your Financial Secretary will have secure access to your roster, but may not see other division's data.

As of this writing we are entering into a test with several divisions to perfect the system. When we roll the system out to everyone you will receive detailed instructions for access and manipulation of your data.

Needless to say, this changeover **REQUIRES ACCESS TO A COMPUTER**, so if your financial secretary does not have one you need to take steps to cover this provision either by appointing a deputy F/S or electing another individual.

Similarly, there are still 13 divisions **WHERE REMARKABLY NO OFFICER HAS AN EMAIL ADDRESS. THIS MUST CHANGE IMMEDIATELY** in order that we get everyone up and running.

I realize this degree of change is never simple, please contact my office if you have any concerns and we will make it work.



## Director's report

by Bill Sullivan

As you read this edition of the Hibernian Digest, Irish Heritage Month has arrived and over the next 20 plus days, events will be taking place locally and nationally to showcase and celebrate Irish culture at its best! Just as in other parts of the U.S., the New England region will host a cascade of activities honoring the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Hopefully during many of these events, Divisions will plan to recruit new members. As many of you already know, President McKay has set membership recruitment as a top priority. Please do your part to help foster this goal. Your Division and the AOH will profit from it!

As mentioned in the last edition of the Digest, the AOH National Board is offering a \$1,000 Irish Way Scholarship, as well as two \$2,000 College Study Abroad Scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland. Scholarships for a semester of study at a college in Ireland will be considered if money is available. Please see the application request form at <https://aoh.com/scholarships/> for more information. For information and an application on the Irish Way Scholarship, please contact Carol Buck at the Irish American Cultural Institute. Carol's email address is [cbuck@iaci-usa.org](mailto:cbuck@iaci-usa.org) or you can write to her at The Irish American Cultural Institute, PO Box 1716, Morristown, NJ 07962.

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to visit and take part in a variety of AOH and Irish-related events. I have attended the Connecticut State and Massachusetts State Board meetings, as well as several County Board and Division meetings and Installations. Looking forward, the Massachusetts State Boards will hold their State Convention on the weekend of May 3-5 in Falmouth, MA, and the Connecticut State Board's State Convention will take place in Waterbury, CT, on the weekend of June 21-23. The Rhode Island State Board Convention's date has not been set but is expected to take place in September.

One of the greatest problems facing the Catholic Church today is the dwindling number of men and women who are seeking religious vocations. To help provide stipends to those who seek a religious vocation, the AOH and LAOH have established Project St. Patrick. In mid-December all members received a set of AOH address labels. Please consider contributing to this fund-raising effort. All monies received after expenses are used for Project Saint Patrick. Your donation for these labels not only helps provide financial assistance to those in religious life, but also identifies you as a member of the AOH. Please use them to show your Irish and Hibernian pride! If you have not already sent in your contribution, please consider doing so, as soon as possible.

On a somber note, on January 30 word was received that Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT, which houses the world's largest collection of Great Hunger-related art, is in danger of closing. Judy Olian, the new president of Quinnipiac, is reassessing college priorities and resources, including future funding for the museum. The prevailing thought at this time is that the Museum must become self-sufficient or face the possibility of being closed. What a tragedy this would be for Irish America if this were to occur!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: [williamsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamsullivan@verizon.net) Happy Saint Patrick's Day!



## Director's report

by Dan Dennehy

### AOH Landmark Grant from Ireland to Grow the Order

National VP Danny O'Connell, National Treasurer Sean Pender and I worked to achieve a 2018 \$30,000 Emigrant Support Grant from the Irish Abroad Unit of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs or AO. This a first for AOH National Board that is being purposed for promotion, marketing and significant technology enhancements to National Secretary's Office. I am also working with National & State Organizers towards starting a new Division in Warwick, Orange County, NY, where once we had one.

### McGuinness Principles

Working on increasing success made in Yonkers United Irish Counties, Cork Assn. and Brehon Law Societies with new endorsements for the McGuinness Principles. We ask that all of you start on City and County then State. I teamed up to promote the McGuinness Principles info booth with IAUC President Peter Kissel at the Friends Of Sinn Fein dinner. <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com>

I also joined Past National President Brendan Moore, National Treasurer Sean Pender, and National PEC Neil Cosgrove to meet with Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein President MaryLou McDonald and her predecessor Gerry Adams on McGuinness Principles, Brexit and discussed an Irish Referendum set for May 24, 2019, on Emigrant Voting in Irish Elections. All AOH must encourage family/friends in Ireland to say YES on May 24 for Irish citizens in the six counties and emigrants.

### Coordinated Efforts for the Community

Honored to assist in arranging a first-ever off-campus Irish Consular Reception at St Barnabas High School, which brought entire community to St Barnabas for an honest exchange of opinions with NY Irish Consul Staff and Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Immigration Delegation including Billy Lawless. FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and I participated in the lively and festive Christmas themed program. <https://bit.ly/2RSUwKr>

### 2019 FFAI Trip to Ireland

I was delighted to assist National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin in arranging the Dublin portion of the FFAI Trip, which included Judge McKay and I participating in Joint Oireachtas Hearing on Irish Immigration, also planning of meetings with T.D.s and Senators, a walking tour of Dublin and the Dail, an evening at Padraig Pearse birthplace, and talks and reception at the Dail and Iveagh House.

### Saint Patrick's Parade honors

My wife Siobhan and I are humbled by recognition received for the 30th Annual Peekskill St Patrick's Parade on March 9 and subsequent dinner as Co-Grand Marshals. On Saturday, March 16 Siobhan has also been selected as Aide at Large to New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal, Dr. Brian O'Dwyer. We accept these Saint Patrick's Season honors with extreme gratitude, to honor those who came before us and encourage leadership in younger community members.



## Director's report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you well. As we approach another St. Patrick's Day and Irish-American Heritage Month, please remember that, as our National President Judge McKay says, "We are the voice of Irish America." This is an opportune time not only to showcase what the AOH is all about, but to recruit new members. Does your Division have all the recruiting material it needs? National Organizer Tim McSweeney has created fillable recruitment posters in the PDF format. These posters enable you to input your Division information directly into the poster and then take them to your local printer to be printed in any size and on any stock. These posters give your Division an economical but dynamic way to get your message out. Please contact me at the email below or National Organizer Tim McSweeney at [newjack12007@yahoo.com](mailto:newjack12007@yahoo.com) to get copies.

Is your Division looking for a way to raise funds for Missions and Charities? Recently, the Mark Heffernan Division in Akron, OH, which is my home Division, showcased the movie Black 47 as a fundraising event. We were able to raise \$1,000 for the local hunger center that we support. I think it is a testament to our Irish heritage and strength that we can screen a movie showing what happened to our ancestors during An Gorta Mor and today never forgetting what happened, help make sure no one goes hungry in our communities.

A special thanks to the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Division in The Villages, Florida. Recently, while I was visiting family, I had the chance to have dinner with some members of the Division. In true Hibernian fashion, they rolled out the welcome mat for me. Thank you for the hospitality.

As always, please contact me with any questions or for the information listed above at [dparks121@yahoo.com](mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com).



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

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

Marketing and "planting seeds for the future":

Does your Division have a marketing plan? Are there Officers and/or members designated and authorized to promote the great work of the Division?

Many Divisions have been successful in publicly advertising their events, charitable works and membership opportunities through a variety of media sources that include the following:

- Facebook (through individual members and Division pages)
- Websites (through Division and linking to other community partners)
- Local news sources (newspaper online and in print version)
- Church bulletins
- Irish cultural events (festivals, GAA, etc.)
- Radio (local ethnic or religious programs)

These are just a few sources and we're hoping to share more examples in the future through the Digest and our website.

Marketing requires a commitment of resources in the form of member time and funding, quite often, but is well worth the investment to attract new members and grow the presence of the Division in the local community. As Hibernians, we have so much to offer; don't be the "best kept secret" in your area!

If Division leadership isn't experienced with marketing or social media, now is a good time to check with Officers and the general membership for ideas and expertise. There is always a member or relative with skills and experience who can develop a site, page or account to promote the Division. These small steps will go a long way to making a difference and gaining the attention of a new demographic in your community.

The National Board is interested in hearing more examples of successful marketing strategies to share with others. The more we all know, the stronger the Order, and we can facilitate information and resources for Divisions that may be struggling in these areas. We thank you in advance and I welcome you to contact me directly with your ideas and experiences.



Tim McNulty (Saratoga Div. President), left, Tim Weklar (Albany Co. President), Peter Durkee (NYS Past President), Liam McNabb (National Director), Mark Scully (Watervliet Div. President) and Owen Cole (District 1 Director).



## PROJECT ST. PATRICK

by Vic Vogel, Chairman

The respective AOH and LAOH Chairs have evaluated all Project St. Patrick grant applications from Seminarians and Novitiates. Recommendations have been forwarded to the National Board for final approval. We expect that grants will be forthcoming.

Each year, the months of March, April and May are designated for the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal. A \$500 contribution is the equivalent of a grant to a Seminarian or a Novitiate. As a 'Thank You' from the Project St. Patrick Committee for one of these generous contributions, a Certificate of Recognition will be awarded.

Your Division, County or State may consider offering \$500 in the name of a Chaplain, an Officer, a Hibernian of the Year, a Grand Marshal or any deserving Honoree. Easter Appeal contributions are appropriate in remembering a deceased member. Our Easter Appeal grant program is thankful for any donation, large or small.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

Winter is hitting my Midwest AOH brothers hard this week as an Arctic blast has made Minnesota colder than Mars and my prayers are going out to our brothers in Chicago. The bitter cold in Chicago has kept hospitals busy, with doctors at one facility during the brunt of an Arctic freeze treating 50 frostbite victims, including some people who may lose an arm or a leg.

On a warmer note I'm happy to report Missouri's new Governor Michael L. Parson, on January 8, proclaimed March 2019 as Irish American Heritage Month in Missouri. I plan to drive to Kansas City, Missouri, and attend the viewing of the movie "Black 47" at the Irish Heritage Center Feb. 1 and present the Proclamation to the Irish Heritage Center in Kansas City. I know that by giving it to them more people will be able to see it and appreciate it when they attend events there in the coming months.

Last year I submitted to the St Louis Post-Dispatch an editorial during March about Irish American Heritage Month and why we celebrate this event. I plan on doing it again this year and once again highlight some of the Irish men and women from this area who have made a difference in making this country great.

I had the honor of attending installations of new officers and want to congratulate these new officers for stepping up and help grow our Order. I am looking forward to attending the Missouri State Convention May 24-27, in St Charles, Missouri. Illinois State Convention will be held Sept. 13-14 at the Hyatt Place Chicago, O'Hare. I haven't heard as yet when Iowa's convention will be but I believe the State Convention will be once again in Waterloo during the Irish Fest Aug. 3-5th.

The old Missouri Gazette newspaper reported a story about the first St Patrick's Day in St Louis. On March 17, 1820, a small band of Irish settlers gathered to praise St. Patrick. Everyone raised a glass for a toast:

"May the present day form a part of the last year of Irish thralldom."

Thralldom is an old word for enslavement, used to curse British domination of the home island, not too different 199 years later with the wacky Brexit fiasco hard border/soft border.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

## Annual Giving Hibernian Charities Be a Difference Maker

The AOH Label Program is your opportunity to directly impact our national charity work.

### Programs include:

- Project St. Patrick
- Hibernian Hunger
- Irish History
- Irish Way
- Hibernian Disaster Relief
- ...and more.

### Your donation makes a difference!

Checks, made payable to AOH, should be mailed to:

**Danny O'Connell**  
340 E Kline Street  
Girard, Ohio 44420



## Director's report

by Ed Halligan

I was able to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The AOH had great representation with pipers from Montgomery County, PA, banners from our National Organizer, National Board, New York and Florida. John P. Walsh, along with the brothers from D.C., did a great job starting with the breakfast and John getting our contingent of Hibernians into the line of march. Afterwards, I watched a time-lapse video of the march from beginning until the end. What an incredible number of supporters. Most are young people from throughout the United States. It gives all of us great hope for the future. Not a mention could be found in any of the major media broadcasts or papers. A march 10 percent of that size about something else would have been on national news.

I attended a couple of officer installations. Several years ago, at an installation of officers in Philadelphia, the County Board asked all Divisions to attend a Mass and dinner. Afterwards the officers of all the Philadelphia Divisions were sworn into office. It was a nice event and a great gathering of the LAOH and AOH. The same continues in Philadelphia and has been copied by some of the surrounding counties. The ritual needs to be modified a little. I might have to discuss with Jack Schneider.

During the government shutdown several Divisions gathered non-perishable food for the Coast Guard station in Philadelphia. Some Divisions coordinated with each other while others worked with American Legion posts. The Coast Guard members and their families were very appreciative. If the shutdown comes again, Hibernians will be there to help.

On March 8, Division 80 in Philadelphia hopes to host the Vice President of Sinn Fein, Michelle O'Neill, as a guest speaker at the Irish Cultural Center (aka The Irish Center) in Philadelphia. If interested in attending, please contact me emhalli2@comcast.net

Have a great Saint Patrick's Day; be safe and respectful.



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

As I write this, we are a little over a month away from March and Irish American Heritage Month. Recent events have indicated that we as an Order must commit to promoting our Irish American Heritage. It has recently been in the news that two AOH-sponsored parades have been canceled due to their local government's billing them for services such as security and sanitation connected with the parade. If you will permit me a slight editorial, we are in a sad state indeed when our local municipalities do not see the need to support our communities coming together in positive celebration. Such shortsighted economics where governments do not consider the value of investment in community building through shared participation in our heritages and cultures may explain the growing divisiveness we are seeing in our nation. We are in a sad state if the only marches to be permitted in our communities are marches of protest.

This is why we need to promote greater awareness of our heritage and culture and to reclaim the message of St. Patrick's Day and promote Irish American Heritage Month. Sadly, too many people view St. Patrick's Day as something akin to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween. We as Hibernians know better. St. Patrick's Day celebration began as demonstration by Irish immigrants who were believed incapable of making a positive contribution to their adopted nation; Catholics who had divided loyalties and could never be "loyal" Americans. The annual parade of Irish American veterans, police, firefighters, nurses and educators showed the absurdity of those statements. Sadly, in some quarters, that message is still needed based on recent statements in congressional hearings. At the same time, two hours of a parade once a year is not sufficient to grow awareness of our history or our Order.

As stated before, promoting Irish American Heritage is a natural recruiting platform that will repay any efforts put into it many fold. Every one of us individually and every division can do something:

- Have your state or municipality declare March as Irish American Heritage Month.
- Let us make "Irish American Heritage Month" part of our standard vocabulary, let us not engage in deprecating our own celebrations with such trivialities as "Green Season." Let us take a cue from advertising and keep repeating it until it is instantly identifiable by the broader community.

Newspapers are looking for an Irish story in March; contact them in advance maybe suggesting the role the Irish have and are playing in the community.

If you have a hall, consider an Irish American Heritage Month event open to the broader community. People who may be leery of a "recruiting event" may come out for a talk, movie or music. Again, get photos of the event and share with the media.

The National shall also be promoting Irish American Heritage Month. Social Media is key to raising awareness of Irish American Heritage Month (and the Order). We will be again doing an Irish American Month Video and our profile series of famous Irish Americans. The key here is certainly to enjoy viewing and reading them, but like and share them and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

I close by saying, "Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhaoibh!" Let us not merely be satisfied in saying we are proud of our heritage, let us show our communities why.



## Immigration

by Dan Dennehy  
Chairman

### Hibernians weigh in on Immigration....

The recent attempt to attain E3 Visas for the Irish proved one thing: The AOH is an active voice for Irish America and Ireland legislatively. The fact is: What Hibernians can uniquely accomplish is due to our size and national reach, our 188 years of establishment and our trust in each other. We have demonstrated that once again to the media, Irish and U.S. officials and elected officials.

The National President and National Immigration Committee were able to communicate with State Presidents and Officers and provide a clear and convincing message to legislators. We quickly offered facts and historical reference as constituents in each State. The goal was to remove specific Senators' opposition to current and future immigration legislation that would benefit Irish people and our communities.

In the run-up to Christmas and the New Year, a concerted effort to get upwards of 5,000 Annual E3 visas for Irish recipients played out. A bipartisan measure easily passed unanimously in the House. What should have been a smooth road hit roadblocks in the Senate. Senators in six states who placed on the Bill were met with Hibernians ready for the task. Because we had voting residents in those states, we were able to lift the objections of Senators in Iowa, Missouri, Georgia, Oklahoma, Wyoming, including both Senators in North Carolina. Many Hibernians leaned in, and we won in every state we were, and would have won overall were it not for the Government Shutdown and a state where we have no members, Arkansas, and its Senator Tom Cotton. Tom Cotton's hold was put on towards the end, and due to the shutdown, Congress ran out of time.

There is a silver lining: We reached out to the Irish in Arkansas, and people like Leitrim-born Arkansan Pat Travers worked hard with our team, and soon we will see a new Arkansas AOH Division! Senators and their staffs were grateful for the respectful messaging and education from our members, which will help us relate to them on other matters.

Thank you for the efforts of many Hibernians led by our National President Judge Jim McKay, our state presidents, their officers, national directors, liaisons, and AOH Immigration Committee members. I am grateful for our coordination with the Irish Embassy, Senator Billy Lawless, Dr. Brian O'Dwyer, Neil Cosgrove, Keith Carney, and US Senators and House members on a daily basis. Our work continues, and I ask every state, county, and division to have an Immigration Chair. We have shown our strength; when the next battle for Irish immigration comes, we'll be ready to act, and to win!



## political education

by Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

The recent failed attempt to end 50 years of injustice to the Irish when it comes to U.S. immigration policy is both disappointing and frustrating. Four-hundred and thirty-five members of congress and (eventually) 99 senators agreed to approve the Irish E3 bill, which would have given the Irish access to the unused portion of the existing 10,500 yearly E-3 Visas currently available exclusively to Australians. Originally, there were six senators blocking this legislation. We can be proud that the Hibernians were able to turn five of the senators around and get the bill to the one-yard line. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated by a single senator, Tom Cotton, of Arkansas, where we currently have no formal AOH presence, who used his Senate hold to block the measure coming to a vote. To date, Senator Cotton has not seen fit to give a reason for his singular objection to Irish immigration.

Reasons for disappointment are all too clear. Out of 55,000 visas available yearly under the Diversity Visa Lottery program, Ireland received 66, a number that is only a quarter of the Medal of Honor recipients who lists the Emerald Isle as their birthplace (257). This is in stark contrast to the visas granted to other nationals: Iran (4,199), Liberia (2,484), Ghana (2,484), Yemen (1,193), Iraq (731), Afghanistan (543), Syria (420) and Saudi Arabia (630). Of the 85,000 H1-B visas awarded annually for the employment of foreign workers in specialty occupations, in FY 2017, 75.6 percent of the beneficiaries were born in India, followed by China, South Korea and the Philippines. Ireland, which is universally recognized for the excellence of its education system and quality of its graduates, did not even register for statistical tracking purposes.

That one senator, lacking the integrity to make his reasons known, should block a measure addressing a clear injustice to the Irish who have given so much to this nation, is disheartening. Yet the power of our Hibernian voice in turning around every senator representing a state with a Division is clear, and thank you all to those Brothers. Even in Arkansas, during the course of this challenge, we have made new connections with the Irish American community, and we may soon have a new Hibernian presence in Arkansas. The fight to see the Irish granted access to U.S. immigration in numbers in parity with other nations and which respects the Irish contribution to our nation's history is not over; throughout our history defeat in a noble cause has only caused us to come back stronger.

By the time you read this, you should already be aware of our calls to action to get your Congressional Representative to sign on the H.R. 88, a resolution authored by Congressman Brendan Boyle expressing opposition to any Brexit-inspired hard border in Ireland. Your state should also be pursuing adoption of the McGuinness Principles by your state legislature. Support of these initiatives is important to show that America is still committed to a lasting peace through parity of esteem in Ireland.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead.*



## freedom for all ireland

by Martin Galvin, Chairman

### Declaration Of Independence

"Whereas the Irish people is by right a free people:

And Whereas for seven hundred years the Irish people has never ceased to repudiate and has repeatedly protested in arms against foreign usurpation:

And Whereas English rule in this country is, and always has been, based upon force and fraud and maintained by military occupation against the declared will of the people:

And Whereas the Irish Republic was proclaimed in Dublin on Easter Monday, 1916, by the Irish Republican Army acting on behalf of the Irish people...

We solemnly declare foreign government in Ireland to be an invasion of our national right which we will never tolerate, and we demand the evacuation of our country by the English Garrison."

Less than three years after the 1916 leaders were summarily executed, and with many of those elected in British prisons, on January 21, 1919, Ireland's representatives assembled as a National Parliament, and pledged to "carry through to Freedom." Ireland's Declaration of Independence is a cornerstone of Irish history, culture and our tradition of freedom. The document has obvious meaning today as the six counties are not, as unionists sometimes say, a "wee country," but a fragment of an Irish province of Ulster, held in violation of Ireland's declared right to national independence.

Yet important events of Irish history like this are not spoken about enough. The AOH is working to see that this centenary of Ireland's Declaration of Independence is properly recognized. New York Hibernians, led by State Presidents Vic Vogel and Jacqueline Clute, were applauded from the state Senate and Assembly floor and presented with a Governor's Proclamation memorializing the centenary and all it means today. Congressmen Boyle and Neal have co-sponsored a Resolution in Congress.

Your state, city or municipality can get a resolution and make sure the centenary is remembered and understood!

### AOH FFAI tour begins

Led by National Presidents James McKay and Carol Sheyer, a large Hibernian FFAI delegation visited Belfast, Derry, Tyrone and Dublin. We joined the Ballymurphy Massacre families at the Inquest, marched with Pat Finucane's family in the 30th anniversary vigil, got City Hall briefings in Derry and Belfast, met civil rights leaders and the family of Hunger Strike Martyrs. We ended with a historic tour in Dublin and had government meetings there.

This tour gave Hibernians a chance to see why freedom for all of Ireland is such an important issue and showed families across the north that the AOH is behind them!

### Christmas Appeal

One of the key points of our FFAI Tour was meeting and presenting checks to carefully chosen charities. Your donations to the Christmas Appeal make these grants possible. National FFAI Members Brendan Moore, Malachy McAllister, Gerry McHale, Jim McLaughlin and Sean O'Dowd did a tremendous job.

I want to personally thank everyone who contributed, and every state, county or division member who organized a fundraising event or stood up at a meeting and spoke up for Christmas Appeal donations!



Bronx AOH members Martin Galvin, left, Bob Nolan, right, and Joe McManus with their Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, second from 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."



## anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

We continue to fulfill our duty as an Order to defend our noble heritage from those who seek to defame it. We recently scored a significant success when we convinced the prestigious Overseas Press Club to remove the name of Thomas Nast from their respected award for political cartooning. As many of you know, while Thomas Nast is considered the "Father of the Political Cartoon" he was also an unrepentant bigot when it came to Irish Americans and Catholics. He created cartoons such as "The Usual Irish Way of Doing Things" and "How We Celebrate St. Patrick's Day" depicting the Irish as violent ape-like creatures. Those who wish to defend this as simple "artistic license" should note that even when Nast was ridiculing other figures and groups they were always depicted as humans, only the Irish were depicted as subhuman. To their credit, when presented with the facts, the Overseas Press Club pulled Nast's name from the award.

We must be clear: anti-defamation is not about a lack of a sense of humor or "being overly sensitive"; it is about parity of esteem. If we are proud of our heritage it is not unreasonable to ask that it be treated with the same dignity as other heritages. Recently, Amazon, based on a complaint from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), removed multiple items that they deemed offensive to Muslim Americans. It was interesting to note that in their statement thanking Amazon for pulling the offensive items the CAIR representative stated many of the items were the result of "companies just slapping (Islamic text) designs on everything without even thinking about it." One can respect his honesty and respect Amazon pulling items considered offensive even if the offense is the result of ignorance. How then though can Amazon, to site one example, continue to sell an Irish "Drunk-O-Meter" shirt (a shirt depicting a gauge with progressively higher levels of intoxication, the maximum reading being "Irish") be justified? There is no benign interpretation of that message; it can't be attributed to innocent carelessness.

Why should the Irish be asked to accept the blatant perpetuation of a bigoted stereotype? Is it unreasonable that our heritage be treated with the same dignity as others? Why should there be a low tolerance for items that offend one group and yet the Irish are asked to accept blatant defamation? That our nation's largest retailer, not some backalley "headshop," should be profiting from this junk is simply unacceptable and we as Hibernians must say we will not accept a double standard when it comes to our heritage.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Nuair a bhí mé ag léamh faoi Québec tamall ó shin, tháinig mé trasna ar eolas faoi dhuine an-suimiúil a bhí an-tábhachtach i stair Montréal agus Ceanada ar fad, duine darb ainm Thomas D'Arcy McGee. *When I was reading about...a while ago, I came across information about a very interesting person who was very important in the history of ... and all of Canada, a person by the name of... Laoch na gCeanadach is ea é, de bhunadh na hÉireann. He was a Canadian hero, of Irish stock.*

Rugadh i gContae Lú é in 1825. *He was born in Louth. D'fhás sé aníos i gContae Loch Garman. He grew up in Wexford. D'fhreastail sé ar scoil scairte ansin. He went to a hedge school there. Bhí sé go tréan in éadan riail na Sasanach in Éirinn, agus thacaigh sé le Dónall Ó Conaill. He was strongly against English rule in Ireland, and supported... Chaith sé tamall sna Stáit, ag obair do nuachtáin Éireannacha sna daicheadaí, ach chuaigh sé ar ais go hÉirinn in 1845. He spent a while in the States, working for Irish newspapers in the 40s, but he went back to Ireland... Bhí baint aige le hÉirí Amach na nÉireannach Óg in 1848, agus ina dhiaidh sin d'éalaigh sé ar ais go Meiriceá. He was involved in the Young Ireland Rising..., and after that he escaped back to America.*

Ach i Meiriceá, ó 1851 ar aghaidh, chaill sé a chuid díograis ar son saoirse na hÉireann, ar son an daonlathais, agus fiú a chuid sástachta le Meiriceá. *But in America, from...on, he lost his enthusiasm for Irish freedom, for democracy, and even his satisfaction with America. D'éirigh sé rí-choimeádach, mar Chaitliceach agus mar dhuine a sheas le hImpireacht Sasana. He became extremely conservative, as a Catholic and as someone who stood with the British Empire. Chuaigh sé go Ceanada in 1857 agus chuir sé faoi i Montréal, áit níos fearr, dar leis, don Chaitliceach. He went to Canada...and settled in..., a better place, he thought, for Catholics.*

I gCeanada, bhí sé ina pholaiteoir tábhachtach. *In...he was an important politician. Tugtar Athair Chónaidhm Ceanada air, rud lena raibh an-bhaint aige nuair a bunaíodh é in 1867. He is called the father of the Canadian Confederation, something he had a lot to do with when it was founded in... Faoin am sin, sna Stáit agus i gCeanada, bhí na Fíníní an-ghníomhach, agus ní raibh siad sásta le tuairimí nua McGee. At that time, in the States and in Canada, the Fenians were very active, and they weren't too happy with his new opinions. In 1868, maraíodh McGee. ...he was killed. Dúradh gur lámhaigh Fínín darb ainm Patrick Whelan é. It was said that a Fenian named... shot him. Cuireadh Whelan chun báis in 1869, cé nach raibh an cás an-láidir ina aghaidh. ...was put to death..., even though the case against him wasn't very strong.*

Tá foirgnimh is séadchomharthaí tiomnaithe do McGee i gCeanada agus in Éirinn. *There are buildings and monuments dedicated to...*



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

We are leaving the time when we commemorated the creation of the first Dail Eireann and the Declaration of Irish Independence. I expected more of an international celebration from the Irish diaspora. I equate the 1916 rising with our Battle of Bunker Hill and the Dail declaration with our Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July. Perhaps in 2021 we'll recognize the centennial of the Free State and in 2049 the centennial of the Republic. The period we are now in is the centennial of the fight for that independence and Irish-America was not found idle.

On February 22, 1919, the Irish Race Convention in Philadelphia, with Judge Dan Cohalan as chairman, passed Joe McGarrity's proposed Irish Victory Fund. They spent \$20,000 sending three men to convince America's delegation to the post-war Peace Conference to lobby Ireland's case. However, President Wilson (descended from Ulster Protestants) ruled that Ireland was England's internal problem! By August, \$115,046 went to Ireland to support the new Dail. Then, deValera arrived in America on June 11 to begin fund-raising here. Meanwhile, Michael Collins, as Dail Minister for Finance, was raising funds in Ireland. He applied for the \$250,000 surplus from the now moot anti-conscription campaign but the Church also applied since some of it was raised from their pulpits. Collins and the new Dail got \$17,000; the Church got the rest! More can be found in "The Road to a Republic" (shamrockandclover.com).

We are now in the season of extreme Irish activity with the true Irish meaningfully commemorating St. Patrick's death on March 17, 461, while the Plastic Paddys run from pub to pub with mugs of green beer wearing T-shirts denigrating their ancestors and heritage. We congratulate all who labored to have local jurisdictions recognize Irish Heritage Month and wish them the blessings of the feast. As the date of St. Patrick's birth is only a guess at around 461, it has been said that if we could ever prove it was in June, we could move annual parades to celebrate his birth instead of his death; that usually comes after particularly cold or snowy parades, but for those who march, the heat of their pride overcomes nasty weather.

We are also entering the period of State Conventions when we will be electing new officers. May I suggest that particular attention be paid to those we elect as Historians? As we focus on recruitment of new members and retention of existing ones, a key to those goals is making individuals proud to wear our logo; there is no better way to build that pride than to publicize the fantastic heritage that we enjoy. Stories of the trials, tribulations, accomplishments and victories that are a legacy from our ancestors make better reading than the history and even fiction of other nations. Stories to be shared can be found on Historical Happenings links of aoh.com and nyaoh.com as well as on americansall.org/legacy partners. I also request that Historians contact me at aohbard@optonline.net with an e-mail address so I can build a history information service for them to share. Thanks to the D.C. AOH for inviting me to speak at the Devin Reilly memorial. You can see it on aoh.com/archives in Video Archives. Until next time, say a prayer for those who care and keep our traditions alive.

Ask yourself why the press, TV and radio coverage of 100 people gathered in Foley Square protesting a government travel ban or dozens of Rise and Resist demonstrators in the lobby of Trump Towers get national media attention while a quarter million anti-abortion demonstrators in our nation's capitol are not even mentioned! What will future historians think about our time?

# Echoes of Irish History

By Michael McCormack, National Historian

There are examples of Irish and African friendships from Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Tony Small to Daniel O'Connell and Frederick Douglas. A similar friendship, overlooked for years though they supported this country when it was needed most, is Hercules Mulligan and his servant, Cato, who served the cause of liberty when it was dangerous to do so.

Mulligan, born on September 25, 1740, in Derry, came to New York with his family in 1746. He became a haberdasher, tailoring clothes for colonial aristocrats and British officers. As a bankrupt Crown exploited its colonies with taxes, he became a leader of the Sons of Liberty in 1765 and a member of the Committee of Correspondence in 1772 uniting the colonies against that exploitation. In 1773, he took in Alexander Hamilton, a penniless teen who was sent to Mulligan's brother Hugh, from a family Hugh had known in the islands. Hamilton lived with Hercules and his equally patriotic African servant, Cato. In 1776, Mulligan and the Sons of Liberty toppled a statue of King George III in Bowling Green; they melted its lead into bullets to 'return the statue to the British!' Mulligan and Cato's animosity to British oppression was contagious and Hamilton soon joined the Sons of Liberty.

Outwardly, Mulligan quietly endured the British occupation since, while outfitting officers and asking the right questions, he gained valuable insight into their plans. He would then sew that information into the hem of a new shirt, pack it in a box and send Cato off as if he were delivering an order. Cato would pass through British lines by acting the part of a slave serving his master as a courier; known to many of the sentries who frequented Mulligan's shop, he was allowed to pass unchallenged. He delivered the box to none other than Hamilton, who was now Washington's aide de camp! At least twice their information prevented an ambush of the General.

After a few years, Mulligan was recruited into the Culper Spy Ring by a merchant who traveled back and forth between the City and the Setauket, Long Island, center of the spy ring. In 1781, a year after he betrayed West Point, Benedict Arnold, now a Brit officer, betrayed Mulligan, revealing his spying activities. With no evidence to verify his accusation, the British, who considered Arnold untrustworthy, weren't about to give up their favorite Irish tailor — and ignored the charge.

After the Revolution, Mulligan, outwardly appearing a Loyalist, feared an act of patriotic revenge, but George Washington remembered his confidential correspondent. On November 26, 1783, Washington led an 'Evacuation Day' parade celebrating his return to New York. The next morning, the triumphant General stopped at Mulligan's home for breakfast, pronouncing him 'a true friend of liberty.' Washington then ordered a full civilian wardrobe and Mulligan hung out a sign: **Clothier to General Washington;** business boomed! After his inauguration, Washington hired Mulligan as the official presidential tailor. Mulligan hung out a new sign and became wildly popular! Mulligan died in 1825 and is buried in Trinity Churchyard.

What became of Cato is unknown. However, in January 1785, Mulligan, with Hamilton and John Jay, founded the New York Manumission Society, an organization to abolish slavery. Sadly, in 2015, the Broadway musical, Hamilton, revised that history! They combined the characters of Mulligan and Cato, showing Mulligan as an African patriot, thereby robbing Mulligan of his Irish heritage and the true African patriot, Cato, of his very existence! In 2016, Hercules Mulligan finally earned his own page on the U.S. CIA website and there is now talk of naming a small lower Manhattan bridge for Hercules Mulligan.



# hIBERNIAN hunger project

by Paul Gowdy, Chairman

The way to end hunger is to feed people, right? Sounds like a no-brainer until you sit down and research how many people in your city's neighborhoods do not always have one or more meals on any given day. There are many people in need and as Hibernians who profess "Christian Charity" in our motto, you can help those less fortunate. If your AOH Board already has a 'Hunger' project in action, good for you. Contact me with the details, your resources and results. If you make cash donations regularly to organizations that feed the hungry, share that information with me.

If your AOH Board decides to start a program to help feed the hungry, here are some steps that you can take to assist you make it successful.

Step 1. At your next monthly Board meeting discuss the 'need' and decide your goal. If you have an AOH hall discuss whether to use your premises for a fundraiser and the frequency of your event. You provide the food and serve the needy or hold a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to a worthy cause such as an existing soup kitchen, etc.

Step 2. Regardless of the facility, there is so much work and planning that needs to be done. You will need a dedicated group of volunteers to make it a success.

Step 3. Seek a partner to assist you. It is always smart to work through your church or a sponsoring business.

Step 4. The first event will be a learning experience. Try it out on a small scale. Do not be surprised if you are overwhelmed.

As many AOH Board Officers will change with the 2019 elections, I will be contacting the new Presidents to inquire of current or future participation in Hunger Programs. I will also be appointing deputy Chairmen from each State or District with the approval of their respective President.



The Macomb County, Michigan Fr. Solanus Casey Division AOH and the Ethel Kennedy Division LAOH presented a check for \$19,500, to the Detroit Capuchin Brothers for their Soup Kitchen. This was the proceeds from our recent 2019 Annual 'Souperbowl' fundraiser. From left, Capuchin Br. Richard Merling, Patrick O'Brien, Paul Gowdy (Co-Chairman), Michael Clyne, Monica O'Brien, Nora Martin, Cindy Lloyd (Co-chairperson), Donald Lloyd, Kevin Connolly, Agnes Gowdy, Kathleen Taranto, Capuchin Br. Jerry Johnson, Dennis Hayes, Mary Ann Bodendistel, Monica Taubitz.



## veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

With the Christmas and New Year's holidays behind us, we're anticipating the next great holidays of St. Patrick's Day and the holy seasons of Lent and Easter. Time sometimes seems to travel so slowly as we look to the future, but flies by in the rear-view mirror as we move forward. I guess that teaches us something about "perspective."

Speaking of perspective, up until now I have focused my assignment as Veterans Chairman primarily on veterans – those who have served and now "stand down" from active military service. But in this issue of the Digest I want to take a moment to recognize the day-to-day sacrifices of our brothers who are actively serving in dangerous assignments abroad. One such brother is Steve Jameson, who is on active duty in Somalia. His AOH brother – Charlie Masterson, of Division 1, in Newport, Rhode Island – wrote to me around Christmas to ask a favor. You see, Steve missed his Division's Hibernian Veteran Pin presentation and Charlie hoped that maybe I could mail Steve a Veterans Pin in Somalia. Sheepishly, I asked Charlie – with all due respect – how could I verify that Steve is in fact on active military duty and a member of his Division? (No, he's not listed in the current Veterans database that I have, but Charlie is.) Charlie then sent me the photo accompanying this article and that was proof enough for me! Of course, I was DELIGHTED to mail Steve a short note and his Veterans Pin, and I pray that God will bring him home safely as soon as possible. I hope that he has received the pin and wears it with pride, reminding himself and others that – in addition to his military duties – he is also a highly respected brother of our great Order. Thank you for your service, Steve, Charlie and the other brother veterans of your Division!

As I've reported in past articles, a number of brothers from around the country email me to keep me and all of us updated regarding veterans benefits and changes, and I will continue to try to pass some of this on to you in these articles and on our website. If something comes up that I feel I need to share with you right away, I will send you all an email blast so that everyone gets that information quickly. If you haven't seen an email blast from me yet titled "From the Desk of Jim Green," that means that the National Secretary's office has no knowledge of your veteran status. In that case, PLEASE have your Division Financial Secretary send in a Form 40 (found on AOH.com under Forms) indicating your veteran status so that I can communicate with you. THANKS!

One piece of information I received was from brother Pat O'Brien of Pittsburgh, who sent me an email with a link to an article about how veterans are being scammed. Veterans Affairs officials are cautioning veterans about "private contractors" offering to process VA claims for them, and charging for the service. Veterans with questions should ALWAYS talk with a veterans' services officer, typically located at county and state offices as well as through many veteran organizations. Also, brother Rich O'Malley – AOH PA State Veterans Chairman – sent along this link that I hope everyone has and uses: [explore.va.gov](http://explore.va.gov). The site introduces itself as a tool to "explore benefits that help veterans thrive." It provides information on many subjects including disability compensation, education and training, employment services and more. Please take a look at it today.

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



## rituals & degrees

by Jack Schneider, Chairman

La Fheile Padraig! May the Season of our Patron Saint continue to foster your affinity and affection for the land of our forefathers and strengthen the bonds of friendship with your Hibernian Brothers and Sisters.

"I bring with me Pilgrims ... they seek further advancement in our Order..."

Of all the many places I have been fortunate enough to visit in Ireland, the one I connect most with our wonderful Major Degree Ceremony is clearly the sacred monastic site of Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains National Park. It is certainly one of the most beautiful, scenic, peaceful and awe inspiring sites in all of Erin and probably my personal favorite. As their official website ([www.glendalough.ie](http://www.glendalough.ie)) proudly proclaims, "Glendalough is a remarkable place that will still your mind, inspire your heart and fill your soul."

Glendalough, which translates to "Valley of the Two Lakes," was established by St. Kevin in the 6th Century, A.D. It is located in southeastern Ireland, about 32 miles or one hour's drive south of Dublin. The site boasts one of the best preserved Round Towers in all of Ireland, standing approximately 100 feet in height, as well as several other structures of note.

By about the 10th Century, Glendalough had developed into a thriving monastic settlement, home to many monks and learned scholars. Devout people throughout the land would set out from their homes on pilgrimages to travel to Glendalough to seek a closeness with their God and be inspired by the learned, holy men. At night, the lighted round tower would be their beacon to guide them on their way.

In today's AOH, we similarly offer the opportunity several times a year to our Membership to travel on their own pilgrimages to exemplifications of our Major Degree Ceremony. In our Major Degree Ceremony, we come together as an Order to connect with the past and seek further knowledge and inspiration about our Irish heritage to go forth and promote the good works of our Order in our communities. As with those ancient pilgrims, it is our hope that you will likewise be inspired by our own meeting beneath the Shadow of the Round Tower.

Brothers, come and join the next pilgrimage on the Path of Knowledge at the next Major Degree ceremony in your locale.

### Upcoming Major Degree Ceremony:

Philadelphia, PA; Sunday, April 7, 2019, Noon. The Commodore John Barry Club/the Irish Center. 6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA. Hosted by Daniel Brown Phila. Div. 80. Isle of Erin Major Degree Team. Candidates may pre-register at:

[www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm](http://www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm)



### Project Saint Patrick Prayer Cards

Are now available by contacting

Vic Vogel

[victorivogel@yahoo.com](mailto:victorivogel@yahoo.com)

## Deadline

Articles for the April-May issue  
are due no later than  
April 1.

# Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The John A. Gildea Division of Danbury kicked off the year 2019 with a dinner, at the Danbury AOH Irish Center, on the 12th of January to begin the yearlong celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of their Division, which began in a sleet storm back in January of 1959.

Danbury President Dave Albright presided over the proceedings at which several long-time members recalled interesting and humorous stories from the past. Division member and State Senator Michael McLachlan read and presented a Proclamation from the Connecticut Legislature commemorating the anniversary.

President Brian O'Neil of the General Philip Sheridan Division of Stamford invited Connecticut Hibernians to attend a lecture on the famed Emmett family. The lecture was held at the Stamford Hall and was given by James McGlashin of the new Iona College AOH Division. The Emmet family included among others the young Patriot Robert Emmet who was executed for leading a rebellion by the English in 1803. His brother, Thomas Addis Emmett, who after immigrating to the United States became the Attorney General of the State of New York and his great grandson, Deveaux Emmet, the famous golf course architect who is credited with designing 150 golf courses, including many in Connecticut.

The JFK Division of Bridgeport outdid themselves this past Christmas when they presented a check of \$3,540 to Sister Teresa Tremblay's Daughters of Charity Pre-School & Rescue Mission. A delegation from the JFK Division consisting of Sean Keane, Chris Boyle, Tom McShane, Bob Fox, Steve Boyle, Tom Keane and Division Chaplain Fr. Charles Allen, S.J. met with Sr. Theresa and her pre-school and were entertained by the children. A highlight of the visit was when outgoing President Tom Keane read "The Night before Christmas" to the children. Kudos to Tom Keane who is stepping down after ably leading and serving the Bridgeport AOH since 2009! He is being followed as President by another fine Hibernian, Doctor Mark Ryan.

Congratulations to Rick Connell for being named Hibernian of the Year by the John P. Holland Division of New London. Rick is a Past President of his Division and served with distinction. Unfortunately, Connecticut is going to lose Rick since he is moving to the Boston area for work related reasons. He plans to continue as an active Hibernian and some Division in Massachusetts is going to obtain a dedicated Hibernian!

The Hartford Division, which meets at the Irish-American Home in Glastonbury, announced the following officers for 2018: Financial Treasure - Kevin Morton, Recording Secretary - Michael Enright, President - John Slevin, Vice President - James Fields, Financial Secretary - Jack Callahan. We wish them a successful year!

The Angels of Harmony from Waterbury have a busy schedule for March when they sing the National Anthems Saturday, March 3, at the Parade. They will perform again Saturday, March 10, at the Corn Beef Dinner and Sunday, March 17, for the Mass & City Hall flag raising!

The Meriden Division hosted a well-attended State Board meeting on January 26. State president Tom McDonough reported on the State Convention to be held in June. A number of activities planned for the month of March were discussed and will be reported on in the April Digest.

For news or info contact me at: [jpgallagherct@sbcgloabal.net](mailto:jpgallagherct@sbcgloabal.net)



2019 Officers, from left, Marshall: Brian Moore; Treasurer: Vic Dowling; Vice President: Bill Lacy; President: Paul Moriarty; Sentinel: Rich Havens; Standing Committee Chair: Jim Wasniewski.



From left, Peter Hearty Sr. John Curtain, Eugene Fedigan, Christopher Mitchell, Phil Gallagher, State V. P. Brenden Walsh, President Dave Albright, Rob Mastropietro, Lee Reilly help Gerry Curran {sitting} cut the Danbury AOH 60th Anniversary cake. Brother Curran is known as the "Father" of the Greater Danbury Irish Festival.

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

## Kentucky

### Irish New Year and Crime Stories in Kentucky

Keeping with an established tradition the Father J. Ryan Division teamed with Louisville's Flanagan's Ale House to ring in the Irish New Year at 7 p.m. Kentucky time. Each year the celebration grows bigger and bigger. The evening features revelry, bagpipers, singing of Irish music and a ball drop at midnight (in Ireland anyway). The welcome to 2019 was toasted with Jameson's and all the old Kentucky folks were able to ring in the New Year and be in bed by 10 p.m.

The grand affair has a serious side, raising funds that support the 160-members strong Division's charities and expenses from its role in organization and putting on the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

On January 20, the Division attended the Respect for Life Mass at the St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church with celebrant Joseph Kurz, Archbishop of Louisville.

The Division was excited to announce the long-anticipated release of Ryan Division member Greg Gitschier's memoir Sneakin' Deacon: From Secret Service to Scared Service. Deacon Gitschier's interesting career includes service as a police officer, Secret Service agent, private consultant and bodyguard; protecting presidents and royalty. The Hibernian, during his Secret Service career, protected Ronald Reagan's family and a broad set of international dignitaries and royalty, such as the Emperor of Japan.

An assignment to protect Pope John Paul II changed his life, leading him down a path toward "sacred service." Deacon Gitschier now serves as a deacon in the diocese and as both a police and Secret Service chaplain.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to charity. Hibernians across the country can purchase the entertaining book of a life rich in crime-solving and faith-finding by going to <https://butlerbooks.com/sneakin-deacon.html>.

## Colorado



### Colorado Hibernians honor deceased brother

Members of the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division gathered to pay tribute to Brother Gordon Hummel on January 11, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Denver. Brother Hummel was the newest Carrigan Division member, having been initiated 11 days prior to his untimely death. He was a beloved member of the Annunciation community and founded the Knights of Columbus Chapter there. Back row, Brothers Rick Steck, Ed Schumm, Jim Chappell and Joe Wolters. Front row, Brothers Kevin Croghan, Denver Collins Division member Bill Beach, and Carrigan Brother Tim Tullar.

# Indiana



**Jimmy McGinley, left, receives Hibernian of the Year from Bob McCurdy.**

## Hibernian of the Year in Indianapolis

January 20th continued the 60th year anniversary of the Kevin Barry Division 3 with installation of officers. President Bob McCurdy, Vice-President Jeff Veldhof, Financial Secretary Joe Cahill, Treasurer Chuck McGinley, Recording Secretary Jim Lynch and Sentinel Victor Doucleff. A highlight of the Officers' Installation Dinner is announcing the Hibernian of the Year, traditionally selected by the Division President. The award, presented since 1985, was given to Jimmy McGinley.

The Division, with 326 Hibernians and 29 clergy members, cited Jimmy for extraordinary service during the previous year. Jimmy comes from a strong Hibernian family, his father Jim served four terms as the Division president. Following his father's footsteps, Jimmy has been president three times, most recently in 2014. The younger McGinley is the current chairman of the committee to organize the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

Jimmy will be responsible for much more than a parade; festivities include herding the members into a group photo with the Lady Hibernians; placement of a wreath and blessing at the Celtic Cross at Indianapolis' oldest Catholic Church (St. John's); a Mass by Division's Chaplain Fr. Glenn O'Connor; and a parade to the Indiana Roof Ballroom for a luncheon where attendees will be entertained by Ireland's The Willoughby Brothers, recognition of four student with \$1,500 scholarships for college, identification of Indianapolis' outstanding Irish citizen, and a raffle that includes two round-trip tickets to Ireland.

Besides the responsibility of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Jimmy is an attorney, married to the lovely Allison, and they are blessed with two active young daughters. Upon being recognized, Jimmy thanked everyone for the award noting his appreciation, and crediting his family's long-standing participation and leadership with the Barry Division for influencing his pride of being a Hibernian and the expectation that brings.



# Alabama



**The Fr. Treacy Division Christmas Social**  
The Father Treacy Division of the AOH in Huntsville, AL, had a very well attended Christmas Social at the Maggie McGuinness Pub this past December with friends and family. Our Division is honored to have held one every year since our Division was installed in 2011.

# District of Columbia

**By Don Connolly**  
**DC State Organizer**

## Remembering Thomas Devin Reilly

Dodging the raindrops on a chilly December day, AOH and LAOH members gathered in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, D.C., to honor the Young Irishlander and journalist Thomas Devin Reilly. Representatives from the AOH and LAOH, Irish War Veterans, and the Irish American Unity Conference unveiled a new grave marker that makes the original inscriptions readable.

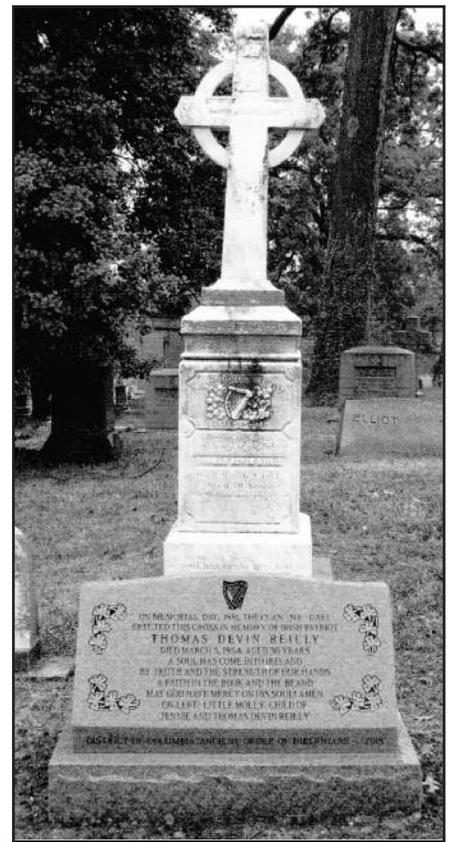
Past State President Ralph Day presided while AOH National Historian Mike McCormick and historian Denny Lynch spoke about Reilly and the experiences and legacy of the Irish community in Washington. AOH DC State President John Patrick Walsh and LAOH DC Past State President Maria Humphries laid a memorial wreath at the grave.

Born in County Monaghan, Reilly was educated at Trinity College in Dublin and followed the beliefs of Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmet. During the worst of An Gorta Mor in 1848, he joined with William Smith O'Brien, Thomas Francis Meagher and others in the Young Irishlander Rebellion. When the rebellion failed, Reilly fled to the United States where he became an editorialist in Boston and later Washington.

Reilly became a renowned author on labor reform and Irish independence, influencing future leaders, including those involved with the 1916 Easter Rising. His influence over U.S. politics increased and he became a personal friend of President Franklin Pierce, who offered him a job in his administration. At the time of his death in 1854 at the age of 30, Thomas Devin Reilly succeeded in becoming one of the first publicly respected Irish Catholics in America.

In the more than 150 years since his death, his gravesite suffered the ravages of time and vandalism turning the inscription unreadable. AOH Brother Jack O'Brien, veteran of numerous battles to create or restore Irish-American history monuments, took up the goal of restoring Reilly's gravesite. AOH Divisions and individuals from across the region made financial donations. The staff of Mt. Olivet cemetery also cooperated in the effort. The project to restore the grave was completed last October.

As the ceremony ended, the group adjourned to an authentic local Irish pub to celebrate Brother Jack O'Brien's success and plan the next project.



# Oklahoma



**MARCHING FOR LIFE**  
Officers from Bobby Sands Division in Tulsa, Oklahoma, participated in the March for Life Walk on Sunday, January 13. From left, Howard Coughlin, Vinnie Robinson and Joseph Meyer.

# Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

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

Division 1 Holyoke: Sister Kathleen Keating SSJ has been selected as the recipient of the 2019 Christian Charity Award by Division 1. Sister Kathleen, the former President of Elms College, will be presented her award at the AOH Communion Breakfast on March 10 at the Wherehouse. In December, Division members Jay Whelihan, Janet Dwyer, Paul Mengel, Fran Hennessey, Paul Hogan, Dan Leary, Charlie Popp, Peter Hogan, Paula Paoli and Noranne Duquette helped prepare and serve meals at Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke. In the spirit of the season, Division 1 donated \$500 to Kate's Kitchen as well.

Division 8 Lawrence: This year Division 8 will celebrate Irish Heritage Month in a spectacular fashion! The 2019 events will feature: the raising of the Irish Flag for the month of March on the North Common across from City Hall; the Division's 148th Banquet and Dance as well as their 50th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Golden Luncheon; an Author and Lecture series; a film festival and an exhibit on the Irish of Massachusetts.

Division 8's Catholic Action chairman, Mark Alaimo, has announced that the Division will sponsor a food drive during the month of March. Division 8 will also host the 2019 Essex County AOH Convention on April 6.

Division 9 Plymouth: The Annual Father John Murphy Division Christmas Party at the East Bar Grille was well attended and a huge success. During the Christmas Party, a surprise birthday cake was presented to our esteemed President John Travers.

Division 14 Watertown: Division 14 will celebrate their 125th Anniversary on October 26. Past State and Division President Richard Thompson Jr. is chairing the Anniversary Committee, which plans to recognize the achievements of Division 14 over the past 125 years.

Division 18 Salem: Division 18 will hold their Annual Communion Breakfast on March 10. After the Mass a breakfast will follow, and the 2019 Irishman of the Year Award will be awarded. On March 17 a full day of events are planned for the Division Membership. At noon the Irish Band "Rainbow's End" will perform; in late afternoon, a traditional Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be served and the band "Finding Dimes" will perform until 10 PM. It certainly will be a great day for the Irish of Division 18!

Division 19 Lowell: Division 19 has proudly announced that the Division has found a new home at the St. Joseph's the Worker Shrine in Downtown Lowell. The Shrine is an



Division 8 AOH, Lawrence, MA, held their Installation of Officers at Sacred Hearts Church, Bradford, MA on January 27, following a Mass celebrated by their Division Chaplain, the Rev John Delaney, VF. A reception followed the Installation Ceremony. Pictured, from left, front row, Dick Wall, Essex County President; Rev. John Delaney; Keith Murphy; Bill Sullivan; second row, Paul Hogan, Mass State President; Tim Doherty; Kevin Walsh; Jack Lahey; third row: Eric Alaimo; Frank O'Connor; Bob Gauthier and Mike Miller.

historic city Landmark, which was founded and staffed by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Meeting in the Oblate Shrine is an honor to which few AOH Divisions can attest. The Division proudly boasts no fewer than three resident Chaplains: Father Terrence O'Connell, Director at the Shrine; Father Daniel Crahan, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Lowell; and Father John Hanley, Director of Missions for the Oblate Fathers in Tewksbury.

Wishing everybody a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

That's the way we see it in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God bless.

# New Hampshire

## Manchester Hibernians name Ken Robinson, Jr. Hibernian of the Year

At its annual Hibernian Holiday Hooley in December, Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1, Manchester, N.H., proudly recognized Brother Kenneth P. Robinson, Jr. as its second annual Hibernian of the Year.

Inaugurated in 2017, the Hibernian of the Year Award is presented annually to the brother who best exemplifies through his conduct the ideals of our glorious Motto. Brother Robinson was recognized for his extraordinary devotion to his family, to his faith and to the Division, as well as for his tireless work in promoting the ideals of the Order. A communicant of St. Peter's parish in the Manchester suburb of Auburn, Ken joined the Order in 1998, and is the son of Hibernian brother Ken Robinson, Sr. He achieved his Major Degree in 1999, and has served as an officer of the Division (most recently as Recording Secretary). He currently oversees a long-standing partnership between the Division and a local Road Race Promotion, which has proven to be extremely beneficial to the Division, the Road Race organization and the community. The program Ken spearheads has provided a reliable revenue stream to the Division for many years, which helps to fund the Division's charitable and other work in the community. Division 1 Manchester is proud to count Brother Kenneth P. Robinson, Jr. among its membership.



Division president Michael Farley, left, congratulated Brother Ken Robinson, Jr. after awarding him a plaque recognizing him as the Division's 2018 Hibernian of the Year.



Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1, Manchester, N.H. installs 2019 officers.

At its first general meeting of the year on January 6, Manchester, N.H., Division 1 installed its officers for 2019. Shown taking their oaths of office are, from left, Michael Farley – President, Brian Cronin – Vice President, Michael Dolphin – Recording Secretary, Colin Glennon – Financial Secretary, William Biser – Treasurer, and Larry Hennessy – Sentinel. Administering the oath (not shown) is Chaplain Rev. Edmund Crowley. Absent was Brian Doehner – Organizer.

May your blessings out number the  
Shamrocks that grow. And may  
trouble avoid you wherever you go.  
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

# New Jersey

On January 26, the NJ AOH State Board Meeting was called to order by State President Larry Prella. Commodore John Barry AOH Division 3 Middlesex County hosted this event at the Hibernian House located in Perth Amboy. A great time was had by all.



NJ AOH State Board Meeting Attending Membership. Photo by Brother Geo S.



Some brothers of the hosting John Barry Division 3.

# Minnesota



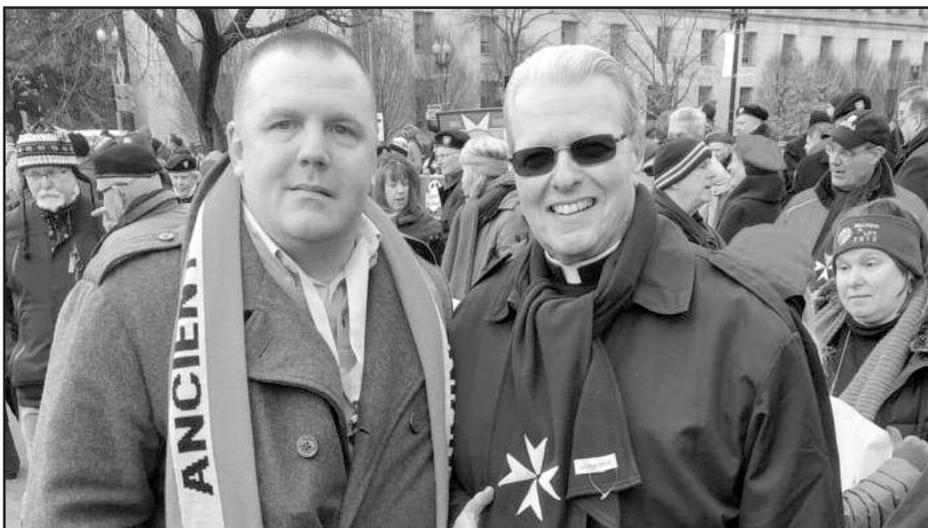
The Shamrock Division hosted its annual Christmas Party at the Lakeside Supper Club on December 19. Sixty-four attended which included members and spouses.

After an initial gathering and social time, President John Devins, welcomed new and current members to the event. President Devins recapped some of last year's events and highlights. The Hibernian Scholarship fund has given out 56 scholarships since 2008 totaling over \$27,000. The Scholarships are awarded to local deserving young Irish scholars going off to college.

A total of \$2,000 was awarded this last year. Also this last year the Shamrock Division once again had our Founders Day Celebration with a dinner and evening of Irish music. This event was well received and enjoyed by our division. We will be planning to repeat the event again this year. President Devins announced that our division also donated \$2,000 to support local Catholic Schools.

The rest of the evening included dinner and social time. Information on the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our website at [www.hibernians-shamrock.com](http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com)

# Marching For Life



National Organizer Tim McSweeney and Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of the Albany Catholic Diocese at the 2019 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

# Missouri

## Busy Kansas City, Missouri weekend

Late January included a busy weekend for members of the Padraig Pearse Division 1. After sporting suits, ties and sashes at the Diocese' relatively formal annual Support Our Seminarians dinner, members the next night were raucously cheering on the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos basketball team.

The Division has been a long-time supporter of the annual SOS dinner, where proceeds go to provide financial help to both seminarians who will return to the region upon entering the priesthood, and Conception Seminarian College at Conception Abbey, which educates young men from a broader five-state geographic region. Graduates of the College will be positioned to continue to further their vocational discernment, engage in graduate theological studies, or advance to the final stage of priestly formation.

The dinner brings together a generous and faithful group of Catholics to recognize the seminarians and greet the region's parish priests and Kansas City's two bishops (northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas). In full sash regalia, the Hibernians are a welcome sight and a visible show of support. Division President John McEvoy noted, "The dinner is a strong reminder to people throughout the region that AOH, besides having good times, is an important part of the Catholic community."

Over the past three years the Division has gathered for a grand social night of food, drinks and basketball to support the local UMKC basketball team. The evening provides an inexpensive and fun evening where wives, children and grandchildren also attend and enjoy the antics of the Hibernians. After a visit from the new athletic director the Division took sole credit for an amazing comeback from being down double-digits to bringing in an important victory for the home team.



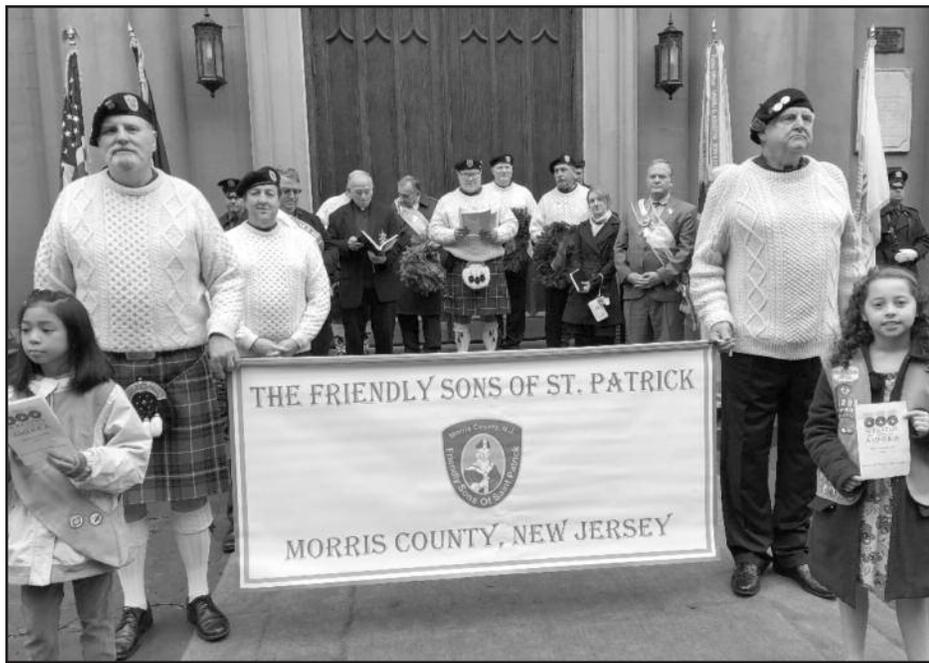
Jerry Lonergan and Division officers John McEvoy, Dennis Murray and Zach Daughtrey at the UMKC game.

## Irish Way & College Study Abroad Scholarships

The AOH National Board is offering a \$1,000 Irish Way Scholarship, as well as two \$2,000 College Study Abroad Scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland. Scholarships for a semester of study at a college in Ireland will be considered if money is available.

Please see the application request form at <https://aoh.com/scholarships/> for more information.

# New York



On Saturday at 12 Noon, New York County AOH and Friendly Sons of St Patrick of Morris County organized the Basilica's first participation in Wreaths Across America.

1.8 Million Wreaths were laid on veterans graves simultaneously and Normandy, France and Basilica Old St Patricks Cathedral were decorated for the first time this year.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Friendly Sons of St Patrick participate in the annual event, proudly they participated in the Normandy and Basilica inaugural events

FSOSP William C Duggan organized the event in coordination with Tom Beirne and Denis Grogan of New York County AOH, the Basilica's Monsignor Sakano, Port Authority Police Dept Color Guard, Old St. Patrick's Girl Scout troop, Verizon and CWA veterans, Dan Dennehy AOH National Director and included a performance by Rory O'Moore Pipes & Drums and Jim Mullarkey of the Catholic War Veterans who played a stirring Taps on bugle in the ancient walled cemetery for the fallen.

Here is a list of military personnel buried in both the catacomb as well as the north and south cemeteries:

1. John Michael O'Connor, Captain, U.S. Artillery, War of 1812
2. James McKeon, U.S. Artillery, War of 1812
3. John Eckert, Brevet Brigadier General, Chief of Union Telegraph Bureau, Civil War
4. Pierre de Landais, Captain, USN, Revolutionary War
5. Joseph Lametti, Captain, 9th U.S. Artillery, War of 1812
6. Valentine Derry, exiled from Ireland for his participation in the Rising of 1798 (by any reasonable measure, a soldier)
7. General William Devine, Brevet Brigadier General, Mexican War (1846-48)
8. Colonel John Mullany, War of 1812
9. Patrick Nealis, American Revolutionary War
10. John Hart, War of 1812 and sextant of the cemeteries of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, the 11th Street Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery.



On December 8, Division 5 joined forces with the Albany Ladies and Junior girls in volunteering at the Northeastern NY Food Bank.

### Officers installed in Albany

On December 1, The Fr. Henry Tansy Div. 5 of Albany, NY, held thier 118th installation of Officers. Tim Weckler was installed as President by National Organizer Tim McSweeney. John Holland was recognized as Hibernian of Year and Dan Berry was awarded the President's service award. Jack McCarthy and Brian Gallagher received Division life membership.

### Hospice Care donations

On November 28, 2018, the AOH Division 16 and Ladies AOH Division 16 donated \$4,523 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam Counties. The presentation was made at the annual Tree of Life ceremony held in Mount Kisco, NY. Hospice Care, a non-profit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On December 15, the AOH and LAOH donated \$4,523 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center located in Hawthorne, NY. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992 the AOH has donated \$248,250 to Hospice Care of Westchester /Putnam, Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne and other organizations. The fund-raising drive was administered by Chairman Brian Jones.

The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Patrick's, Bedford; St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco; and Holy Rosary, Hawthorne; St. Lawrence O'Toole, Brewster; St. Matthias, Bedford Hills; and St. Mary, Katonah; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Shrub Oak; Holy Innocents, Pleasantville; and St. John and St. Mary, Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on September 13, 1891. The Division has a long and distinguished history of supporting community groups in the area as well as supporting the northern Westchester's annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day parade since 1991. The Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that the 29th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday March 9, in Mount Kisco, and the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on Saturday March 2.

For further information, visit our website at [www.aohdiv16.org](http://www.aohdiv16.org).



## 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."

The National  
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## Minnesota

The Archbishop Ireland Division, Ramsey County, Minnesota, initiated the "Laughter of Our Children Rosary Series" in response to the recent legalization of abortion in Ireland. The intentions for the Rosary series is in reparation for the legalization of abortion in the Republic of Ireland, for the protection of the unborn, and in solidarity with the prolife movement in Ireland and the U.S.

So far, we have prayed a Rosary for these intentions at the beginning of the Mass at the Irish Fair of Minnesota; outside a local abortion clinic on the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28th); and at the end of Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family at the Church of Saint Agnes in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Upcoming events will include other Saint Paul churches and at the beginning of the Archdiocesan Saint Patrick's Day Mass.

The title of the series comes Irish prolife groups, quoting Bobby Sands' statement that "our revenge will be the laughter of our children." The hope that the ultimate answer to past oppression is the future success of our children requires respect for the right to life, and we are committed to prayer for that.



### Minnesota monument unveiling

Father Patrick McCabe of Arnaghan, Lough Gowra, County Cavan, was instrumental in the escape of John Boyle O'Reilly and later, six military Fenians on the whaling ship Catalpa, from penal servitude in Western Australia. As a result, Fr. McCabe was forced to flee Australia and eventually made his way to rural Minnesota. With the help of Bishop Ireland of St. Paul, he became a parish priest at St. Mary's near Waseca. It was considered a "mission" church for mainly Irish immigrant farmers. He served them until his death, was buried in St. Mary's cemetery and a memorial window for him was placed in Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. The parishioners also erected a Celtic cross at his grave, but little was known of his courageous service to Irish patriots in Australia.

On May 18, The Fenian Memorial Committee of America, chaired by brother George McLaughlin of Rhode Island, will unveil a stone at the base of his grave memorializing his heroic role in the rescue of Fenian prisoners. Similar stones have been placed at the graves of four of the six Catalpa escapees to date with the assistance of Past National President Seamus Boyle. Joan Mooney, director of the Waseca County Historical Society, has generously offered their facility for a reception after the unveiling which will be attended by Michael O'Reilly, President, County Cavan P&B Association, and men of New York's Cavan Football Club. Interested readers may contact [fenianmca@gmail.com](mailto:fenianmca@gmail.com) for more information or to donate to the project.

## Florida



The group picture, from left, are Jim Cahill, Diego Pestana, Sean Denny, Dan Neri, Jim Gillis, Greg Canning, and Fr. Timothy Harris.

The AOH is a Fraternity that serves the Church by defending the Faith and Promoting our Irish American Heritage. AOH Pinellas 2 is entering a new year and a new era. Our State President Jim Cahill, State Secretary Greg Canning, State Catholic Action Fr. Timothy Harris installed the 2019 slate of Officers on Saturday January 12, 2019.

The new officers include: President Dan Neri, Vice President- Diego Pestana, Recording Secretary-Sean Denny, Treasurer Chris Ryan, Financial Secretary-Sean Denny, Chairman of Standing Committees Bill O'Hanlon, Marshal Jim Gillis, Sentinel Pat McGree, and Chaplain Fr. Michael Perry. Carmella Cahill took the photos.

After the installation, we attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Tim who did a fabulous tribute for our Past Division President Charlie Rooney.

## Illinois



Officer Installation. From the left, Past National President George Clough and National Director John Wilson are shown with newly installed officers of Division 1, St. Clair County Illinois including Financial Secretary Michael Lenz, Vice-President Carl Thunell, Standing Committee Chairman and Illinois State Board President Robert Simpson, Sentry Chris Frillman, President Mike Tiernan, and Marshall Don Gravlin at the January meeting. Unavailable were Treasurer Robert Dixon, and Recording Secretary John Bechtoldt.



Division 1, St. Clair County IL President Mike Tiernan accepts a Veterans of Foreign Wars Certificate of Appreciation from Division Member John Byrne for the Division's generous donation to a fundraiser to assist a handicapped veteran.

## Rhode Island

Recently, the Dennis E Collins (Newport Division 1) installed their newly elected officers. The newly elected executive board combine youth and experience, in both the private and public sectors, which is crucial for the success and continued wellbeing of our Order.

The Dennis E Collins Division, founded in 1876, recently celebrated their 142nd anniversary of their charter. Being one of the oldest divisions has helped the division become one of the largest divisions in the country. The division has been in their current location in Newport for over 110 years helping to become a focal point of the city and community.

In the photo below, RI State President Wick Rudd hands the gavel to newly elected Division President Kevin Doyle. The state board is extremely proud of President Doyle and the rest of the officers for stepping up and look forward to them continuing the work that the division has been doing for 142 years. The state and division is very proud for its generations of members, which have helped to keep the division smoothly running over the years and hopefully for more to come.



**Martin John 'Jack' O'Connell**, 83, of Girard, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 11, 2019, surrounded by his family. Jack was born September 20, 1935, in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Martin D. and Isabel (Mylott) O'Connell. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 61 years, Janet L. (Gantar) O'Connell, the love of his life, whom he married October 26, 1957. Jack and Jan have five children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

As Hibernians, we remember Jack most for his proud nominations over the years of his son Danny. Jack's proudest Hibernian moment, however, was traveling to Columbus, Ohio, for the installation of his two grandsons, Marty Brinker and Scott Partika, in the fall of 2009. Scott is the current president of Patrick Pearse Division 1, in Columbus.



Jack served the Mahoning Valley for many decades as a labor leader and community volunteer who impacted many lives. Jack served as Business Manager for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 87 as well as executive secretary for the Western Reserve Building Trades. Jack was the first non-steelworker to serve as president of the local AFL-CIO. Throughout his labor career, he served as labor liaison for former Congressman Jim Traficant and worked as a regional representative for former Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher.

After retirement, he continued to play an active role to ensure the availability of services for older adults. Jack was a founding member of the Girard Multi-Generational Center, serving as Chairman of the Board for 16 years; the gymnasium was dedicated the "Jack O'Connell Gymnasium" in 2016. Jack also served as president of the Area Agency on Aging for 18 years. In 2007, Jack was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Jack also served on the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, Supreme Court of Ohio Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, Board of Trustees at Hillside Hospital, Board of Directors of Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corp., the Board of Directors of the MVSD, Girard City Council, President of Trumbull Metropolitan Park Board, and numerous additional Boards.

AOH Mahoning County Division 6 held the traditional AOH Prayer Service led by Jack's grandson Scott Partika, followed by the singing of The Parting Glass and a toast to Jack, Janet, and the entire O'Connell family were overwhelmed by the tremendous support of Hibernians from around the country during this difficult time. Thank you, all.

**Francis E. Doolan**, 89, simply known as "Pup" or "Uncle Pup" to almost all who knew him, passed away on February 3, 2019. He was the loving husband of the late Rita (McDonald) Doolan for almost 60 years. Pup was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on May 6, 1929, to the late Francis "Pop" and Mary Olive (Hector) Doolan. He was a graduate of St. Mary's Grammar School, Sacred Heart High School, where he excelled in athletics, Arnold College and Southern Connecticut State University where he received his Master's Degree. He was a US Army veteran during the Korean War.

Pup was a retired educator, athletic director and coach at Terryville High School for over 30 years where he had still maintained close relationships with his former students, players and friends. He had also been employed by the Waterbury Parks Department as a playground Supervisor during the summers for many years while he was teaching.

Well known throughout the Irish community Pup was an active member and past president of the Monsignor Slocum Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Along with Bridget Collins Regan, Pup was a proud cohost of the "Voice of Ireland" radio program on WATR just before St. Patrick's Day every year. He also took great pride in the fact he had been named "Irish Mayor for the Day" in both Wolcott and Waterbury.

Pup had been a lifelong New York Football Giants fan and a season ticket holder for the last 45 years. One of his greatest pleasures in life had been spending time with family and friends tailgating and attending over 350 games.

He also enjoyed extensive travel throughout the United States along with numerous trips to Ireland. He was also a member of the Bristol Elks club and several golf leagues.

Survivors include his 5 children, Kevin Doolan of Waterbury, Terry Doolan and his wife Beth of Waterbury, Kerry Tutolo and her husband Steve of Wolcott, Michael Doolan of Wolcott, and Patrick Doolan and his wife Elaine of Bristol, 7 grandchildren, Michael Tutolo and his wife Amie, Ryan Tutolo and Elisa, Greg Tutolo and his wife Jess, Kerry Doolan Cyr and her husband Brian, John Doolan Olivia Doolan and April Doolan, 4 great grandchildren, Emma, Chloe and James Tutolo and Frankie Mae Cyr, also in laws, John Laudati, and John and Jan McDonald and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his wife and parents Pup was predeceased by a daughter in law, Kathleen Sullivan Doolan and in laws, Mary Moritis, Ellen Laudati, and Frances and Daniel Altieri.

Although Pup had accomplished so much in his nearly 90 years, we feel that his greatest achievement was that of a wonderful caregiver to Rita in her later years. For that we are truly grateful. The Doolan family would also like to thank both the AOH and Cave communities for the many years of friendship and memories.

**Thomas J.F. Guerin** of Mt. Kisco, NY entered eternal rest on January 9, 2019. Tom was born in Liscannor, Co. Clare, Ireland, to beloved parents John & Brigid McDonagh Guerin on November 15, 1934. Tom was the oldest of five children. Very proud of his Irish heritage, he was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 16 for many years. Tom was also very steadfast in his faith in God & to his Church by being an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mt. Kisco. He will be missed by his loving daughter

Siobhan & her Husband Bob of Pennsylvania, his Brother Patrick and his family and his sister Mary, both of Ireland as well as his sisters Teresa McHugh of Long Island and her family and Ann Haugh of Mt. Kisco, who is President of LAOH Division 16, and her family. He was a loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. Tom was laid to rest after a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**Roger Stanton Weist**, one of the most beloved members of Cleveland's Irish community, passed away on December 13, 2018. Roger's tireless efforts advocating for Irish human and civil rights and his unparalleled passion for Irish culture and music, earned the WRUW FM 91.1 music director and Beyond the Pale radio host countless honors, awards and accolades.

Co-founder of the Ohio MacBride Principles Coalition, Roger earned the distinction of being a prominent and trusted voice in support of enacting the MacBride Principles, engaging with national and international dignitaries and organizations, including President Bill Clinton and his senior advisors and the National Security Council. A life member of the AOH, he served the Boland/Berry Division 2, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in almost all of the elected and appointed offices. He was Marshal, Standing Committee, Division Organizer; Recording Secretary; Financial Secretary; Vice President and President. Roger had also served as the AOH delegate to the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland (St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee) for many years.

In August 2016, Roger was elected President of the newly formed Cuyahoga County Board to help guide the two AOH Divisions in Cuyahoga County. He had also served as the Ohio State AOH President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Organizer, Chairman of Political Education; Chairman of Freedom for All Ireland Committee and a variety of positions at the pleasure of the sitting President. He was an active member of Cleveland's Great Hunger Memorial Committee, Cleveland Heritage Foundation, Gaelic Athletic Association, Greater Cleveland Feis Society, Greater Cleveland Emerald Civic Society, West Side Irish American Club, Irish American Club - East Side, Irish Northern Aid Committee and Ohio Irish Congress. Roger was touched by the many honors bestowed upon him over the years, including his appointment as Grand Marshal of Cleveland's 175th St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2017. He also served as parade co-chair in 1989, was named Cleveland's Irish Person of the Year in 1990 and Hibernian of the Year in 2000. He received the Irish American Partnership Citizenship Award in 2001 and the Commodore John Barry Award from the AOH Ohio state board in 2015.

Roger's true love and legacy was his family, including his parents, the late Angela Catherine Stanton Weist Kerrigan, Robert Weist and James Kerrigan and 17 siblings: The late Joseph Kerrigan (the late Geraldine), Rosemary Eyeran (the late John), Shirley Libbey (Eb), Ruth Keefe (Tim), Jim Kerrigan (Sandra), Paul Kerrigan (Natalie), Loretta Baird, James Weist (Patricia), Mary Hanna (Jerry), Eileen Crable (Harry), William Kerrigan (Kathleen), Pat Kerrigan (Carol), Robert Weist (Christine), Carol Gilligan Chack (Dennis), Sheila Harrison (Daniel), Mary Therese Mullen (John) and Angela Lawrence (Rusty). An uncle of 58 and great uncle of 104, Roger's quick wit, gentle soul, infectious laugh and seemingly endless sense of adventure made an indelible mark on all those whose lives he touched. Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a Anam (May his soul be at the right hand of God)

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## Pennsylvania



**INSTALLED IN PHILADELPHIA**  
The Philadelphia AOH and LAOH divisions recently held their Installation of Officers and some of the members of Division 39 were presented with their Hibernian Veterans Pins.

# Pennsylvania

John Mitchell Day Ceremony and Man of the Year was held at the Cathedral Cemetery. Mr. Mitchell was the great labor leader who fought for an eight-hour work day, minimum wage, and safety standards in the mines, which were all parts of the agreement which ended the Great Anthracite Strike of 1902. The AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 has been celebrating John Mitchell Day for the past 14 years. Jerry Murray, AOH member, member of the Scranton Federation of Teachers, and Clarks Summit resident, was awarded Man of the Year for his past dedication to the Union and his community.



From left, Mike Robinson, Joe Hosie, President of the PA Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kevin Shaughnessy, Patrick O'Malley, President of Hook O'Malley Ancient Order of Hibernians, Joe Holland, Jerry Murray, the 2018 Recipient of the Mitchell Man of the Year Award, Mark McDade, Judge Thomas Munley, John Michelli, and Keith Oleski.



The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 will hold their Man of the Year dinner on Thursday, March 7, 2019, at Fiorelli's. This year's recipient is Bernard McGurl. Front row, from left, James Barrett, President Patrick M. O'Malley, Man of the Year Recipient Bernard McGurl, Father Richard Fox, Keith Oleski, Kevin Donovan. Back row, John Fletcher, James Foley, Mark McDade, Bob McAndrew, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania AOH President Joe Hosie, Current Man of the Year Kevin Shaughnessy, Joe Holland, Mark Dougher. The dinner's details: \$35 per person. Tables of 10 are \$350. Program ads are \$100 per page and \$50 for a half page.

## Put Your Hibernian Pride on Your Ride!

Pennsylvania Brothers have a great opportunity to promote Our Nobel Order and their personal commitment to their Irish Heritage by using the AOH license plate. This is not a "commemorative" plate.. it replaces your current PA plate.

Our unique plate contains our logo and "IR" and can be personalized (extra fee).

Our License Plate Program is administered by Dauphin County, Division One. This program is fully endorsed and supported by our State Board. DC, D1 President Jim Williams serves as our Coordinator and can be reached for full particulars at: [jiwilli@comcast.net](mailto:jiwilli@comcast.net)

Brother Williams is fully prepared to assist you in acquiring our plate. Please step up and help promote the Order.

Remember... it is an Honor to be an Irish-American, and a Blessing to be a Hibernian. Our plate is an opportunity for you to show your pride wherever you go.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Joseph Hosie, PA State President



Lackawanna County AOH met for their Annual Bloody Sunday Memorial. They met in downtown Scranton at the statue honoring John Mitchell, the hero to our ancestors. He was the leader of the United Mine Union. The Brothers meet and recite the roll call of the deceased and we pray for their souls. The large white crosses have the name of every victim on each cross.

In the photo, front row: State Sentinel John Michaely, Dave Walsh, John Maher, Jr.; Back Row: State Director Joe Walsh, Division 2 President Jeff Sears, State President Joe Hosie, Chuck Snyder, County President/Division President 1 Tom Gilbride, Dave Baker, Division 4 President Pat O'Malley, Todd Frick, and John Maher, Sr.



## New leaders

Division officers from Allegheny County were sworn in at Division 17 in Monroeville, PA, on January 12. Officiating was Life Member and Past State President and Past National Director Dennis Donnelly.



Bucks County Board Vice-President Don Foster installs Bucks Division #1 officers in the annual installation event held in Bristol.

# New York



The Hornell Sons of Ireland, Division 1, held their Christmas party January 21st and the highlight of the evening was presenting our brother veteran's with certificates and veteran pins. Also, Mark VanDurme received Hibernian of the year from outgoing president, Dan Connors. — Jerry McAneny, entertainment chair.

# Texas

## Texas Hibernian honored with Austin Police 2018 Distinguished Leadership Award

Monsignor McCabe Division Sentinel Justin Berry was a recipient of a 2018 Distinguished Leadership Award from the Austin Police department. Brother Berry is an active leader in Cops for Charity, an officer-led philanthropy group. He has been an integral part of balancing encouraging community outreach with fundraising and hands-on service throughout the state of Texas. Below is the account of how Brother Berry teamed up with his fellow Hibernians to assist our first responders in one of the highest time of need in recent Texas history:

Three days after Hurricane Harvey struck Rockport, TX I received numerous text messages around 4:30am from a childhood friend, who is also a Rockport Police Officer. I could sense the fear and urgency in her message. I asked her what she needed. She immediately replied, "Some dry \*\*\*\*\* socks!" I told her to hang on and they were on the way. I put her plea for assistance on Facebook and immediately got tons of support. I began to organize and coordinate the relief effort with the help of Austin Cops 4 Charities and the Austin Police Association. I trailered down a 18' trailer packed to the top with food, water, clothes and other personal supplies for the men and women who were operating in a 1st responder capacity. As a police officer myself, I know how reluctant we are to receive help and aid, especially at a time when members of our own community are hurting. However, I also know if we are able to take care of our own they can go take care of their respective communities. When I got down there, I was also directed to Aransas Pass, TX. I went to the fire station where I saw dozens of fire fighters from all over Texas sleeping on the concrete slab. They said they had been sleeping like that for days. This was unacceptable to me, but I felt proud at the same time. I put another request out and quickly had over 200 cots donated, but there were restrictions in place before I could get them sent out.

I turned to my brothers, of The Ancient Order of Hibernians with the Monsignor McCabe Division, who came to my call for assistance along with numerous ladies from LAOH. What would have taken me weeks to do, they managed in hours. Due to their assistance, hard work and dedication I was able to get the cots down to the coastal 1st responders 2 days later. More calls came in for help from the eastern coast line from a Police Chief. He stated that he needed help. His officers' boots were rotted out from being constantly submerged in water. I was able to get boots for his entire department and that of a smaller agency nearby.

I am very blessed and humbled to be a part of such a great organization surrounded by amazing men who have always lived up to their pledge and coming to my aide in a time of need. I am proud to be a police officer and able to be there for my brothers and sisters in their time of need.



Brother Justin Berry with his fiancée Jamie



**MONSIGNOR MCCABE DIVISION ANNOUNCE HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR.** From left, 2017 recipient Kevin Buechler, 2018 recipient Thomas Miner, Consul General of Ireland Adrian Farrell. Division Treasurer Thomas Miner was presented with the Kevin O'Connell Award as the division's Hibernian of the Year. The award is named after the brother who inspirationally connects the history of Central Texas divisions. A charter member of the division, Brother Miner shows leadership in every aspect of the brotherhood. In particular, Thomas has been the driving force behind the division Irish Stew Contest, one of the major cultural events and charity fundraiser in the Central Texas Irish Events calendar. Thomas actively promotes the AOH values both within the division and as a community representative and is one of our most visible brothers throughout Central Texas.

# Virginia



From left, General Meagher Division Sentinel Jack Grey, Division Sentinel and Division President Shawn Lenahan along with members of the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment saluted the Irish Brigade Memorial in Fredericksburg last December. This annual event honored the heroics of the Irish Brigade commanded by General Thomas Francis Meagher at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. The ceremony was sponsored by the National Park Service in collaboration with the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and the General Meagher Division (SP01). The ceremony was followed by an historic walk led by NPS Historian Frank O'Reilly which traced the Irish Brigades route to the disastrous assault at Marye's Heights.

## 13th Annual Sweats for Vets Event Veterans Hospital, Martinsburg, WVA

The Virginia Ancient Order of Hibernians, represented by both the State and the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division, Loudoun County, in conjunction with the VA Knights of Columbus, the VFW, and the newly formed LAOH Daughters of Erin Division (Loudoun, VA), presented on Saturday, January 12, 585 new sweat outfits to the veteran residents located at the Martinsburg WVA Veterans Hospital. With approximately 40 volunteers in attendance on the 13th anniversary of this event, the Knights of Columbus Color Guard from the Elizabeth Ann Seton Assembly #1781 opened the event followed by presentation of financial donations from the various organizations in the amount of approximately \$2,000 to Hospital Director Tim Cook. The Hibernians contributed \$1,000 once again from the State and from the Division. The funds are distributed by the hospital to needy veterans to aid in their respective purchases of sundry items within the facility.

With close to 500 men and women who have served our country in defense of our freedom in residence, all of the volunteers proceeded in providing to every veteran a new sweat outfit, along with socks, tee shirt and a toiletry bag. Every veteran was greeted individually and "Thanked for Their Service!" What a privilege it is for all involved to share stories and fraternity that day. To a person, the Veterans truly appreciate this annual event – as for the volunteers, the day again makes for a lasting memory.

— VA State AOH – Jay McCarthy, VP; Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division – Cole Slattery, President; LAOH Daughters of Erin Division – Margie McCarthy, President.



Cunningham President presented check to Director Tim Cook.

# New York

## By Brother Denis P. McGowan Two NY Hibernians recipients of the Irish Echo's Law & Order Awards

Two Brother Hibernians of New York State were the recipients of the Irish Echo's prestigious Law and Order Award at their 10th annual dinner, held on January 25, at Rosie O'Grady's Manhattan Club, New York City. The event's guest speaker was NYPD Chief of Detectives Dermot F. Shea. A native of Sunnyside, Queens, Shea is the son of Irish immigrants.

The following Brother Hibernians were the proud recipients of the 2019 Law and Order Awards from the Irish Echo, America's largest and oldest Irish-American newspaper founded in 1928: Michael McInnis and Thomas Ashe Moore.

Brother Michael McInnis is a police officer assigned to the NYPD Employee Labor Relations section. Brother Moore is a member of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Lawrence F. Ryan Council No. 5169, the Past President of the NYPD Anchor Club (a fraternal society of the NYPD comprised of Third Degree Knights of Columbus established in 1922), the Vice President of the NYPD Holy Name Society Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island Branch, the NYPD Emerald Society, the Westchester Police Emerald Society, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of New York.

He is a Brother Hibernian of the AOH John P. McGuinness - Richard Fitzsimons Division 14 (Rockville Centre - Lynbrook, NY).

Brother McInnis traces his family's Irish roots to Mullingar in Co. Westmeath, as well as Co. Offaly and Co. Laois.

Brother McInnis is married to his beloved wife of 23 years, Anne Denise Percudani McInnis, and they are the proud parents of their son Gerard Michael McInnis, who is 9 years old.

Brother Thomas Ashe Moore is a detective currently assigned to the NYPD Office of the Chief of Crime Control Strategies. Brother Moore is an active member of the NYPD Gaelic Football Club, the NYPD Emerald Society the Kerry Pipers Pipe Band, Rockland GAA Gaelic Football Team, Bronx Gaelic League, and is a Brother Hibernian of the John Cardinal D'Alton Division 3 (Pearl River, NY), which his father, Brother Dermot O'Connor Moore, is the current Division President.

Brother Moore is proud of his Irish roots, traced to his grandfather, the late FDNY Deputy Chief Thomas A. Moore, a Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, native and was a Past President of AOH Division 3 (Bronx, NY). His grandmother, the late Sister Hibernian Mary Holt Moore, a devoted expert on Irish history, language, culture and music, who was the president of the Bronx Gaelic League, and was the Grand Marshal of the New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 1991.

Sister Moore was a descendent of General Joseph Holt, a leader of the 1798 Irish Rebellion in Co. Wicklow, and a cousin of Sean MacDiarmada of the 1916 Irish Uprising. Her parents, Ann O'Rourke, of Co. Leitrim, and father Charles A. Holt Sr. of Co. Wicklow, were Irish patriots who pursued the cause of Irish freedom.

Brother Moore's father was the Grand Marshal of the Rockland County Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2016. His mother, Sister Hibernian Joan (Sweeney) Moore is the Rockland County LAOH President and will be the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Rockland County Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Brother Thomas A. Moore is married to his beloved wife Colleen, who he met at an Iona College Gaelic Society function. They are the proud parents of their daughter Rose Mary, born in 2018.

Kudos to our Brother Hibernians for their outstanding service to the community as members of New York's Finest and for the honors bestowed upon them by the Irish Echo's staff in recognition of their representing our Irish Catholic community, our heritage and our Order as Brother Hibernians.

— Brother Denis P. McGowan, Richmond County Board Recording Secretary



Traditions enduring. Family is a fundamental element of Hibernianism. Pictured here during the installation of the Albany Junior Girls Division are National AOH Organizer Tim McSweeney, his daughter Junoir girls Historian Isabella (3rd generation Hibernian) and National Director Liam McNabb, with his daughter Junior girls Mistress at Arms (5th Generation Hibernian).

The Msgr James Ruddy Division in Watertown has stepped up our charitable giving and activities over the last year. During that time we've given out over \$2,500 to various charities.



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: From left, Dick Lawlee, Bill Flynn, Father Chris Looby, John DiSteffano (Habitat Director) President/District Director Sèan Hennessey, Treasurer Kevin Shaughnessy and Tom Shaughnessy.**



**The Msgr James Ruddy Division sponsored a fundraiser where \$1,350 was raised for Division President/District Director Sèan Hennessey's Boiler Maker run. Hennessey said "the 15K Boiler Maker (Utica) run was nothing compared to the amazing efforts our Brothers and our Community put into raising these funds. Habitat for Humanity is an amazing organization founded on principals of charitable giving. What better way to honor our ancestors than to give funds to such a worthy organization."**



Coverage by local media has been incredible. We've had front page stories as well as TV and Radio cover our matches.

## Deadline

Articles for the April-May issue are due no later than  
April 1

# Ladies hibernian news

## Ladies AOH National Board

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**Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email.**  
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## National Secretary

**by Marilyn Madigan**

The first 3 months of the year is a very busy time for the Hibernians. Our Officers are busy with the Annual Reports. Thank you to all the Officers working hard on the Reports so that all the deadlines are met. The Membership Report is very important because it is a reflection on the health of our Order. All our Divisions should focus on keeping members as well as recruitment of new members.

I am writing this article on the Feast of St. Brigid, our Patron. I would like to extend a belated wish to all of our members Feile La le Brid Oribh go Leir - Happy St. Brigid's Day everyone. We have been celebrating her Feast as an Organization for over a Century. In this, our 125th year, we should, like St. Brigid, spread the cloak and bring more members into the Order that she is the Patron Saint. We are 10,000 strong proud Irish American Catholic Women. Let us increase our numbers and make St. Brigid proud.

March 8 is International Women's Day and March is Irish American Heritage Month. This should be the time we share our 125 years as an Irish American Women's Organization. During this time, share our history and hold membership drives. We need to remember that an invitation to join is all that is needed. During the month of March, let's see if we can all invite one person to join.

La fheile Padraig sons dhuit, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

## President's Message...

**by Carol Sheyer**



As I am writing this article, many Hibernian Sisters and Brothers are making their final plans for the February 10th FFAI Trip and I am thrilled to say I have the good fortune to be able to take part in the trip this year.

The first couple months of the year are a very busy time for us, with celebrating St. Brigid Feast Day and of course all the St. Patrick Festivities but don't forget the Year End Reports are also due. I want to thank all the many officers who work so hard and spend many hours completing the reports and sending them in by the deadline.

Speaking about St. Patrick's Day brings to mind all the St. Patrick items, which go on sale this time of year. Please remember to watch for any cards and/or shirts that are offensive. There are companies, each year, who make a nice profit by selling inappropriate and distasteful cards and clothing.

Also, remember the LAOH 125th Anniversary is this year. Besides the many events the States and Divisions are planning, don't forget the National Board's celebration coming up this October in Dearborn, MI. By the time you are reading this, I hope the State Presidents had forwarded the Registration Form and the information about room reservations to their State membership. All this information is on our website. If you have any questions please contact Past National President Maureen Shelton, 125th Anniversary Chair, or myself.

The National Board is also selling commemorative items, which you can find on the LAOH website.

In closing, I want to ask you to please pray for the safe return of our service men and women who are putting themselves in harm's way every day to keep us safe in America.

## Vice President

**by Karen Keane**

Winter is definitely here! This week we will be celebrating the Feast of St. Brigid. I hope the divisions were able to honor her in your unique way.

On the Junior front, we have gained a new Junior division in Albany, New York. The officers were installed on February 3rd at the division's St. Brigid's Brunch. The young ladies are so excited, as only youth can be. Now their Application for the Charter can be submitted.

The Degree Teams are working hard in preparing for their State Conventions and local exemplification of the Major Degrees. If you are not a Degreed Member, please contact your Vice-President for information on the closest Degree Team.

The Hibernian Lecture at the University of Notre Dame will take place on Friday, September 20th. The information on the guest lecturer is available on our website (ladiesaoh.com) and soon you will be receiving hotel information.

Well, onto exciting news. We are gearing up for the 125th Anniversary of our Noble Order. There will be a fun filled weekend of events, as the Chairwoman, Past National President Maureen Shelton, has been working hard on this important historical affair.

If you will be unable to attend the events, PLEASE order a special 125th anniversary pin, bracelet, or challenge coin. Remember the proceeds from the sale of these items will be going toward our National Appeals for Aid in Orlando. Many of us have a collection of Hibernian pins, but this 125th Anniversary pin, not only marks this occasion, it helps us fulfill our obligation of Christian Charity. Consider ordering one for your members, especially new members to designate the year they joined.

With the upcoming 125th Anniversary, each division can work with its local government and State Legislature to have a resolution passed recognizing the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. for 125 years of service to the community at large. These resolutions are an excellent opportunity to show off our members, obtain publicity, and spread the word on our good works. Contact your local elected official. It is not lobbying, it is asking for recognition and a historical document. What politician doesn't love to have their picture taken, especially surrounded by beautiful Irish Catholic Ladies.

Also, remember that our new Official LAOH Veteran Pin is now available for all members who served in the armed forces. The Gold Star Mother's Pin has also been obtained and, while it is a heartbreaking circumstance to be a Gold Star Mother, the pin will show our Sister that we love her, support her in grief, and honor the memory of her child's service.

In closing, please support the above initiatives and help spread the word on the 125th Anniversary. Don't sit on the sidelines, take a stand and be part of the action.

Love to each of you, mo chara

# National Historian

by Sandi Riley Swift

As we are in the year of our 125th Anniversary there is much going on. We have the 125th Commemoration items for sale. These are limited items and will not be replenished after October of this year. You can also order clothing items with the 125th logo on them. This logo is will be discontinued after October. The 125th logo may be used for your celebrations, however, it may not be used on clothing or items for purchase, those need to be purchased from the National Website. Please see the website to order. We have bracelets, a challenge coin and pin.

There are numerous posters available on the website for you to print.. These posters will be a wonderful addition to any display or celebration you are hosting for the 125th Anniversary.

In addition, I will be collecting histories, with photos, to put together a 125th Anniversary Commemoration Book. The book will be printed after the October celebration in order to include the commemoration. I will be sending information out to the State Historians after I receive the new membership list of officers. If anyone has a copy of the 100th Anniversary Commemoration book please contact me.

The website contains information on the 125th Anniversary and you are able to make your room reservations now.

As you hold events and conventions, please be sure to remember to document this year and include it in our commemoration book.



# Massachusetts



Installation of Division 8 Lawrence, Ma LAOH officers and junior officers was held on January 27, 2018.



**LAOH DIVISION 1 LOWELL OFFICERS FOR THE TERM 2019-2021**  
 Row 1: L-R Treasurer, Donna Marie Curran Salyards; Vice President, Anita Campbell; President, Joyce Burgess; Recording Secretary, June Sweet; Past National President, Mary H. Ryan, Marshall. Row 2: L-R Past State President, Kathy Rafuse, Installing Officer; Financial Secretary, Charlene Cesarz; Missions & Charities Chair, Karen Follett; Catholic Action, Maureen McNiff; Acting Historian, Jeannine Dunn; Nancy Rudolph, Mistress at Arms; Patricia O'Brien, Sentinel & Sunshine.

# Michigan



**MICHIGAN LAOH MEMBERS CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST BRIGID**  
 A Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron St. Brigid was held on Saturday, January 26th at the Stephen Walsh AOH Hall in Redford Michigan. Father Tim McCabe, SJ, our LAOH State Chaplain was the celebrant. Guitarist and AOH member, Kevin Murphy led us in song and the gifts were presented by those sisters with the name of Brigid. Ladies from many Divisions were in attendance. A delicious pot luck dinner and social followed Mass.

[www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)



Testimonial Hooley  
 In Honor Of  
 LAOH National President  
*Carol Sheyer*

### REGISTRATION FORM

The State of Ohio is privileged to honor our Ohio LAOH Sister National President Carol Sheyer by hosting a Testimonial Hooley. Festivities will take place on Friday October 11, 2019 at the Hibernian Hall, 25300 Five Mile Road, Redford, MI 48239 from 7:00 to 11:00 PM.

The Testimonial Hooley event price is \$35.00 and includes transportation, food and entertainment.

Please send your registration by September 15, 2019 with check payable to LAOH Ohio State Board to: Maire Manning, 1435 Olivewood Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Phone (text) 216-456-5395, email [manningrince@gmail.com](mailto:manningrince@gmail.com).

\*The Testimonial Hooley is a separate event from the LAOH 125th Anniversary Celebration

#### Testimonial Hooley Registration Form

Please detach form and send with \$35.00 check payable to  
 LAOH Ohio State Board to:  
 Maire Manning, 1435 Olivewood Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107-4410.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Division Name, County, and State \_\_\_\_\_



LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT  
AND  
PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL HOOLEY  
OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

Will take place at The Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn, MI. 48124  
Rooms: Room rate \$149.00 plus tax (currently 14%). Cutoff Date Friday September 13, 2019.  
Reservations thru hotel at 1-877-757-7103 or 313-271-2700  
Group Code for the room block is LAOH 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Dearborn Inn, A Marriott Hotel <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtwdi?>

Package 1	Cost \$155.00*	Package 2	Cost \$95.00*
	\$165.00**		\$105.00**'
Solanus Casey Center Tour on Thursday		Saturday Banquet (Only)	
Thursday Evening Entertainment			
Saturday Banquet			

Banquet Dinner Choices: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Beef Tenderloin \_\_\_\_\_

Mass followed by Cocktails, Dinner and Dancing till 11:30AM

\*Early deadline for reservations and payment – September 1, 2019

\*\*Payment after September 1, 2019

No Dinner Reservations accepted after September 27, 2019

Friday Evening Festivities will be a Testimonial Hooley in honor of National President Carol Sheyer. Separate cost and information for this event will be forthcoming from the State of Ohio.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible seat me with: \_\_\_\_\_

Each table seats 10 people

Please return this form along with your check payable to: LAOH, Inc. and return to  
Past National President Patricia O'Connell  
407 E. Lyndale Road  
Peoria, IL 61614  
309-370-2116  
oconnellp407@comcast.net

**FATHER DONEGAN  
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into a community facility called the Houben Centre, and that is where he spends his days working across the divide with youth groups from Ardoyne and Shankhill. Fr. Donegan is a strong supporter of the R City cafe, in Houben Centre, which is staffed by young people from the Hammer Youth Club (based on the Protestant Shankhill Road) and the Ardoyne Youth Clubs (in Catholic north Belfast), which seeks to enhance the growth and development of the young people who become part of the program.



Mark Thompson, left, of Relatives For Justice, was presented with a Freedom For All Ireland donation by Hibernian presidents Carol Sheyer and Judge Jim McKay. Presentation of FFAI contributions was one of the major purposes of this year's highly successful official tour.

Fr. Donegan was also featured during the Stormont Talks. He was one of the civic leaders who started the Make It Happen campaign, calling on Northern Ireland's politicians to make a success of the talks process.

"We met the parties at individual and party level," Fr. Donegan explained. "In a post conflict situation, it's not just up to the people on the hill. They may not always say the right things, but I've seen them coming out of Stormont at 3 a.m. and no-one can say they are not working." He added: "We need to engage them and say: 'This place is for all of us.'"

A proud member of the Fr. Henry Tansey Div. 5 in Albany, NY, Fr. Donegan was the 2018 recipient of the Fr. Murphy FFAI Award.



Several AOH National Board members joined in the announcement of Fr. Donegan as the McBride Award recipient. From left, Director Dan Dennehy, FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Treasurer Sean Pender, Fr. Donegan, Belfast Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey, President Jim McKay and Director Dennis Parks.

## South Carolina

### March For Life in South Carolina

January 18 marked the second annual March for Life event at Saint Gregory the Great RCC in Bluffton, SC in conjunction with the national March for Life in our nation's capital. This event was organized by the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division under the leadership of Jim Coyne, our President. More than 150 people turned out; prayed the Rosary; held flags, signs, banners and posters proclaiming our message of the sanctity of life; and stood behind 60 small white crosses (each cross representing one million abortions that have taken place in our country since Roe v. Wade) that lined the shoulder of the busiest roadway in Bluffton at the height of rush hour.



Event organizers Linda Bauer, Leader of the Right to Life Initiative at St. Gregory the Great Parish front row right and Jim Coyne, President of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division rear row right are flanked by brother Hibernians who assisted in the set up for the event.

Members of the Msgr. John L. Manning Division 1, Charleston SC, presented a \$1,000 donation to the Bishop John England High School on Daniel Island, SC. Surrounding three of the students are, from left, Treasurer Kelly Kanapaux, PP and St. Patrick's Day Parade Chairman Jimmy Finnegan, BE Students, President Bill Hart, BE Principal Patrick Finneran, and PP, PSP Jim Nettles, Jr. In 2018, the Division presented a total of \$1,400 to the School's Green and White Fund and the Nicholas J. Theos Assistance Fund. Principal Finneran stated "You are truly making a difference in the lives of our students." Bishop England is one of three charities that the Division supports.



### AOH helps to build Bluffton

The town of Bluffton, SC and St. Gregory the Great Parish are experiencing tremendous growth due to general development in the area. SGG is presently constructing a Parish Life Center to respond the need for expanded physical facilities to support the many active ministries in the parish. The Bishop Patrick Lynch Division of Beaufort County SC hosted the initial "Irish Open" golf outing late last year and recently donated \$5,000 of the profit from this event to the Center building fund. In addition to the building fund contribution the Division's fund raising efforts in 2018 facilitated contributions of \$7,300 to Project St. Patrick and \$6,000 to help support local Catholic schools, parish religious education programs and other charitable organizations in the Low Country.

**HIBERNIANS MARCH FOR LIFE IN D.C.**  
continued from page 1

Hibernian Mass. With our intentions focused on finding the value in all life, we hope to see even greater participation next year on January 24, 2020.

**Pro-Life Is Pro-Science**

One of the most encouraging factors about the march is the growing number of young people who participate. Sure, some are probably there for the day off school and the road trip, but you can't help thinking about the morality of abortion or the value of human life as you walk with thousands of Americans braving the winter weather to speak truth to power. Living and working in the D.C. area, I often grow discouraged and skeptical of our chances for real change on life issues. It's hard standing up for your principles when surrounded by those who disagree with you, some even question your integrity and character; but marching each year reminds me that there are millions of Americans who believe and feel as we do, ready to stand up and be heard. For that I am extremely grateful to everyone who attends and supports us in prayer.

Another encouraging sight were signs that have begun to show that a pro-life stance is in accordance with the best available science. I cannot understate how important this change is to the future of our movement. For too long the pro-life crusade has tried to fight the battle in the halls of government (where change is incremental at best and long in coming), or on ethical and moral grounds. The problem is that many of the institutions that endorsed ethical or moral argu-

ments against abortion have had their authority challenged in recent years due to scandal and generational change.

However, advances in science have led us to discover more about the development and capabilities of children in the womb than was known when the Supreme Court determined *Roe v. Wade* or *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*.

Turning to arguments based on science is a favorable way to counter those who would claim opposition to "a right to choose" is based solely on religious or philosophical grounds instead of facts. We now know that the heart begins to form by week four of pregnancy and will be fully formed by week six. Between weeks six and nine a woman's physician will perform the first ultrasound to confirm pregnancy and listen for a heartbeat. Around week eight, doctors and fetal surgeons agree that a baby begins to feel or react to touch, and no later than week 20 the child is capable of experiencing pain.

Knowing these scientific facts makes it harder to think of a child in terms of "fetus" or a "parasitic organism," as some have callously done. Through medical advancements, children delivered at 23-24 weeks have a fair chance of survival, pushing the known bounds of fetal viability ever closer to conception. Armed with these statistics, let us bolster our ethical and moral arguments for life as we ask, How can a society that condemns animal cruelty and unnecessary pain, so callously ignore pain inflicted on a human child post 20 weeks gestation? How could a society justify as proof of life the discovery of single celled bacteria on a distant planet, while denying the viability of a formed, pain capable child on Earth? I hope we receive an answer soon, because millions of Americans are waiting.



With the Capitol in the background and Hibernian bagpipers on the left and right, members of the National Board and others prepared to march



National Pro-Life Chairman John Patrick Walsh was one of the key organizers of the Order's participation in the March For Life.



Proud to march behind the New York State Hibernian banner were, from left, Luke McGlade, who had just joined AOH Division 15, Nassau County; John Manning, NYS AOH Secretary; Martin Snell, AOH Division 14, Queens, NY; Luke McCauley; and Ed McGlade, on the far right, Nassau County Board Financial Secretary and Div. 15 president.



A massive crowd marched for life on Constitution Avenue and the Hibernians were proudly among them.



Spectators and other marchers often applauded the New York AOH contingent as their banner moved along Constitution Ave.



National President Judge James McKay and National AOH Chaplain Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi on Constitution Avenue before the March For Life.



The Holy Mass was celebrated at Mary, Mother of God, Church before Hibernians gathered to join the March For Life.

