

Ireland's 'exiled children' must push for justice



By Neil Cosgrove

The election of Boris Johnson as Prime Minister of Great Britain and the appointment of his new cabinet against the backdrop of an October 31st Brexit deadline should be a concern for all Hibernians and all who value peace in Ireland. As of this writing in early August, Prime Minister Johnson has stated that he will not accept the negotiated "Irish Backstop" that would avoid a post-Brexit hard border in Ireland. Instead of proposing new ideas, Prime Minister Johnson appears intent on playing a "game of chicken," threatening to take the world's fifth-largest country over a cliff unless the EU and the world accede to Britain's demands and sacrifice Ireland to Brexit expediency.

As is his style, Mr. Johnson has launched a salvo of sound bites about British "pluck" and "tenacity" in the face of "extortion" from Ireland and the E.U. It is a classic example of role reversal between victim and offender. No one in Ireland, North or South, gave a mandate for Brexit; the North rejected it by a clear electoral majority of 56 percent, the citizens of the Republic of Ireland had no vote.

Brexit, as its name suggests, British Exit, sees once again a Westminster where Ireland is viewed as expendable to British interests. Johnson's Brexit problem is that the rest of the world remembers that the UK signed an internationally recognized treaty, the Good Friday Agreement (GFA), which ended one of the deadliest conflicts in history and ushered in two decades of previously unimagined peace. At a minimum, a border in Ireland would grievously impact the most tangible product of the Good Friday Agreement, the now interconnected economy of Ireland where products cross a national border multiple times in their production lifecycle. At worst, members of the British government have indicated that in order to achieve Brexit, Britain may have to resort to direct rule, a move that would effectively destroy 20 years of progress toward peace in Ireland.

In his demand to drop the Irish Backstop, Mr. Johnson is asking the world to sacrifice Ireland under threat of a hard Brexit. Though he

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NC Hibernians Commemorate Ireland's An Gorta Mor

Members of the North Carolina AOH and LAOH, along with their families and friends, gathered at St. Therese Catholic Church, in Mooresville, for a special Mass on May 5 to commemorate Ireland's Great Hunger, An Gorta Mor. The Mass was offered by Fr. Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Therese and a member of the AOH, for the intention of those who suffered during those years of hardship.

Among those attending the Mass were Patrick Tracey, NC AOH State Board President; Mary Driscoll, NC LAOH State Board President; Bryan Somerville, Mecklenburg County Board AOH President; and members of the AOH's Sons of Erin and St. Brendan the Navigator Divisions and the LAOH's Ladies of the Lough Division, all in Mecklenburg County.



North Carolina Hibernians with families and friends at An Gorta Mor Mass.

— Submitted by Ray FitzGerald,
Central Director, NC State Board

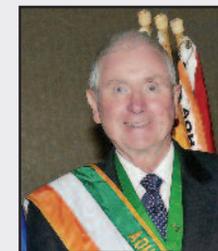
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The National
hibernian digest

"Ireland. One and indivisible. Though the heavens fall"

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

September 19-22

1992 **2019**

North Wildwood
28th Annual Irish Fall Festival

Thursday, September 19th
A.O.H. Golf Tournament – 8:00 AM
\$110.00 fee before 9/5 and \$120.00 on or after 9/5
Cape May National Golf Course, Route 9 and Fairway Drive, CMCH
Live Amateur Boxing – \$30.00
Wildwood Catholic High School, North Wildwood

Friday September 20th
VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue
LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue

Saturday September 21st
5K Run- 8 AM SIGN-UP-\$20.00 fee Olde New Jersey Avenue (prizes awarded)
VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue
BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION - 10 AM - Bill Henfey Park
Featuring some of the best pipe bands on the East Coast
IRISH DANCE LESSONS-FREE - 10 AM till 12 PM -Elks Lodge
LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue

Sunday September 22nd
MASS - 10:30 AM Saint Ann's R.C. Church Glenwood & Atlantic Avenue
PARADE - 12:30 PM - 20th & Surf to Spruce & Olde New Jersey Avenue
GRAND MARSHALL - To be Announced
VENDORS - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

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president's message

By Jim McKay III

By the time you will receive this issue, summer will be on the wane and many of our state conventions have come and gone. All eyes are now turned to our interim Board meeting in October. As is the custom, it will be held in conjunction with our National President's Dinner on October 19 in our Nation's capital, Washington, D.C. All of our National Board members should have made their hotel reservations by this time as I am sure the block is closed.

Most of the attendees will arrive on Friday, October 18, and I have planned a special event that evening for all attendees. A night-time bus tour of all the D.C. monuments is scheduled for 8:30 that evening. The tour bus will pick up those who have signed up for the tour at the hotel. The tour will last approximately two hours and we plan to have refreshments on each bus. The price is included in your \$90 registration fee.

That next morning on the 19th we will conduct our respective business meetings where National Officers will report on their activities during the past year. Mass will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the historic St. Patrick's Church, 619 10th Street NW, which is only one and a half blocks from the Marriott Metro Centre, our hotel. There will be a cocktail hour after the Mass beginning at 7 p.m. with the banquet and other formalities following.

As you are aware, the President's Dinner is where we present the Sean MacBride Memorial Award, and this year it goes to Father Gary Donegan, of Co. Fermanagh, a very popular priest in the North of Ireland who has stood tall under great adversity for his faith and his race. It is a nice time of the year in D.C. and I look forward to seeing many of my Brothers in attendance.

As of this writing the BREXIT situation as it concerns Ireland is a complete mess. The new British PM, Boris Johnson, is determined to leave the EU without a "deal." If that happens, they are already talking about direct rule in the North and therefore suspending the edicts of the Good Friday Agreement. I am sure we will be hearing about this on a daily basis by the time you read this article. One of the only bright spots in this nightmare is that the new Prime Minister has only a two-vote majority in this coalition. He may not be able to hold the line in Westminster on a "no deal exit." Only time will tell.

I hope that you had an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing many of you all either at your state conventions or the President's Dinner.

God Bless.



national secretary

By Jere Cole

New Roster Editing Tool

The new roster editing tool is now fully available to all divisions. However, for whatever reason, not all have logged in and begun to experience the new system. Those who have are giving it rave reviews, finding it both easy to use and convenient.

It has been in most cases over 90 days since you have been invited. If you don't recall receiving the invite please contact our office immediately to get you up and running. Initially we are only inviting ONE person (the financial secretary) per division to use the system, just to keep it uncomplicated. Understandably some of the invites may have been misdirected to a spam folder, but you need to advise us immediately if you are not on the new system.

Still, at this writing, many divisions do not have any individual with a functional email. This will not work going forward. You must designate one person in your division to have an email and access to the new system. At some point before the year's end, we will no longer accept form 40s and they will be returned to you if they are sent in to this office. Please appoint someone in your division to undertake this responsibility as that is the only way in which we will be able to move forward.

This year is rapidly coming to a close and you are going to be responsible to have your records correct by the December 31, 2019, deadline. This is because it is that number you are showing on that date that you will be responsible for paying per capita on to National.

This year, all 2020 membership cards will be mailed in January. Your per capita payment is due by February 15, 2020. Payment received after that date will be \$16 per member, rather than \$12. There will be no exceptions made. Pay on time and you will pay only \$12 per member.

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.

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

As we continue to work through state convention season I wish to congratulate the new officers and thank those leaving office for their service to the Order. The commitment members make serving in office at any level leads to our continued success. As part of our email blast, we will feature both past state presidents and newly elected state presidents recognizing the accomplishments of those ending their term followed by the goals, objectives and plans of our newly elected leaders.

Now would be a great time to visit the job description page on our national website. <https://aoh.com/aoh-job-descriptions/> You can type the link into your browser or simply go to www.aoh.com, hit the "About the AOH" tab at the top, and the job descriptions are the fourth one down on the list. As you review the job descriptions, you can adjust them to fit your State, County or Division. These will provide a consistent base for all of our Hibernians officers.

As we approach the fall national board meeting and the National Presidents MacBride Award Dinner in October we have a great opportunity to network with guests from around the country. Holding this event in our national capital enhances our efforts. This opportunity also provides challenges for rooms and travel but the benefits far outweigh any difficulties. We look forward to seeing you in D.C.

We are now beginning the second year of our advertising program approved during the 2018 national convention. The committee is currently evaluating our successes and shortfalls of the last year. We anticipate a new plan of action soon. If you are interested in being part of the team please contact me, place "Marketing Team" in the subject line. Please include a brief note on your experience.

The email blast continues to grow and improve. If you are interested in helping with the effort through our constant contact program, please send me an email. I am hoping to find someone who can improve our current format and work on getting the blast out twice a month. We have seen great benefits in this system and know that it can continue to improve.

I want to take a moment to challenge every division and state president to get every member's correct email address into our system. Your financial secretary has the ability to update these on a regular basis. Getting everyone online will enhance our communications tremendously.

In closing, I want to congratulate the work of National Rituals and Degree Chairman Jack Schneider. For the first time, we have rosters of degree teams and are going to keep a historical log of the brothers who exemplify each degree moving forward. Tracking our history for those who follow us is a great thing indeed. Great work Brother Schneider!



Director's Report

By Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation....

'Tis the season for State Conventions, which bring Sister and Brother Hibernians together from around a state to enjoy reuniting with friends and social opportunities to make new ones. The primary focus of conventions is for State Leadership to invite County and Division delegates from every corner of their respective state to join them and participate in the business of the Order. This business includes state officers sharing reports of activities during their term, various committee meetings and discussion related to many topics of the organization. As important as it is to complete the business at hand, as prescribed in the "Blue Book," conventions are an opportunity to share best practices, host guest speakers and focus on priority topics.

We held our New York State convention in July and chose to schedule the Organizer's Committee Meeting during a time that didn't conflict with other committee meetings to attract as many delegates as possible, as this is a priority topic to our State. NY State Organizer Kevin Cummings was joined by National Organizer Tim McSweeney and they presented an "Organizing Seminar," which specifically focused on recruiting younger members, creating a marketing strategy for your Division, using new technology, and how to effectively engage prospective members at festivals, etc., to name a few. As hoped, a very productive discussion and sharing of ideas among delegates occurred during this meeting.

Following the Organizing meeting was the Freedom For All Ireland meeting, which was also scheduled at a time that didn't conflict with other events, as this is consistently a very popular meeting and topic in our State. As expected, this meeting was well attended. Martin Galvin, NYS and National FFAI Chair, chaired the meeting, which also produced a very interactive discussion among delegates and FFAI Chairs from many Counties and Divisions.

The convention proceeded with the remainder of committee meetings, all of which are important, but State Leadership was challenged to schedule meetings in time to allow for a "report out," approval of reports and continue with advancing the business agenda. However, even with a prescribed business agenda, much can be achieved by focusing on priority topics in a way that allows all delegates an opportunity to learn something new and contribute to the planning of our organization's future. Hopefully, all delegates departed the convention and returned to their respective Divisions with new ideas and resources, along with a renewed enthusiasm, all to strengthen local practices for the Good of the Order.



Treasurer's Report

By Sean Pender

Finishing my third year as your treasurer I wanted to offer some thoughts on what is needed to be successful at the very important job. The key components I believe of this job are consistency, integrity, timeliness, compliance and the seamless passing of job to your successor.

Consistency

A good treasurer needs to be consistent and our National constitution gives us that in Article 10 section 6; follow these regulations and you will be successful:

Deposit in a bank or savings institution within 10 days after receipt in the appropriate name of the Order and unit thereof. Keep a record of all monies received and disbursed on approved forms and books furnished by the National Secretary; Pay no money except on voucher signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary on approved forms furnished by the National Secretary; Keep vouchers for all disbursements.

As a suggestion to all boards and divisions I'd recommend online banking or a program like QuickBooks for consistency, ease of use, documentation and filing purposes.

In my research for this article I found a great article by Dennis Walsh a CPA who in February of 2010 posted the following article, "Treasurers of All-Volunteer Organizations: Eight Key Responsibilities," to the Blue Avocado website (Blue Avocado is an online magazine fueled by a bimonthly newsletter designed to provide practical, tactical tips and tools to nonprofit leaders). The full article can be read here: <https://blueavocado.org/editors-picks/treasurers-of-all-volunteer-organizations-eight-key-responsibilities/>

The responsibilities below align closely with our goals and are from the article:

Integrity

Handle the money with high standards and set a tone of integrity. In an All-Volunteer Organization, close treasurer oversight of cash, checks and deposits is vital. If you can't always be present when money is changing hands, be visible enough that others know that you're engaged.

Timeliness

Keep a calendar of federal, state and local filing requirements, be aware of payment schedules. Late fees and penalties on bills or filings can be very costly.

Compliance

File Form 990. Except for churches and certain religious organizations, all nonprofits must file an IRS Form 990 annually. For fiscal years beginning in 2010, organizations with income less than \$50,000 (\$25,000 for 2009) need only file the online e-Postcard, Form 990-N.

Register with charitable solicitation agencies. Register, when required, with the charitable solicitation office in your home state as well as any state in which you regularly fundraise, including by email. Go to the Unified Registration Statement (URS) website for a summary of state by state requirements to determine if you must register as a charity, provide a copy of IRS Form 990, have a CPA audit or review, and whether the state accepts the streamlined URS application.

Obtain permits and Licenses. Check on regulatory requirements before undertaking activities such as serving liquor at a special event, conducting a raffle or starting a Bingo night. Such laws vary by state. It may be helpful as a starting point to talk to another nonprofit leader whose organization is engaged in the same activity. Most state nonprofit associations have helplines or publish FAQs and other guides covering these types of issues. If you're uncomfortable asking for help, get over it quickly.

Passing it on

Recruit the next treasurer: Like other volunteers, the treasurer will not serve indefinitely. Unfortunately, some treasurers entrench themselves and resist transfer of control. Throughout their term of service, effective treasurers encourage and equip fellow volunteers to participate in financial management duties. When it's time for the treasurer to pass the baton, these organizations will enjoy the least disruption.

As we work our way toward convening in Orlando next summer, I hope that I have demonstrated to our members my abilities to adhere to the above responsibilities. But to be honest, I look forward to passing this honor on to our next worthy treasurer. All the best.



Project St. Patrick

By Vic Vogel, Chairman

I would like to thank all States, Counties and Divisions that participated in the Project St. Patrick's Easter Appeal for the year 2019. These donations will provide financial-assistance grants to Seminarians in their preparation to do the work of God. Applications will be mailed to all Bishops and Seminary Directors by summer's end. Seminarians and Religious will receive applications from the Bishops or Seminary Directors to apply for the National Ancient Order of Hibernian Project St. Patrick's Grant. Certificates will be awarded to all jurisdictions that have met the donation criteria.

In addition to the Easter Appeal, we continue our Project St. Patrick's Prayer Card Program and ask all States, Counties, Divisions and individual members to participate throughout the year.

As your Chairman, I look forward to working with you during my term of office. God Bless.



Director's Report

By Bill Sullivan

As the long, hot, lazy days of the summer pass, it certainly has been a busy one on all fronts for many Division, County and State Boards here in the New England area.

On the weekend of June 7 - 9, Martin Galvin, AOH National Freedom for All Ireland Chairman, along with Professor Mark McGovern and Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, traveled to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut as part of a seven-state book launch of the book, Collusion Counterinsurgency in Northern Ireland. We were honored to have AOH National Director Denny Parks of Ohio join with us for the first night of the tour at the AOH Hall in Watertown, MA on June 7. On June 8, the tour continued in Newport, RI at the home of the Dennis Collins Division and the New England part of the tour concluded on June 9 at the Gaelic American Club in Fairfax CT. The speakers and message delivered were well received at all of these events.

Many Divisions celebrated Summer 2019 with outings, cookouts, boat cruises, Irish Festivals, softball tournaments and lobster fests. With fall soon upon us, Hibernian meetings and other activities will soon be in full swing. Among the events that will be taking place this fall will be the National Board Meeting and National President's Dinner in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of October 18 and 19. I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Over the last several months many State Boards held their Biennial Conventions. Here in New England, the Connecticut State Board held their convention in Waterbury on the weekend of June 21 - 23 and elected Connecticut AOH State Vice President Brenden Walsh of the John A. Gildea Division 3 in Danbury, as their new President. AOH National Secretary Jere Cole, and AOH National Director Liam McNabb also attended. The Rhode Island State Convention is slated to be held on September 14 at the home of the Dennis E. Collins Division 1 in Newport.

This summer, I have had the opportunity to visit and take part in many AOH and Irish related events in New England. In July, I had the opportunity to attend the New York AOH State Convention in Albany where Tom Lambert was elected New York State President. My sincere congratulations to all new officers, and my sincere thanks to all my brothers in the states I had the opportunity to visit for their hospitality and friendship that was extended to me.

In addition to the scholarship recipients announced in the last issue of the Digest, we are happy to announce on behalf of AOH National President James McKay and the AOH National Board that Erin Buckley of Boeine, Texas, has been selected as the recipient of a \$2,000 Study Abroad Scholarship. Erin, who is a student at Columbia University in New York, will attend Trinity College Dublin for a full year of study (September 2019 - May 2020). Her father, Brian Buckley, is a member of the Msgr. Charles A. Kelly Jr., Division in Midlothian VA.

Our sincere thanks again to Joe Casler, President of the Hibernian Charity, and to the members of the Hibernian Charity Board, for providing the funding for this scholarship and all our scholarships. Information on our 2020 Scholarships will be announced this fall in the Hibernian Digest and on the AOH National Web Page.

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



Director's Report

By Dennis Parks

It has been a busy and productive summer for the Order all across the country. In June, I had the privilege of attending the Michigan convention and installing their new officers. Congratulations to new President Mike Kelly and the rest of the Michigan State Board. I would also like to extend a thank you to the Immediate Past President Kevin Burke for all of the hard work he did in Michigan. In July, I had the privilege of attending the New York and Pennsylvania State Conventions. Congratulations to all of their new incoming officers as well.

With new incoming State Boards as well as new Division officers, please make sure to send in your Form 9 Certificate of Election to the National Secretary's Office. It is imperative that you not only send in the newly elected officers but the appointed ones as well. By sending in your appointed officers, the national chairman of the committee they are appointed to will be able to communicate directly with the state or local chair. For example, national FFAI chair Martin Galvin will be able to contact the National Secretary's Office for a complete listing of all FFAI chairs across the country and be able to communicate pertinent information to them in a timely manner.

One of the things that I was proud to report at the Michigan convention was the positive growth the Order is taking. While other fraternal organizations are losing members, the AOH is growing. This is in large part due to our newly formed marketing and promotions committee. This committee deserves a huge round of applause. We need to capitalize on the positive direction the Order is taking. Make it your job to recruit one new member to your Division within the next year. If we all do our part, we can continue this growth.

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



Director's report

By John Wilson

Congratulations to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians on their 125th Anniversary, "the oldest Catholic women's lay organization in America." They were formed during the 1894 Omaha, Nebraska, AOH National Convention; they were then to be known as the Daughters of Erin.

Initially it was considered to limit membership to only wives, sisters and daughters of AOH members; however, after much discussion, it was decided to admit any woman of Irish descent who was a practicing Catholic and between the ages of 16 and 50. Minnesota LAOH proudly claims their state had the organization's first Division in the country.

The primary purpose of the organization was to protect young immigrant Irish girls coming to the United States, to assist them in securing positions, and to offer support and encouragement. Also, the organization assisted the AOH in all of its efforts to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors, to aid the sick and needy, to defend the priests, our church and country.

It was in 1906, at the National Convention held in Saratoga Springs, New York, that the Ladies' Auxiliary, Ancient Order of Hibernians, was given the right to elect National Officers and to draft a Constitution, which upon approval of the AOH National President and the National Chaplain, would govern the organization.

In 1985, after a long and thorough study of its Constitution, the women of the Order completed the work begun at the 1982 National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The new Constitution was completed and signed by National President Joseph A. Roche, in October 1985, at the joint National Boards' meetings. By the signing of the Constitution, the word "Auxiliary" was deleted and the organization officially assumed its new name, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and gained jurisdiction over its own affairs.

When I first became a State Officer in Missouri, we would meet with the Ladies at the Inn at the Grand Glaize in the Lake of the Ozarks. The men would bring the beverages and the ladies would provide the food during the ice breakers. I quickly learned the ladies always outnumbered the men and were a joy to be around. Tom Gibbons, our State Historian, always had a story or song to share.

The LAOH in my home state of Missouri were instrumental in helping put on the AOH/LAOH Convention in St Louis. They are always there in great numbers for our Hedge Row Masses and our Mass for Our Lady of Knock.

They have done great work with the support of the Notre Dame Fund, the Cushwa Center, the monument to the Nuns of the Battlefield and countless other monuments to the Irish, as well as support to Project St Patrick and issues with immigration. It is an honor to work alongside these women.



Director's report

By Ed Halligan

I had the pleasure of attending two state conventions this past July. The first one was in Albany, New York, and the second was in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Both conventions were a great time and it is always nice to re-connect with sister and brother Hibernians. With many of our National Chairmen being from New York, the information coming from them and the New York State Chairmen was invaluable. This information came as reminders and suggestions, what works and what doesn't work. I would like to touch on a few of these items with the same purpose. Thank you, NY.

With recruitment Tim McSweeney has recruitment materials on-line. We were reminded to go where there are festivals, GAA, Church functions, community functions, cultural events, ceili dances. Publicize service events in local papers and/or on the web. Use films to educate and get prospects to understand their Irish history like Black 47, No Stone Unturned (nominated for an Emmy Award) or Unquiet Graves. Many Irish Americans still think there was a famine in Ireland and don't know the true story. Include families and entice them with movie nights, potluck dinners or something that draws families together. Understand the millennials, they are our future. Mentor and involve the younger members. Learn their names, get them involved, encourage don't discourage and call them or text them. To keep members, think of using mass e-mails with one of the apps that are out there. Think of using robo calls to keep in touch with members that don't have e-mail. Try using on-line dues payments. Make your meetings interesting. Our National Historian, Mike McCormack, has put together over 100 articles that are on the National Website. Have your Historian use them. When I joined the AOH, it was the info that the Historian taught us about our heritage that kept me coming back to the meetings.

Under Immigration, the ICE deportation at that time was on the horizon. If you know of someone who may need help, contact an Irish Immigration Center or contact the National Chairman Dan Dennehy to get names of attorneys who are specialists.

Neil Cosgrove stated that Heritage is what we do. There is a rise of a new type of "know nothings," who are challenging Priests and politicians because of their faith and heritage. Be proud of who we are. The AOH must get involved.

Apply our Oath to our actions as Hibernians.

Anti-Catholic bias is on the rise. The Clergy needs our help. Work with other groups like the Knights of Columbus and other Catholic organizations. It is not a competition.

We need chairman at every level for Political Education. More involvement is needed so that we can mobilize quickly when called upon.

Know your legislative and congressional members, state and national. We are not party oriented. We are issue oriented.

When using social media, you are speaking on behalf of the AOH. Your statements are there forever. If using Twitter, use only one-way message, no discussion. If objectionable post from trolls, block them and delete post. No political posts, as per our Constitution. We may need that politician whom you dislike.

Finally, go on-line to our National website, know and understand our AOH National Constitution, read all the articles in the Hibernian Digest and "Bring Passion to your Meetings."

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."

IRELAND'S EXILED CHILDREN continued from page 1

styles himself as a modern-day Churchill, Johnson is following in the shoes of Neville Chamberlin, who once convinced the world to close its eyes and sacrifice the people of Czechoslovakia. Chamberlin's blithe disregard for the interests of Czechoslovakia ruptured the peace of Europe and we would be wise to learn from example. As is so often the case, it falls to us, "Ireland's exiled children in America," to push for justice in Ireland. History tells us that Britain only recognizes Irish issues when America expresses its concern for Ireland, and we must do so again in this time of Brexit. Prime Minister Johnson needs a U.S./U.K. deal to make Brexit viable; one Johnson aide said the U.S. trade deal is key to Brexit. We must now use that key to unlock the chains that bind the future of Ireland to British Brexit whims. We have to make clear that we are not going to reward destroying the U.S.'s Good Friday Agreement legacy and two decades of peace with a trade deal.

Withholding the U.S./U.K. trade deal is not an effort to kill Brexit, but to hold Britain accountable to their Good Friday commitments. Every option must be explored to preserve the peace and prosperity of Ireland. "Special Status," which would avoid a border by keeping Northern Ireland in the E.U. (respecting the mandate of the Northern Ireland electorate), should not be off the table because Johnson's government is reliant on 10 Democratic Unionist Party (the only major Northern Ireland Party to not sign the Good Friday Agreement) seats in parliament who want to prove their loyalty by torching their own economy like a July 12th bonfire.

Peace in Ireland is not a partisan issue; all Americans are guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement. The special relationship between the U.S. and Britain is no less special than the much older relationship between the U.S. and Ireland. Once again it is our duty to call on our elected representatives to level the playing field between Britain and Ireland so a just solution, rather than one expedient to British interests, may be found.

Deadline
Articles for the Oct-Nov issue
are due no later than
Oct. 1.



Director's report

By Dan Dennehy

I am honored to be working on the BREXIT issue as well as McGuinness Principles. I hope that every County and Division are discussing and making their families and legislators aware of these two important matters.

With 44 GOP U.S. senators, led by Irish visa-blocker Tom Cotton, backing a U.S.—U.K. Trade agreement with Boris Johnson's disastrous BREXIT strategy, we must use our Hibernian know-how to turn this around. This will involve Hibernians who live in those senators' states, acting as constituents. I believe in being a consistent voice for our AOH issues with legislators and Irish government representatives.

We know how much it annoys the Brits that we are getting towns and cities to sign on to support for an Ireland without borders and adoption of the McGuinness Principles. Let's keep it up!

I continue to work with National Treasurer Sean Pender on the hopefully decreasing number of Divisions and Counties who are not in alignment with either the IRS or National Secretary on EIN's. This year, we once again had to remind some Officers about Per Capita, Forms and Elections. Please, everyone, read the Blue Book, especially about the roles of Officers. It's everyone's responsibility to know the rules.

Finally, and particularly in stressful situations, please remember the Oath we swore. It's the same one we give to our newest members, and remember the pledge we take as leaders of the AOH.



Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, by the time you read this we will be halfway to Irish American Heritage Month 2020. While the promotion of our heritage and culture is always of paramount importance, Irish American Heritage Month 2020 has extra significance. First, Irish American Heritage Month will be celebrating its 30th year of proclamation by American Presidents of both parties. Second, 2020 is a Census year, and it is vitally important that all Americans of Irish heritage indicate with pride their heritage on the ethnicity question; it is imperative to show that there is an Irish America of considerable numbers that our elected leaders should recognize and consider in crafting legislation and policy.

However, brothers, the third reason is perhaps the most imperative: we are seeing a well-orchestrated identity theft by particular agendas to steal our Irish heritage. We have historians telling us that “No Irish Need Apply” did not happen, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Others are trying to hide the multiple attempts at the ethnic cleansing of the Irish people from Ireland under euphemisms. No “privilege” was conferred on the Irish when our churches were burned or when in living memory the KKK opposed John F. Kennedy’s presidency on the basis that he was an Irish Catholic. We would be wise to remember the words of that same John F. Kennedy: “The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive and unrealistic.”

Sadly, brothers, there is a great deal of myth-making going on because the Irish experience is often an inconvenient truth. The ironic tragedy is that in an alleged quest for “diversity” we are ignoring diversity, and losing an opportunity to build bridges of understanding and respect. We should not promote our heritage to win an Olympics of suffering, that we had it just as bad or worse, or engage in triumphalism, but to remind ourselves where we came from, honor our forebears and inspire others with the Irish American story, and in the greatness, not to be confused with perfection, of the American dream.

Irish American Heritage Month is too important to let slip by; we cannot wait till February to start planning. In 2004, the importance of Irish American Heritage Month was recognized by the Order in a unanimously adopted resolution, which stated, “... local AOH Divisions are hereby urged to unite in this worthy mission by appointing Divisional IAHM Committees charged with developing and implementing strategies for the promotion and expansion of Irish-American Heritage Month.” The value of our heritage is of equal importance to all our other causes; I respectfully ask you, brothers, to ask your Division, County and State boards what they are planning for Irish American Heritage Month 2020.

Federal agencies and Irish American Heritage Month

By John Schell, Chairman IAHM Committee, Maryland State Board

President Trump proclaimed March 2019 as Irish American Heritage Month. The proclamation was placed on the White House website at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-irish-american-heritage-month-2019/. Presidents of the United States have now proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month for 29 consecutive years beginning in 1991.

Three federal cultural institutions provided wonderful online resources on their websites during March 2019. The National Archives and Records Administration established a banner on its website to provide resources at www.archives.gov/news/topics/irish-american-heritage.

The Smithsonian Institution — for a second consecutive year — established a banner on its website to provide resources at www.si.edu/spotlight/irish-american.

The Library of Congress also for a second consecutive year provided a banner on its website which included resources at www.loc.gov/rr/main/irishamerican/

The resources provided excellent visibility to our Irish American heritage, history and culture. Brothers may want to contact these federal cultural institutions to thank them and to ask that they continue providing resources in future years.



Immigration

By Dan Dennehy, Chairman

As we face the denial of visas for ex-prisoners of the Conflict and their families, the fight to keep Malachy McAllister and other deportees united here with their American families goes on. The U.S. government never declared the IRA a terror group. We want the Department of Homeland Security to put the Irish Conflict into an historical context and remove the British-made stigma of terrorism from the records of ex-prisoners. A DHS exemption would end visa denial and finally allow people from both sides of the Conflict to recognize dividends of the 21-year-old Good Friday Agreement. I know that our National and State Boards and members across this state and the National have our back. We have demonstrated to the White House, Congress and the DHS that Irish people are a benefit to this Nation, always have been and always will be.

We must pry open the shut doors of U.S. immigration to once again allow young Irish students, college grads on J1 Programs, and ordinary decent Irish people into our communities by expanding the E3 Visa for Irish people. We must also remember that Immigrants are good for America, and it is our responsibility to promote Irish Immigration to the USA, *because if we don't, who will?*



Pro-Life

By John Patrick Walsh, Chairman

Southern border crisis demands our attention

I’m going to beg Brother Dennehy’s forgiveness, as reading this column you all may be tempted to tell me to stay in my lane. However, the crisis at the southern border has gotten to the point as to demand the attention of all who claim to be pro-life. Obviously, political division will color individual opinion, but our shared Catholic faith provides ALL Hibernians common ground. No matter how they got to our borders, our faith demands we try to meet the basic humanitarian needs of our fellow human beings.

Brothers and Sisters, the President and Administration officials are justified in calling the situation at our southern border a crisis. To date in FY19 (Oct-Jul), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has already apprehended enough individuals at the southwest border to exceed the population of five U.S. states-territories (WY, VT, DC, AK, ND). Simply put, our current facilities and system were never intended to accommodate these numbers, leaving CBP and other government agencies unprepared and woefully undersupplied.

I’m not going to talk about the politics surrounding the crisis; instead, I want all Hibernians to focus on our commitment to protect life in all its stages. One of the largest obstacles to moving people through the CPB system is the lack of available space outside of government-run centers. Many charitable organizations have found their resources and bed-space pushed to the breaking point. It is here that Hibernians of goodwill can focus their efforts to support the basic needs of our fellow human beings.

As with many humanitarian efforts, monetary donations are more useful and effective than physical donations. There are many organizations working on this issue, but in an effort to depoliticize the discussion, I want to highlight a few Catholic NGO’s that have all earned top scores from charitable watchdogs, while working directly with those affected by the ongoing crisis. You may not agree with all their actions, but I encourage you to read about their work and attempts to see Christ within every client they help.

- National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services (www.usccb.org). The official USCCB fund for the ongoing border crisis, residents of NY/FL/DC can donate directly online while others are encouraged to mail in donations. Donations may be eligible for employer match.

- Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org). Already pushed to their charitable limits, the organization is collecting donations for a new respite center in McAllen, Texas, to serve those released from CPB custody.

- Annunciation House (www.annunciationhouse.org). Since its inception, this El Paso organization has sought to house and feed the poorest of the poor. Recognizing the various needs and stages of newly released migrants, Annunciation House maintains three facilities to serve those crossing from Juarez into El Paso.

Many individuals at the border face longer periods of detention due to the backlogged judicial system and lack of legal representation, qualified interpreters or legally acceptable familial sponsors. The organizations below strive to provide those services at low or no cost.

- Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc. (www.dmrs-ep.org). DMRS is the largest provider of free and low cost immigration legal services in West Texas and New Mexico. They have served the immigrant community since 1986.

- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (www.cliniclegal.org). CLINIC was founded by the USCCB in 1986 and operates as a legal support agency for diocesan immigration programs. The cases and advocacy positions taken by the CLINIC are based on Catholic social teaching. Unique among some legal aid organizations, the network views immigrants in their full human dignity. This requires CLINIC and its affiliates to partner with programs and agencies that can meet the non-legal needs of immigrants.

Pennsylvania



Canal workers commemorated

Dauphin Division One held its annual commemoration ceremony at the Catholic cemetery in Liverpool, PA, Saturday, June 8.

The ceremony commemorates Irish canal workers who died while digging a shipping canal along the Susquehanna River as part of the Pennsylvania Canal. This great canal, built between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, precipitated a surge in immigration, notably from Ireland.

The men, such as the Irish immigrants who died in Liverpool, often succumbed to disease and the back breaking labor. They were paid no more than a dollar a day for their efforts. The canals enabled many thousands of Americans to reach the Middle West, to develop farms there, and then ship their produce back East... all prior to the advent of the steam locomotive.

— Jim Williams, Division 1 President



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Taking a cue from the title of this column, let's examine a few historical happenings in August and September. For example, August 1 is the ancient feast of Lughnasad – the Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest. Rites included offering the first fruits of the harvest on a hilltop. The custom survived in some areas and, though re-cast as a Christian pilgrimage, the best known is the Reek Sunday pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick on the last Sunday in July.

Also on Lughnasad in 2007, legendary folk singer, songwriter and musician Tommy Makem passed away. He now belongs to history, and history is treating him well. On August 3, 1823, Thomas Francis Meagher, nationalist, brigadier-general in the Civil War Union army and acting Governor of Montana, was born in Waterford. He also introduced the tricolor as Ireland's national flag. Another great Civil War general associated with August is Cavan-born Phil Sheridan who, on the 5th, in 1888, passed away in Nonquit, MA.

On August 8, 1588, the Spanish Armada was defeated and some of the Spanish who made it to shore were slain by the Brits while others were rescued and returned to Spain by The O'Neill, Chieftain of Tyrone. Ten years later on August 14, O'Neill would defeat the British army at the Battle of Yellow Ford. August 11th in 1894 is also the birth date of Dan Breen, nationalist revolutionary and politician, born near Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. Dan and Sean Tracey are credited with starting Ireland's War of Independence.

Parading together in 1995

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption, and celebrated in Ireland with parades by the AOH Board of Erin as Lady's Day. In 1995, we were fortunate to be part of an AOH National Board trip to Ireland to dedicate their first Great Hunger memorial. While there, we marched in a Lady's Day parade, in Derry, led by then Presidents Ed Wallace and Kathy Linton. We marched behind the American Flag, with Hibernians from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It was the first time that the American Order officially paraded with the Board of Erin in Ireland.

On August 19, 1876, the ship Catalpa arrived in the U.S. with Fenian prisoners rescued from an Australian penal colony and that story hasn't ended yet. George McLaughlin and his Fenian committee have been placing markers at the graves of those who were rescued. The last two to be honored lie in Calvary cemetery in Queens, NY, and George is working on those as we write. August 21st in 1845 is remembered as the first day of An Gorta Mor – the Great Hunger. On that same date in 1879, the Virgin Mary appeared at Knock, Co. Mayo, in silent prayer for the victims of that tragedy. Another tragedy occurred on August 22nd in 1922, when Michael Collins was assassinated in an ambush at Beal na mBláith – the mouth of flowers.

September

September was also significant, for on September 2, 1752, the Gregorian calendar was adopted by the Brits, 170 years after Europe, which means that the Battle of the Boyne that Loyalists celebrate on the 12th of July really happened on July 1st. Also noteworthy is that on September 7, 1695, the infamous Penal Laws were passed denying the rights of Catholics to be educated, own land, vote or even own a horse worth more than £5.

On September 11, 2001, the twin towers were attacked. Of the nearly 3,000 who died that day, it was estimated 1,000 had Irish connections since many seeking their loved ones identified them as wearing a Claddagh ring, more than 300 of which were found in the rubble. On the 30th, the Bishops of Cork and Killaloe arrived to celebrate a Mass for the victims at Holy Trinity church in Manhattan; and on the first anniversary, in memory of the victims, schools, shops and businesses in Ireland came to a symbolic halt at 1:46 p.m. – the precise moment, Irish time, that the first plane hit the North Tower one year earlier. Also on September 13 America celebrates Commodore John Barry Day for the Wexford-born Father of the American Navy who died on that date in 1803. September also gave us the term Boycott as on the 24th in 1880, Mayo agent Captain Charles Boycott was denied service by tenants, shopkeepers and even mail carriers in a new Land League tactic which worked so well that was given his name.

Isn't history fascinating?

Why I'm a Hibernian

By John Carroll

"I play the bagpipes, I'm the one on the right in the photo. This was at the Easter Rising Commemoration in Calvary Cemetery, in St. Louis, Mo. It's a responsibility that I am proud of. I also play with the St. Louis Pipes and Drums on St. Patrick's Day. I hope that the Hibernians, based in Dogtown, in St. Louis, continues long after I am gone."

John Carroll, left, with Josh Pogue, who is in the Honor Guard, and whose father, Dennis Pogue, is president of the Father Tim Dempsey Division in St. Louis, Mo.



Echoes of Irish History

by Mike McCormack, National Historian

Thomas Dongan was born in 1634 in Castleton, Co. Kildare, seventh son of Sir John Dongan, a member of the Irish Parliament. As Catholic Stuart supporters, the family had to flee to King Louis XIV's France after the overthrow of Stuart King Charles I by Cromwell. There they gave their name to the Dongan Dragoons, a premier military regiment. In 1660, the monarchy returned when Stuart Charles II regained the throne; and Thomas returned to England. In September 1683, he was appointed Royal Governor of the Province of New York and granted an estate on Staten Island, which became the town of Castleton. Later, a section of the island was named Dongan Hills in his honor. He was the first Irish Catholic Governor of New York State, which was not really a gift.

At the time, the province was bankrupt and in rebellion. Dongan restored order and convened the first-ever representative assembly in New York history. Under his wise supervision, he passed "A Charter of Liberties" that decreed the supreme legislative power to be a Governor, a council, and the people convened in general assembly. It also conferred on the Assembly members privileges that made them independent of Parliament. It established town, county and general courts of justice; solemnly proclaimed the right of religious liberty, and passed acts granting such liberties as: taxes could be levied only by the people met in general assembly, right of suffrage, and no martial law or quartering of the soldiers without the consent of the inhabitants. Such a format was totally unknown in any Crown colonies at the time.

Co airleoir Dongan

On July 22, 1686, Governor Dongan granted Albany a municipal charter similar in the one in New York City and incorporated the city of Albany. He also established the boundary lines for New York State and secured the friendship of the Iroquois, who called him corlur, a term from the Irish language Co airleoir, meaning "advisor."

Dongan executed land grants establishing towns throughout the State, including the Long Island communities of East Hampton and Southampton. These Dongan Patents set up Town Trustees as governing bodies to manage common land for common good. The Dongan Patents still hold force of law and have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court with the Trustees – rather than town boards, city councils or even the State Legislature – still managing much of the common land in the state. A near life-size granite statue of Dongan, holding an open scroll in his right hand reading "Charter of Liberties," and a sword in his left, was dedicated in June 1930 by NY Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, in Dongan Park, adjacent to Dongan Place, Poughkeepsie.

His significance as Governor is described on the base: "One of the greatest constructive statesmen ever sent to any English colony." The assembly, which he created, passed an act known as "The Charter of Liberties and Privileges," which assumed the sovereignty of the people and proclaimed religious liberty, the right of suffrage, trial by jury and no taxation without the consent of the assembly. Dongan's charter was the Magna Charta of American constitutional liberty. Many of its principles are embedded in the structure of our federal government.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Is iomaí rud iontach a rinneamar in Éirinn i mbliana (faoi dheireadh!) ach ba mhaith liom beagán a insint daoibh faoin mbaile as a dtáinig seanathair mo mhná céile. Lots to tell about our trip to Ireland, but this is about where my wife's grandfather came from. Tháinig sé trí Oileán Ellis nuair a bhí sé úr-nua, ó Dhoire. He came through Ellis Island when it was brand new, from Derry. Ach bhíodh cónaí air lasmuigh den mbaile Paiteagó. But he used to live in outside of Pettigo. Tá teorainn an lae inniu, idir Contae Fhear Manach agus Contae Dhún na nGall, i lár an bhaile. Today's border between Donegal and Fermanagh goes through the middle of it.

Bhíomar ag lorg duine le ceistiú faoin mbaile fearainn a raibh ar eolas againn (mar a tharla, bhí mí-litriú againn!). We were looking for someone to ask about the townland we knew of (as it happens, we had it misspelled!) De Eaglais na hÉireann ab ea é, agus thugamar cuairt ar an reilig ansin (bhí an teampall iata – mar a bhí oifig na ngardaí agus an post!). He was CoI, and we visited their cemetery (the church was shut – as were the police station and post office!) Trasna na sráide atá an séipéal Caitliceach. Across the street is the Catholic church. Thugamar cuairt air agus ar an reilig ansin freisin, agus fuair mé dhá uaigh an-suimiúla. We visited it and the cemetery there too, and I found two very interesting graves.

Mar is eol daoibh, sa scannán *An Fear Ciúin*, tacaíonn sagairt agus an pobal Caitliceach le ministir nach bhfuil pobal mór aige agus atá i mbaol a phost a chailliúint. As you know, in the movie *The Quiet Man*, a priest and his congregation support a minister whose congregation is not big and who is in danger of losing his job. Bhuel, tá sé sin bunaithe ar fhíor-scéal, agus ba é an tAthair Niall Ó Riain a thug a phobal ar iasacht don Mhinistir. Well, that's based on a real story, and it was Father Neal Ryan who loaned his congregation to the minister. Bhí an scéal seo ina chuid den úrscéal *Green Rushes* le Maurice Walsh, agus ansin sa scannán. Tá an tAthair Ó Riain curtha sa reilig seo. Fr. Ryan is buried here. Rinne sé an-sheirbhís i rith an Ghorta, chomh maith. He did great service during the hunger, too.

Duine taobh leis sa reilig is ea an tAthair Lorcán Ó Ciaráin. Next to him is Fr. Lorcan O'Ciarain. Ba eisean a chum an mana polaitiúil "Sinn Féin." It was he who coined the political motto... Bhí an-suim aige sa Ghaeilge, freisin. He was also very interested in the Irish language.

I ndearadh na dála, fuairamar eolas ó bhean an-deas chabhreach sa siopa grósaera faoi "Taobh Mór", tar éis ceist a chur uirthi faoi "Tievemore!" In the end, we got information from a very nice helpful woman in the grocery shop about Tievemore, after asking her about...!



Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

The Order celebrates a new Major Degree Team

On the weekend of May 31, several National Officers and senior Major Degree Team members descended upon the Pittsburgh area to comprise a Certification Review Panel for the prospective Tri Abhainn (TREE OW-in, Irish for Three Rivers) Allegheny County Major Degree Team (MDT) in its quest for certification as a Major Degree Team in the Order. The Certification Panel Members included National Vice President Danny O'Connell, National Chairman of Rituals & Degrees Jack Schneider, Pennsylvania State Chairman Rituals & Degrees Jim Murphy, Isle of Erin MDT Team Member Tom O'Hagan and three members of the Tara Court NY MDT, AOH Life Member Walter Butler, National Webmaster Jeff Nisler and Matt Buckley. Special recognition should be accorded to Brothers Nisler and Buckley who drove 15 hours round-trip for the proceedings.

Certification Reviews are a somewhat rare event within the Order, with this being only the third this decade and fourth since the year 2000.

The Certification Major Degree was held in St. Philip's Church Hall in nearby Crafton on June 1. The Tri Abhainn Team asserted itself very well in their debut performance of the Major Degrees of the Order and through their efforts, 11 candidates completed the Major Degree process and were welcomed into full Brotherhood within the ranks of the Order.

Afterwards, an enjoyable session of celebratory craic took place in the outdoor confines of the popular local establishment, Riley's Pour House, in Carnegie.

Subsequently, on June 17, a meeting of the National Rituals Board was convened to vote upon the recommendation of the Certification Review Panel on Tri Abhainn's candidacy as a Major Degree Team. The Board then unanimously approved Tri Abhainn Allegheny County PA as the Order's newest Major Degree Team.

Due to Tri Abhainn's solid performance in their certification Degree, they were awarded the opportunity to exemplify the Major Degrees at the Pennsylvania State Convention in Pittsburgh on Saturday, July 20. This time, with a larger candidate class of 30 Brothers, Tri Abhainn turned in another fine effort in conveying the Lessons of the Order.

A special surprise awaited Tri Abhainn at the conclusion of the Major Degree, as they were presented with their Award of Certification Plaque by National President Judge James McKay.

We extend hearty congratulations to the Tri Abhainn MDT on the achievement of their Certification as a Major Degree Team and are quite confident they will serve the Order well in the coming years, sharing the Lessons of the Order to future candidates in the Western Pennsylvania area and beyond. It was the successful culmination of almost five years of hard work, determination and perseverance that saw them through to this ultimate goal. Special recognition should go to Team Chairman Denny Maher and AOH Life Member Denny Donnelly for leading the Team on this long road to success.

Additional areas of the country would greatly benefit from the formation of new Major Degree Teams to service those regions where recent, strong growth in the Order has taken place. We stand fully ready and eager to assist any Brothers who would like to embark upon such a challenging and rewarding endeavor.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order:

- Sunday, Sept. 22 – Iona College, New Rochelle NY. — Tara Court MDT (NY)
- Saturday, Sept. 28 – Irish Cultural Center of Utica, 623 Columbia Street, Utica, NY. — Schenectady MDT (NY)
- Sunday, Sept. 29 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 495 North Ocean Boulevard, Patchogue, NY. — Tara Court MDT (NY)
- Saturday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m. – North Carolina State Convention. Homewood Suites Hotel, 6732 Swan Mill Road, Wilmington, NC. — Brian Boru MDT (VA)
- Saturday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m. – Florida State Convention. Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. — Innisfail MDT (FL)
- Saturday, Nov. 2 – Commodore John Barry Gloucester Co, NJ Clubhouse, 200 Columbia Blvd., National Park, NJ 08063. — Isle of Erin MDT, (PA)



The Award of Certification Plaque was presented to the Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team. From left, Jack Schneider, National Rituals & Degrees Chairman; Denny Maher, Tri Abhainn MDT Chairman; National President Judge James McKay; and Pennsylvania State Rituals and Degrees Chairman Jim Murphy.

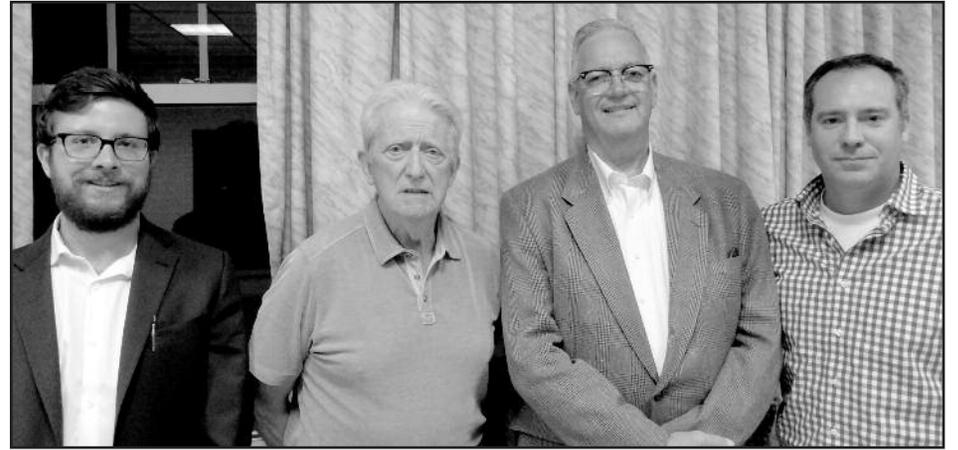
Illinois

The annual picnic of division 32 will be held Saturday, September 7, at Bunker Hill in Niles where the Ken Sullivan Man of the Year will be announced, and Catholic school scholarships will be awarded.

The division will be hosting the 58th Biennial Illinois State Convention on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Rosemont. The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a luncheon at 11:30, and after afternoon activities there will be a dinner. Division 32 is honored to host this important state event, and the brothers who set it up are Sean O'Dowd and Gerry Holley.

And lastly, Division 32 is mourning past president and brother Don Kehoe, 63, who passed away suddenly in July. May God have mercy on his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed.

— Submitted by John F. O'Donnell



A growing division!: Three new Division 32 members are, from left, Jim Naughton, Keith Killacky and John O'Sullivan, with Division President Kevin O'Malley. Jim is an attorney specializing in immigration and the legal needs of youth. Keith is a retired FBI agent. And John is a sales manager of electrical switches and components with Otto Engineering.

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Division sponsors upcoming Irish Fest events

The brothers of the Rev. William J. Kelly S.J. Division (Milwaukee, WI) have raised \$400,000 to benefit Catholic schools in Milwaukee since the start of the Division. Fundraising efforts included a Spaghetti Dinner held at St. Rose School from 1988-2013, and beginning five years ago the annual Taste of Ireland (TOI) event has brought in crowds to sample Irish food, stews and drinks, and experience music, dancing and amazing raffle prizes. TOI has generated a total of \$150,000 for the schools over the last five years.

Each year the Division sponsors and ushers the Mass at Milwaukee Irish Fest (Aug 15-18), one of the world's largest Irish music festivals, and one of the largest outdoor masses in America. The Fest has more than 250 different music acts in four days!

The brothers invite you to say hello at this year's Irish Fest and to experience Taste of Ireland on September 26 (7 p.m.) at the Turner Hall Ballroom. For more information, visit irishmilwaukee.com.



An overview of the division's Taste of Ireland event last year, with the Milwaukee Irish Dance company on stage.



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, Chairman

Key Congressional support for legacy justice

Six Members of Congress joined in a bipartisan letter to Deputy British Ambassador Michael Tatum, citing concerns about state force amnesty in legacy killings and Britain's failure to implement agreed legacy mechanisms. The bipartisan Congressional initiative, joined by Representatives Peter King, Eliot Engel, Chris Smith, Brian Fitzpatrick, Nita Lowey and Brendan Boyle, came as Boris Johnson was named Conservative Party leader and presumptive Prime Minister. The initiative also follows a recent AOH-sponsored tour by Mark Thompson of Relatives For Justice and Edge Hill University Professor Mark McGovern, author of Counterinsurgency and Collusion in Northern Ireland.

The Members of Congress cited growing concern about a proposed Statute of Limitations amnesty for British military and constabulary, as well as Britain's failure to implement agreed on legacy mechanisms while evidence mounts of crown collusion in killings, particularly in Tyrone and South Derry.

The British government repeatedly claimed that it was opposed to amnesty for killings by British military, including in a formal letter by then Ambassador Kim Darroch to Members of Congress on May 18, 2018.

An amnesty in the form of statute of limitations was overwhelmingly opposed by respondents to a British government Consultation on legacy, announced earlier this month. However, this policy was apparently reversed by Boris Johnson in his campaign for the Conservative Party leadership.

Legacy mechanisms were agreed and published by the British government as part of the Stormont House Agreement of 2014. But these mechanisms, which include a Historical Investigations Unit into Troubles killings, have never been implemented. Many nationalists believe that the HIU would uncover crown-force collusion or complicity in killings.

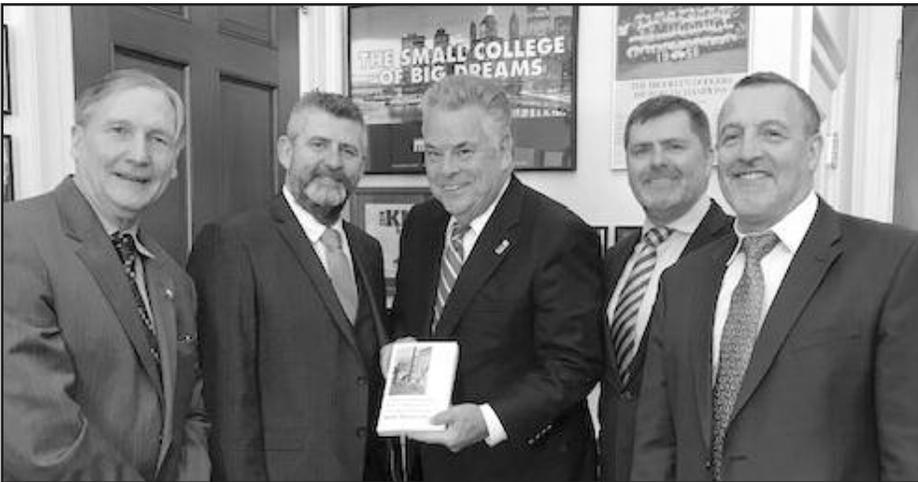
Justice and truth for relatives of victims killed by British troopers, or where British military or constabulary acted in complicity with loyalist criminals, continues to be denied.

The AOH continually hears from victims' relatives, who tell us that American pressure, particularly from members of Congress is vital to their fight for truth.

AOH members earlier this year attended the Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest, met with relatives of victims in Tyrone, and hosted the book launch tour by Mark McGovern, accompanied by Mark Thompson.

These families are now concerned that the incoming British regime, headed by Boris Johnson, would not hesitate to sacrifice Irish legacy justice for Westminster political gains. Replacing Karen Bradley who supported agreed legacy mechanisms and opposed a one-sided amnesty for British troopers.

We welcome this important initiative by Congressional representatives who have played a leading role on Irish issues. We will continue to work with Congress together with other Irish American organizations such as the Irish American Unity Conference, in the fight for Irish legacy justice.



From left, Martin Galvin, Mark McGovern, Congressman Peter King, Mark Thompson and Malachy McAllister.

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New York



Holding the banner were, from left, Sean Beirne, NYS Treasurer Tom Beirne, Liam Beirne, NY Div. 9 VP Martin Beirne, Robert Beirne, Frank Beirne Jr., and Division 9 President Denis McCarthy at New York County Francis P. Beirne Division 9 Golf Outing.

First cousins become 3rd Generation Hibernians in a Division named for their grandad

National Director Dan Dennehy participated in the annual New York County Francis P. Beirne Division 9 Golf Outing, which was held in Van Cortlandt Golf Club, the oldest public course in America, in late June. The Francis P Beirne / Frank McGreal Memorial Golf Outing remembers two late great Officers of the Division, and is a family affair for the Beirne and McGreal families along with many friends. The Division is named for the former Chairman of the New York St. Patrick's Parade.

This year, the golf attendees were introduced to three of its newest members, all grandchildren of the late Frankie Beirne. New York State Treasurer Tom Beirne welcomed his son Sean, Division Vice President Martin Beirne welcomed his son Liam, and their brother FDNY Emerald Society Vice President Frank Beirne Jr. welcomed his son Robert. Brother members and first cousins Sean, Liam and Robert are 3rd generation Hibernians and were sworn in recently along with five other young community leaders to this legendary Hibernian Division based in New York City.

Alabama



Father Tracy Division Irish Traditional Music Session

Father Tracy Division hosts Irish trad sessions

Father Tracy Division proudly hosted another quarterly Irish Traditional Music session at the Maggie McGuinness Pub. The division has been fortunate that Huntsville and northern Alabama have many incredibly talented Irish musicians. The quarterly sessions have been a great way to foster appreciation of Irish culture and encourage those interested in Irish music to attend, learn and participate as well as meet others with similar interests. The sessions have also allowed the division to have an informal way to meet and recruit potential brothers. Over the last few years, the division has held quarterly sessions in February, May, August and November. There is no guarantee of the number of musicians who appear each time, but so far each session has been a success.



veterans affairs

By Jim Green, chairman

Time seems to fly by so fast anymore. The summer is just about wrapped up and now we start a new year of Hibernian meetings just as we've wrapped up our State Conventions and the elections of new Boards. I attended the PA State Convention, where we were blessed to have many members from around our Commonwealth as well as the senior leadership of the National Board with us. Great business was accomplished, including reports on Veterans activities, as well as attending some very entertaining social events. Some brothers picked up Veterans Pins, which continue to be popular around the country.

In this issue of the Digest, I want to share some of the great information I've received from Veterans Affairs Chairmen, and other brothers, from around the country, over the summer. Hopefully, you will find it helpful and informative. Thanks very much to the brothers who forwarded this information and for allowing me to share it with you.

From brother Danny Eakins, of Ohio:

VA Agent Orange Presumption for "Blue Water" Navy Veterans of Vietnam: Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. The bill gives the VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. The VA recognizes several medical conditions as being "presumptively" related to exposure to the Agent Orange defoliant herbicide employed in Vietnam by U.S. forces. Veterans who served in Vietnam or in conditions under which they were exposed to Agent Orange and subsequently developed a related medical condition or disability are eligible for enhanced VA healthcare and VA service-connected disability compensation. This law extends that support to U.S. Navy veterans who served on board ships in the seas within 12 nautical miles adjacent to the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975. Information on VA-recognized presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure are listed here: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

Official VA information on "Blue Water" eligibility can be found here: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>

From brother Bob Haley, of Pennsylvania:

The State of Pennsylvania has just created an online "Veterans Registry" (<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Outreach-and-Reintegration/PennsylvaniaVeteransRegistry.aspx>) which allows veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to connect with DMVA to request information related to the valuable state benefits, programs and services offered. By connecting with DMVA, registrants can also opt-in to receive ongoing communications such as the weekly DMVA DIGEST. The PA VETERANS REGISTRY is DMVA's first step in a long-term strategy to achieve a higher level of communication with veterans as well as the partners who support them.

From brother Mark Kelly, of Kentucky, from whom I get more information than I could possibly share with you in the Digest:

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> is an online site to connect with the Veterans Crisis Line to reach caring, qualified responders with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many of them are veterans themselves. If you, or a veteran you care about, is feeling anxious or alone, they are some of the signs that a veteran may be in crisis. Please visit this site for very valuable assistance.

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

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,



hibernian hunger project

By Paul Gowdy, chairman

Join the Hibernian fight against hunger

Hibernian brothers, have there been times in the past year when you did not have enough money to buy food? Fifteen percent of Americans answered yes to this question, per a 2018 Gallup-Healthways question. Food poverty begins with worrying about not having enough food, progresses to a reduction in the quality of food consumed daily and, finally, results in the consumption of an inadequate quantity of food. Millions of people in the United States struggle with food poverty almost every day.

I recently emailed to all AOH State Presidents to circulate an attached "Hunger" questionnaire to all the AOH boards in their State. I asked Presidents at State, County and Division levels to complete the questionnaire about any Hunger projects they host, if they had appointed a Hunger chair and to email or mail their completed forms to me. To date I have had only ONE reply, from a division in NY; a very disappointing effort. Stay posted for further communications coming from this AOH National Hunger Chair.

In this issue of the Digest, I thought we might need a refresher for newer members about the origins of the Hunger Committee, and its purpose. In the early months of 2003, the National Ancient Order of Hibernians, under the guidance of then President Ned McGinley, and in conjunction of the LAOH, made the following announcement:

"The Charities Ancient Order of Hibernians as well as the Ladies AOH Charities, some of which are long standing and several of which will be new this year, help to define our purpose and goals of our Fraternal Order for the foreseeable future. Each body of our Order can participate, to any degree they wish, in those charitable quests, which fulfill the motto of our Brotherhood: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Our new National 501c (3), which we are actively seeking, could also be in place to enhance the fundraising efforts. This is an opportunity to define us to our local communities and at the same time have an impact on the national and even the international Diaspora of the Irish people.

"A new effort in which, because of the tortured history of our ancient land, the Irish Diaspora has a singular vested interest would be the national Hibernian Hunger Project. This effort is a defining moment in the message that the AOH/LAOH brings to this land in which our ancestors sought sanctuary. A recent reading of Paddy's Lament, by Thomas Gallagher, defines what an unthinkable horror the Great Hunger, An Gorta Mor, was to those Irish people who came to the United States before us. Those people who gave us a legacy of generosity for those on greater need than ourselves.

"The people of Ireland right up until this very day recognize their vested interest in "Hunger," and embrace the world as they battle far away famines in Africa, Pacific Islands, and in other places far beyond their Atlantic shores. This is an opportunity for the group that Tim Pat Coogan called, "that quintessential Irish-American Organization," our own AOH/LAOH, to take its rightful place in the hierarchy of Irish- American organizations. Dispelling the image of the St. Patrick's Day Irishman with positive efforts to make March, Irish Heritage Month, a month of service for our Patron St. Patrick.

"[The] First Annual AOH Hunger Project will take place in March 2003. We would request local participation by every Division, County and State Board. This project is an opportunity for the AOH to: Fight hunger at a time when food banks and kitchens around the United States are at a low ebb as winter ends; Display the Irish Diaspora's vested interest in hunger and educate citizens in the United States about An Gorta Mor ... in Ireland; Demonstrate the natural generosity of the Irish to share with others; [and] Combat by positive act negative displays of the "green beer," "plastic hat" pseudo Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

*"Please join the total effort with a project in your area, county, and state.
National President Ned McGinley"*

New York



AOH Veterans Pins awarded

After marching in the annual Saratoga Memorial Day parade, members of Saratoga, New York, Division 1, conducted an AOH Veterans Pin ceremony. U.S. Army Brigadier General John Andonie assisted the Division President, Tim McNulty, in presenting AOH Veterans Pins to Division 1 veterans.



Division 4 shows growth

New Suffolk Division 4 brothers took their Shamrock Degree in May. They are Tom Healy, Mike Bartley, Andrew O'Connor, Brian Boland and Peter Lynch, with Division President Tom Dougherty in the middle.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

A successful State Convention concluded in Waterbury on June 23, with the installation of a new State Board consisting of President Brenden Walsh, of Danbury; Vice President Brian O'Neill, of Stamford; and incumbents Scott McNulty, of Meriden as State Secretary; and Frank Kearney, of Meriden, as State Treasurer. The new board was installed by National Secretary Jere Cole and assisted by National Directors Liam McNabb and Bill Sullivan. State Chaplain Monsignor John Bevins accepted reappointment, as did State Political Education Chairmen James Gallagher and Thomas Keane, and State Historian and Archivist J. Philip Gallagher.

A highlight of the Convention took place at the banquet, when outgoing State President Thomas McDonough presented a \$5,000 check to Ryan Mahoney, director of the Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University. This significant donation will aid in the Museum's efforts to remain economically viable as it tells the story of the terrible catastrophe that befell Ireland in the mid 1840s. Connecticut Hibernians are very proud that the Great Hunger Museum is located in Connecticut and want it to remain so as it tells of the suffering and courage of the millions of Irish who perished or fled as food was being exported from their homeland by absentee landlords for a profit.

Bridgeport Hibernians co-hosted a reception at the Fairfield Gaelic Club on June 9 for author Professor Mark McGovern and activist Mark Thomson, the founder of Relatives for Justice.

Hibernians Frank and Pat Carroll, Bob Fox, Sean Keane, Tom Keane, Scott Flynn, Dave Curtin, Kevin Daley, and John and Jack Martin helped on June 28, as the JFK Division took its turn cooking and serving breakfast for those less fortunate at the Merton House.



Chairman Finbar Moynihan and Phil Gallagher enjoy the view of the Thimble Islands on the annual cruise sponsored by New Haven's Division 7.

The annual Connecticut AOH softball bash will be hosted by Bridgeport on August 24th at Foote Field in Milford. This year's charitable beneficiary will be the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp.

On Saturday September 7, the AOH Fairfield County Board, along with Naval Veterans Club, Port 5, celebrate and remember Commodore John Barry, the true Father of the U.S. Navy, at Perry Green on Southport Harbor. The 10 a.m. ceremony will include the GAC Pipe Band, K of C Color Guard, and the Port 5 Color Guard. A luncheon at the Port 5 Clubrooms follows immediately after the ceremonies.

Meriden Hibernians had a busy August with Movie Night on August 3, Bunco Night on August 9 and live entertainment on August 16, with singer Paul Pender. Planning is also already being done for a big Halloween Party on October 26.

The Stamford AOH was also busy with a Shamrogs concert on July 29, a Thank You party on August 19 with a major Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Dance planned for Sept. 16.

This writer very much enjoyed the 9th annual Thimble Island Cruise sponsored by AOH Division 7 of New Haven. The event, chaired by Finbar Moynihan, is a real treat and I hope to be able to attend the 10th annual next year. Finbar was honored at a luncheon on August 11, by the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society for his many years of dedicated service.

The Danbury AOH/LAOH will again sponsor the Greater Danbury Irish Festival on the weekend of September 20, 21, 22 at the Portuguese Cultural Center on Sandpit Road in Danbury. A special tribute will be made to the late Gerry Curran, who recently passed away. Gerry is known as the Festival's "Father," and was the inspiration for its founding in 1995. It was Gerry's dream that the profit from the festival be used to establish an Irish Cultural Center in Danbury. Gerry saw his dream fulfilled. Rest in Peace Gerry Curran; a great Hibernian and a Great Irishman!

For news or info: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Liam McNabb, Bill Sullivan, Scott McNulty, Frank Kearney, Tom McDonough, Brian O'Neill, Brenden Walsh and Jere Cole assemble for the installation of officers at the Connecticut AOH Biennial Convention.

Virginia

Alexandria's Herbert-Cady Division awards scholarships

Herbert-Cady Alexandria City Division 1 in VA awarded four \$500 scholarships for students who exemplified the AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



President Tim Donnelly with Basilica School of St. Mary eighth graders Audrey Pickard and Sam Ewald.

Celebrating Division 1's anniversary

The Major James H. Dooley Division 1, in Richmond, is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Brothers along with the LAOH Mary Ryan Division marched in the annual 4th of July Parade in Ashland, VA. They formed the largest contingent to march that day. To help celebrate the anniversary, the division welcomed back founding brother Jack Cassells. Jack provided some Division history over pints at Rare Olde Times pub in Richmond. Sadly, Brother Cassells died on 27 July.



From left, Mitch Irvine, Tom Murphy, Jack Cassells (white hat), State Secretary Brian Kiernan, Jim Whelen, Amy Hegarty, Brian Hegarty, Dan Caffrey, Chad Costello, Bethany Costello and Alisa Costello.

Living the Motto in Fredericksburg

The General Meagher Division 1, in Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania, continued its tradition of giving. Each year for the past 10 years the Division has donated \$3,000 to Fredericksburg area pro-life organizations, including the Paul-Stefan Foundation, Birthright of Fredericksburg and Mary's Shelter. These fine organizations provide housing and social services to expectant mothers.



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Louisiana

by Dennis Roubion, John Fitzmorris & Don Jennings
Louisiana AOH State Convention 2019



The 71st biennial convention of the Louisiana Ancient Order of Hibernians was convened Saturday July 27. The state divisions represented include Archbishop Philip Hannan Division, James Cardinal Gibbons Division, Republic of West Florida Division, Fr. Thomas Mossy Gallagher Division, and The Acadian Division. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were represented by The Margret Haughey Division.

The convention chair was Mathew Toups. In attendance was state president James Kuhn and National President James McKay.

The proceedings started with a call to order & roll call of Divisions followed by an Opening Prayer. National and state reports were provided. State Board elections were conducted after the candidates spoke. The newly elected state officers are: Sean Kennedy –President, Randy King–Vice President, John Durnin–Treasurer and Matt Toups–Financial Secretary.

The ladies left to conduct their own meeting and afterwards enjoyed lunch at a French Quarter restaurant.

The state meeting was next on the agenda. Topics discussed were: The Celtic Cross statue and park in West End New Orleans, Membership, and The Christmas and Easter Appeals.

The breakout sessions were conducted next. These sessions included discussion on Freedom For All Ireland, Political Education, Project St. Patrick and membership.

Each division then met individually. Division reports were presented and nominations of division officers were accepted. Nominations will be held open until the next divisional meeting.

Upon conclusion of the proceedings the members and ladies traveled to St. Patrick's Church to attend the investiture of officers followed by mass.

The convention concluded with a banquet of very fine food, as one would expect of an event in New Orleans.

Ohio



Tom Binegar, of the Division, extended his congratulations and best wishes to graduate Gasperson and noted, "The future of the AOH is rooted in the descendants of those who came before. Ford, Connor and Chip, along with all the fathers, sons and grandsons in the AOH, are the generational anchors of the organization."

Bro. Winford Graves ("Ford") Gasperson II graduates high school

Ford Gasperson, the youngest member of the Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Division of the Ohio AOH, was granted his high school diploma on May 25, in Charleston, South Carolina. Ford became a member of the Division on his 17th birthday last September. He joined his cousin, Connor Rogers-Wartinger, who is an 11-year member of the Division. The proud grandfather of these Hibernians is Chip Rogers, who is a 26-year member of the AOH. Rogers noted, "Irish history and culture are a part of our family history. I am honored that Ford and Connor carry forward the tradition through their connection with the AOH." Connor became a member of the Division when he was 16-years-old.

Ford, a newly minted graduate of the Palmetto Scholars Academy, is a competitive Irish dancer who attended the World Competition last year in Edinburgh, Scotland. He will spend his gap-year, before college, in County Galway, preparing for the 2020 World Competition, which will be held in Dublin. Ford noted, "My grandad is a reluctant traveler, these days. My goal is to have him come 'Home to Ireland,' and see me dance."

New Hampshire

Manchester AOH marks centennial De Valera visit

Granite State Hibernians recently marked the centennial of an important local event that will forever connect the City of Manchester with the cause of Irish independence. At the July meeting of the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the Ancient Order of Hibernians presented a bronze plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of Irish President Eamon de Valera's visit to the Queen City.

The Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1 was instrumental in recognizing the significant historical event, and a delegation from the Division was on hand at City Hall to mark the day with a brief and dignified ceremony, and to present a commemorative plaque to Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig.

In the spring of 1919, after his extraordinary escape from Lincoln Jail in England, American-born freedom fighter Eamon de Valera was elected president of the Irish Parliament in Dublin. Shortly thereafter, he set out for America to rally support for the cause of Irish independence, arriving in New York City in June.

After a stop in Boston where he addressed a crowd of over 50,000 at Fenway Park, de Valera was met on Sunday, June 30, in Cambridge by New Hampshire Governor John H. Bartlett and Manchester Mayor Moise Verette, who accompanied him by motor car to his second American speaking engagement, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Upon his arrival in Manchester, the Irish President and his entourage of dignitaries paraded through the streets from St. Anne's Church to the Merrimack Common (now Veterans Park), where de Valera addressed a throng of over 30,000 wildly cheering supporters.

At its next Aldermanic meeting on July 8, the City of Manchester adopted a formal resolution "endorsing the Irish Republic, requesting the Congress of the United States to pass a resolution recognizing it and expressing sympathy with the people of Ireland in their determination to achieve their freedom." In doing so, Manchester became the second legally constituted governing body in the world to support Irish independence.

— Submitted by Michael Farley

Pennsylvania



Pictured along with members of Division 2 are, from left, Sarah Taylor (Villa Joseph Marie HS), McKenna Murphy (Archbishop Wood HS) and Kevin Coulter (Lansdale Catholic HS). The other two recipients of scholarships not pictured are Emily Montemuro (Villa Joseph Marie HS) and Rylee Joyce (Conwell-Egan HS). AOH Division 2 members pictured, from left, John McGovern, John Lenihan, Bill O'Connor, Art Reinholdt, Jim Anderson, Joe McAtee, John Burns, Larry Byrne and Mike Shields.

Bucks County Division 2 awards \$5,000 in scholarships

Division 2, located in Newtown, recently awarded five tuition scholarships of \$1,000 each to deserving Irish-American students who will be attending Catholic high schools this fall. Division 2 co-sponsors an annual Irish Fall Festival along with Division 5 to support the Joe McGinnis Scholarship Fund, named for the late Irish American who made many contributions to the Irish community in Bucks County.

Division 2 has awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarships over the last decade to students who wrote essays about a designated topic in Irish history. For more information on AOH Division 2, visit their website @ www.aohnewtownpa.com.



IRISH CREATION

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is excited to announce a partnership with the Galway-based Celtic jeweler, Irish Creation. Crafted locally in Ireland, Irish Creation offers Hibernians and friends a chance to connect with their Irish Heritage through the highest quality Celtic Jewelry. Use the promo code "AOH"/ Follow the link when making your purchase, and Irish creation will share a portion of the sale back to the AOH. As a Special Bonus Irish Creation is giving AOH members an additional 10% off with promocode AOH.

irishcreation.com

Kentucky

The Father J. Ryan Division teamed with the Ulster Project in Louisville in June to help welcome a group of seven teens (three boys and four girls) aged 14 to 17. The teens live in Sion Mills, in Northern Ireland. While in Louisville they lived with host families who have a teen of the same gender and each teen was matched with a Louisville teen as closely as possible for personal interests, family and age.

The Ulster Project Louisville has four major areas of focus: worship, community service, self-discovery and fun. The entire group met almost daily during their month-long stay for various activities. Each of these activities helped to develop leadership and peace-building skills and works to build lasting trust and friendships among the group. After completing the Project, the teens realized that they possess the skills to be effective leaders and peacemakers and that they can make a difference in their communities and in the world. The Father J. Ryan Division was proud to make a donation of \$2,000 to this worthy cause.

The Division also lent a hand to help the Louisville Gaelic Athletic Association get up and running by presenting them a check in the amount of \$761.97. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to supporting the team.



Ulster Project Louisville participants, from Sion Mills, Northern Ireland.



Louisville Gaelic Athletic Association gets a donation from the Ryan Division.

Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

The Annual John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial Exercises were held on June 15 at Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Rev. Joseph Thomas celebrated the Mass at the grave of John Boyle O'Reilly and a reception followed at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown, MA. Past State President Dick Thompson served as Chairman of this annual event.

The next meeting of the Massachusetts AOH State Board will be hosted by Division 8 in Lawrence on September 8.

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

Division 1 Newburyport

As part of the Yankee Homecoming festivities in Newburyport, Division 1 will hold a sunset summer boat cruise on August 8.

Division 8 Lawrence

On June 12, Division 8 held their 40th Annual Scholarship Social and presented scholarships to the children and grandchildren of its members. Those who received scholarships were: Grace Crockett, Lily Crowley, Albert Manzi, Cara McCarthy, Will Michaud, Celia Murphy, Payton Nickerson and Mackenzie Potvin. Robert R. Gauthier, Scholarship Chairman, served as Master of Ceremonies for this event.

Division 8 Annual Irish Outing will be held on September 14 on the grounds of the Greater Lawrence Boating Program. Last year's event had to be cancelled due to the gas explosions that rocked the Merrimack Valley two days prior to the event causing more than 80 home fires. The Rt. Rev. John Delaney, Division 8 Chaplain, will celebrate Mass at the end of the outing on the Banks of the Merrimac River.

Division 18 Salem

The Division's family outing will be held on August 10 at Camp Naumkeag. This year's entertainment will be provided by the Love Dogs, who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary together.

The Salem LAOH are finalizing plans to reorganize their Ladies Division in September.

Division 19 Lowell

Division 19 will host this year's 2019 Massachusetts State Board Golf Classic on September 10 at the Tewksbury Country Club. An awards ceremony and luncheon will follow at the Knights of Columbus hall in Tewksbury. Tom Casey of Division 19 is serving as Chairman of this event.

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



Division 8 AOH Lawrence, MA, Awards Scholarships

Division 8 celebrated its 40 Anniversary Scholarship Social and awarded eight scholarships to the children and grandchildren of members. From left: Division 8 Past Scholarship Chairman Bob Crowley, Lily Crowley, Cara McCarthy, Will Michaud, Division 8 Scholarship Chairman Bob Gauthier, Grace Crockett, Celia Murphy, Mackenzie Potvin and Albert Manzi. Not pictured is Payton Nickerson.

Maine



Memorial commemoration in Portland

Irish Consul General for New England Laoise Moore, Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall and Portland Division 1 President James McClay, at the Portland, Maine, An Gorta Mor / Catholic ground memorial. The Division planned to hold the 20th anniversary of their annual Mass on August 18 at the Western Cemetery in Portland, with refreshments to follow at the Maine Irish Heritage Center. The Consul General plans to attend.



Irish-American community gathering

Hibernians and Irish American Club members enjoying the IAC annual summer picnic at SMCC South Portland. From left, Hibernian Steve Linsky, IAC Barney McClelland, IAC Jim Brady, IAC Parnell Terry, IAC VP and AOH President James McClay, AOH Terry McNamara, AOH VP Matt Barker and AOH Bill Densmore.

in memoriam

John "Irish Jack" Patrick Cassells, 88, of Bradenton, FL, passed away July 25, 2019.

He was a founding member and past president of the AOH James H. Dooley Division; co-founder and president of the Greater Richmond St. Patrick's Day Parade; Grand Marshal for the Richmond Irish American Society. Jack was a frequent traveler to Ireland, where his parents emigrated from Counties Donegal and Cavan.

Born and educated in Philadelphia, he received insurance degrees from The American College and joined John Hancock Insurance Co. as an agent. He acceded to all phases of management, including opening several offices and ending up in the home office. He advanced to the Life Insurance Company of Virginia as National Director of Sales in the corporate division. He started his own insurance company in Virginia with great success.

Also active in the Knights of Columbus, he was a life member of the 3rd and 4th degree and a past Faithful Navigator of the 4th Degree. He established the Cassells Academic Scholarship Fund in Council #395. He was a member of the American Legion, ELKS and Moose organizations, and a volunteer at the Blake Hospital of Bradenton. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and visiting friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marge Becker Cassells; his son, John P. Cassells II, of Montpelier, VA; his daughters, Kelly Atchison, of Fork Union, VA; and Sharon Isbel, of Richmond, VA. He is survived by his daughter, Kathlinda "Kathi" Marshall and her husband, William "Bill" Marshall, of Charlottesville, VA, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Cassells Academic Fund, Knights of Columbus #395, 2324 Pump Road, Richmond, VA 23233.



Geraldine and Claire.

He was known for his sense of humor and was never shy to start a conversation with anyone. He is survived by his wife, Anne; his daughters, Geraldine and Claire; his two sons-in-law, Chris and Jeff; and four grandsons, David, Brendan, Ryan and Aidan. He is also survived by his two brothers, Hugh and Tommy. He was preceded in death by his brother, David.

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians John A. Gildea Division 3 gathered at the funeral home for a wake service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 9 in Saint Joseph Church, in Danbury.

Leo Kane of Kirkwood, NY succumbed to illness, surrounded by his caring and loving family on August 3, 2019.

He was a dedicated member of the AOH, Grand Marshal in 2008 and held offices from President to State Director. He loved to travel especially to Hawaii and Ireland. He was a proud Irishman, had dual citizenship with Ireland. A strong but gentle soul with a true Irish smile, he was passionate about his Irish heritage.

Born March 14, 1940, in Binghamton, NY, to Vincent and Elizabeth Kane, he was predeceased by infant sister Barbara. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Ellen Mae. He was the loving father of Cynthia (Thomas) Filardo and Leo Timothy (Gina) Kane, grandsons Lorenzo Filardo, Sean and Austin Kane; brothers Robert (Marcia) and John; several nieces, nephews and cousins and dearest friend Sr. Lorraine Mangini. Leo retired from Crowley Foods after more than 40 years. A great swimmer and sportsman, he enjoyed telling stories of his travels and sporting activities. He saved many lives and was recognized with heroism awards by several associations and the Key to the City of Binghamton.

He loved watching the NY Giants and playing Lotto. He lived for his family, so proud of them and was able to see his bucket list come true with all three grandsons' achievements. He touched many hearts and left an imprint on each. He will be dearly missed. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary of Assumption Church in Binghamton. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 3049, Syracuse, NY 13220. As he entered the gates of Heaven, we are certain the good Lord said, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

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.

Gerald E. Curran — the father of the Greater Danbury Irish Festival

On July 3, Gerald E. Curran, loving husband and father of two daughters, died at the age of 79.

One of his greatest passions was his Irish heritage, and this could be seen through his involvement in the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Danbury. He served as an active member as well as serving as President for many years and dreamed of starting the Greater Danbury Irish Festival in order to find a permanent home for the AOH club.

Jerry was born on June 6, 1940, to Mary McGowan and Hugh Curran. He immigrated to London, where he wore many hats, including an apprentice jockey and apparel designer. It was in London that he met his wife, Anne Burke, and they were married on May 9, 1964. In July 1965 they immigrated to the United States. They raised two daughters,



North Carolina

By Stephen Kurpiewski, AOH North Carolina State Board Treasurer

Hibernians provide hurricane relief

In the early morning hours of September 14 last year, Hurricane Florence made landfall just south of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina as a category 1 hurricane. Wrightsville Beach is less than nine miles due east of the riverfront in downtown Wilmington. As late as September 11th, Florence was a category 4 storm with sustained winds of 150 mph. As Florence approached the coastline and weakened, she also slowed her forward progress to an excruciatingly slow 2 to 3 mph. By the 15th, Florence was only a few miles west of Wilmington.

Leading up to Hurricane Florence, 2018 was already an extremely wet year for Wilmington and the surrounding area. By July, the area had already received the equivalent of a year's worth of precipitation. As a result of Florence stalling out over the southeast portion of North Carolina, the area received between 30 and 35 inches of rain, making 2018 the wettest year on record. By the time Florence was history, she had become the wettest tropical cyclone in North Carolina history and the eighth wettest overall in the contiguous United States. The strong storm surge coupled with catastrophic inland flooding left large swaths of southeast North Carolina under water, closing Interstates 40 and 95 and Highway 70 for days, and isolating the City of Wilmington, leaving no way in and no way out.

In response to Hurricane Florence, the AOH North Carolina State Board, led by President Patrick Tracey, put out a request for monetary donations in addition to the support already being provided by Hibernians throughout the region and the state. On June 1st representatives of the AOH North Carolina State Board presented a check for \$1,000 to the Saint Joseph The Worker Roman Catholic Church's Food Pantry in Burgaw, Pender County, North Carolina. St. Joseph's is a tiny rural parish established in 1906 in the hamlet of St. Helena. The Food Pantry provides food aid to 75-90 families, approximately 300 souls each week, supported primarily on individual donations, along with the Federal Temporary Emergency Food Aid Program, a grant from the Raleigh Diocese, as well as donations from local businesses and surrounding parishes.

As a result of the aid provided to local residents, first responders and other disaster relief workers in the aftermath of the floods due to Hurricane Florence, the St. Joseph Food Pantry's store of supplies was devastated. The AOH North Carolina State Board decided that the St. Joseph Food Pantry was in greatest need and would benefit most by the funds raised.



Accepting the Hibernians' relief donation was Pastor Abbe' Roger Malonda Nyimi and Patricia Kopchick, Director of the Food Pantry, along with Kathy Sabella, founder of the St. Joseph Food Pantry and her husband and volunteer Jim Sabella, Joe Costy, AOH North Carolina State Board Eastern Regional Director, and yours truly. The photographer was parish councilman Dennis Yott.



Division Veterans receive their pins
At its June meeting and social, Saint Brendan the Navigator Division 1, in Wilmington, NC, presented Veteran Pins to four of the Division's brothers. Receiving their pins were, from left, Brian Triplett, Phil Dagnon, Division President Rich Coyle in the center made the presentation, Reverend William G. Waun and Larry Kearney. Veteran Pins will be presented to approximately 15 other Division members at a later date.
— Submitted by Stephen Kurpiewski, State Board Treasurer

Kansas

Kansas AOH donates to SAFE and KC students

The Father Donnelly Division, during its June meeting, presented a check to the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE), which provides immediate monetary support to the surviving spouses and children of first responders killed in the line of duty. SAFE was established by the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission in 2003 (www.kc-crime.org/safe). Police Chief Jan Zimmerman, SAFE's executive director, accepted the AOH donation and spoke to the members about the strong partnership between the two organizations.

The Donnelly Division has supported SAFE with funding largely derived from our biannual Irish Road Bowling (IRB) scores held since 2014. The spring IRB score includes a bragging match between area police and fire teams that we have titled, The Red/Blue Rolloff.

In addition to the donation to SAFE, the Division presented scholarship funding to five elementary school students selected from among 32 submissions from 16 Catholic elementary schools. Entries came from elementary school students planning to attend one of the area's Catholic high schools. Students submitted essays addressing four topics: what it means to live a Christ-like life; why the students want to attend a Catholic high school; a narrative about a challenge faced and overcome by them; and one of the three principles of the AOH motto.

Making these donations possible, the Kansas AOH Irish Road Bowling events, known as "scores," are held twice a year at Wyandotte County Park on the last Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October. Proceeds benefit named IRB charities and also support Kansas AOH year-long contributions to other area charities and Catholic schools. The second IRB score of 2019 will be on October 5, and all Irish and Irish-for-the-day sportsmen and sportswomen can register a team at our IRB website at www.ksroadbowling.com.



Present at the donation presentation were, from left, Fr. John Riley, Donnelly Division chaplain; Pete McCluskey, Donnelly Division Red/Blue coordinator; Chief Jan Zimmerman, SAFE executive director; and Gordon Grohmann, Donnelly Division president.

Minnesota

Minnesota Irish Scholarships

In tiny Le Sueur County, the Shamrock Division is having a huge impact on young people's lives. The Division recently announced the awarding of \$5,500 in scholarships to 11 students to continue their education.

Selection is based on a candidate's responses to questions posed by the Shamrock Division's Scholarship Committee on several criteria, chief among them are the candidates' Irish ancestry, education plans, and how the students will promote their Irish heritage in the future. Additionally, students are scored based on their involvement with the Church and larger community. The scholarships go to graduating high school seniors who are going on to an advanced program (e.g., college, trade school, certificate programs).

Since first developing the scholarship program, in 2008, about \$35,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

The money is raised from an annual scholarship raffle and proceeds from a dinner accompanied with Irish music night. The Division members consider the scholarship as vital to fulfilling its obligation to promote Irish culture and ensure the next generation is knowledgeable of and can communicate the key elements of Irish history and heritage. As an example to Minnesota youth, and as part of its Irish heritage efforts, the Shamrock Division, along with St. Paul Hibernians and the Fenian Memorial Committee, this past May dedicated a memorial to Fr. Patrick McCabe who in the late 1800s was a pastor in Waseca, Minnesota. He arrived in the Minnesota wilds as a wanted English felon having aided the escape of six Irish prisoners, while serving as chaplain at the notorious Fremantle prison in Western Australia.



Four of the eleven scholarship recipients were present at Shamrock Founders Day Celebration. Pictured are, from left, Cormac Gannon, Kiersten Skelley, Tyler Bahr and Riley Gannon

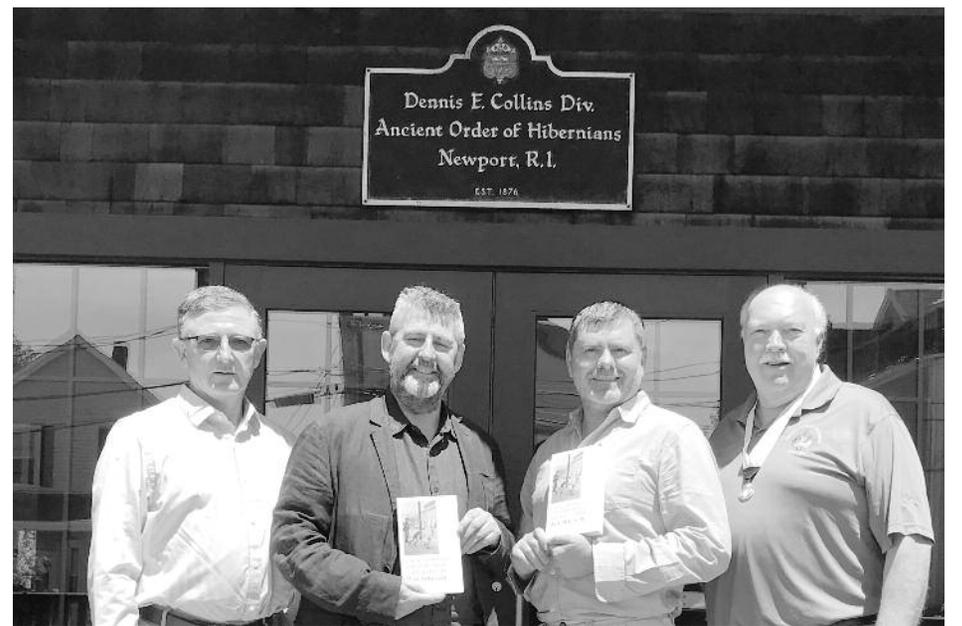
Rhode Island

Newport Hibernians host 'Counterinsurgency' author By Austin Behan

The Rhode Island AOH was extremely proud and honored to be one of the stops on Mark McGovern's American tour for his book, "Counterinsurgency and Collusion in Northern Ireland." Our hall in Newport was selected and, with the second largest division in the country, we were hopeful to provide a great reception for the book tour. McGovern was joined by Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice; Martin Galvin, the Freedom for All Ireland Chairman; and Sean Pender, our National Treasurer.

This book is important to highlight the past and continued troubles in Northern Ireland. The book, which uses eye-witness accounts and information, highlights the issues of the British occupation in Northern Ireland. The findings in the book raise more questions to many murders of the Irish people in Northern Ireland. Newport's Dennis E. Collins Division 1 was proud to be one of the biggest stops on their tour.

Also, the Collins Division 1 awarded their annual scholarships that were open to members and their families. The division was proud to hand out more than \$5,800 in scholarships to seven local students. This was in largely due to a donation in memory of recently deceased brother, Stephen Lepley. The winner of this year's Stephen Lepley Memorial Scholarship is Isabelle Booth, who will be attending Rhode Island College. The following students also won scholarships: Jack Gomes (Worcester Polytheistic Inst.), Collin Clair (Santa Clara University), Ryan Collin (Salve Regina University), Riley Cranson (Emmanuel College), Patrick Kirwin (Salve Regina University), and Shannon O'Connell (Rhode Island College). The RI AOH wishes them all the best.



Division President Kevin Doyle, left, author Mark McGovern, Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, and Past RI President Richard O'Neil.

Deadline

Articles for the October-November issue are due no later than October 1

Pennsylvania



Feeding the needy
The Brothers of Bucks County, PA, Division 3, gathered on June 15 for their food distribution to three pantries in Central Bucks County.



New Hibernians in PA
National Director Ed Halligan and PA State District Director Bob Haley swear in members of the Bucks County Board on June 22, at AOH Division 1 in Bristol. Photo by Jim Anderson.

Taking action on hunger

The brothers and sisters of the Michael Dougherty Division 1 in Bucks County, PA, assembled approximately 1,000 breakfast meals for the elderly, frail or homebound in the Philadelphia area. The Annual Hibernian Hunger Project was held on July 13 on the clubhouse grounds. The Division partnered with Aid for Friends, a local food bank. The members' efforts came at a critical time as donations of food are lower in the summer months. The enjoyable and rewarding experience of Christian Charity by our Hibernians was one that assisted individuals that they'll never meet or know.



Members of Division 1 in Bristol, Bucks County, PA worked in assembly-line fashion on July 13 to package breakfast meal bags for their annual Hibernian Hunger Project.

Thompson's Rifles' flag will fly at Carlisle Barracks

You would never expect a small installation like Carlisle Barracks, in Pennsylvania, would be the site of such unrest in terms of the flags flown there.

Carlisle Barracks predates the United States of America and is the second oldest military post in America. It served as a supply point in the early days of the American Colonies. George Washington, as an officer in the British Army, set off to Pittsburgh/Duquesne during the French and Indian War. A Hessian Powder Magazine dating back to the late 1600s to early 1700s still exists there. The current Garrison Headquarters was built over the top of what was a British cemetery. So when the U.S. Flag and pole went down in front of Upton Hall during a heavy wind storm, someone decided to fly a British flag!

Worse, it wasn't even the current English flag, it was the flag flown by the English Army during its colonization period; it was the flag flown in the war against the United States and their conquest and subjugation of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Canada and India!

The cries of outrage became even stronger when one of the prior Directors of the Army and Heritage Education Center (AHEC) decided to fly an oversized Brit flag from the recreated redoubt on the historical trail, where it could be seen by passersby on Interstate 81. But the director quickly took that down after calls of outrage.

As to the flag on the main installation, it remained for several years until, in March 2016, after receiving a letter from the Pennsylvania State President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Commandant of the U.S. Army War College directed that the British flag be taken down.

The local Ancient Order of Hibernians, the General William Thompson Division, Cumberland County Division 2, saw the opportunity the resurrect the flag flown by its namesake, General William Thompson, the flag of the Thompson's Rifles, that also went by the name the 1st Rifles of the Pennsylvania Militia, which later became the 1st Continental Rifles as a federalized unit. This year, the local AOH unit presented the revolutionary flag to the Garrison Commander, LTC Sally Hannan, on Flag Day, the birthday of the U.S. Army. This is the return of one of the revolutionary flags that used to fly at the barracks and it is the hope of the AOH that other organizations might follow their lead.

The local AOH Division chose General William Thompson, a local Revolutionary and French and Indian War patriot of Carlisle, who was born in Ireland, and who is buried in the Carlisle Old Town Cemetery, as their unit's namesake. Thompson organized a crack rifle unit, armed with Pennsylvania Long Rifles, who wore buckskin uniforms, which then became the 1st Continental Rifles, with Thompson appointed as its leader, the 1st commissioned Colonel in the United States Army. Thompson's Rifles served throughout the Revolutionary War and was feared for their deadly sharpshooters. The Unit was largely made up of Irish and German Americans from central PA and they became known as the Irish Line. Their unit flag, which they carried throughout the war, had a green background and a red center and the center showed a Colonial Soldier with a pike (the traditional weapon of the Irish) netting a Lion (England) with the word in Latin phrase "Domari Nolo" under the picture, which roughly translated means "We will not be dominated" or "I refuse to be Subjugated."



Our AOH General William Thompson Division, Cumberland County presented the revolutionary flag to the Garrison Commander, LTC Sally Hannan on Flag Day. This is the return of one of the revolutionary flags that used to fly upon the installation and it is hope of the AOH, by starting this tradition to continue. In the picture, AOH, Cumberland County, Division II President Tom Kane; LTC Sally Hannan, Garrison Commander; James Lee, Deputy Garrison Commander; and Jamie Leithiecq, Command Sergeant Major.

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

— John O'Connell, Editor

Medal of Honor Grove



New signs were installed at the AOH and K of C site on June 15. The AOH sign gives a brief history of AOH involvement with the stateless immigrants who received the Medal of Honor. One of signs includes a photo that was taken at the AOH dedication on August 24, 1985, and recognizes, from left, Joe Sullivan, AOH Chairman of the Medal of Honor Committee; Sister Maria Veronica IHM, archivist for all Medal of Honor recipients; and Joe Roche, National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The other sign, the new Chaplains Memorial sign, shows those Chaplains who have received the Medal of Honor, with a brief history of each Chaplain. A rededication of the Chaplains Memorial was planned for June 19.

Signs were designed and installed to give visitors to the Medal of Honor Grove a brief background on the AOH and K of C and their involvement with our nation's heroes. We owe Deb Woolson a debt of gratitude for her tireless work in designing these signs and bringing continued recognition to the Medal of Honor Grove.

Freedoms Foundation Spirit Program and Chaplains honored

By Pete Hand, Division 1, Montgomery County PA.

The Freedoms Foundation, located on the outskirts of Valley Forge, serves as a reminder of those who have served our country and received the Medal of Honor. The foundation recruits a group of teenagers five times a year to teach them about the Medal of Honor Grove and to bring the students down to Philadelphia to the historical landmarks of events that helped mold our country.

The AOH Notre Dame Division 1, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, sponsored two students, Connor Crawford and Jonathan Culton, to attend these classes. Today's youth are tomorrow's future and must become responsible citizens of the United States needs and responsibilities. And the only way they are going to learn this is the get a deep understanding of the principles on which American government was founded.

The Medal of Honor Grove has recently had upgrades, with plaques installed to provide information about the obelisks there. Two, the AOH and Chaplains obelisks have plaques telling a bit of the history behind the obelisks honoring these Medal of Honor recipients.

Upgrades were also done to the AOH obelisk, with new concrete and stone work, thanks to Seamus Boyle, AOH Past National President, and Mick Dunleavy, President of Wolf Tone Division in Chester County, who helped organize and recruit workers to help with the renovations at this location.

On the Chaplains' obelisk, Mark Ryan, then President of the Notre Dame Division, noticed in his research that some names were missing on the Chaplains' obelisk that was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Mark contacted the Knights and four more names were added. Chaplains James Hill, Milton Haney, John Whitehead and Francis Hall, all from the Civil War, were added.



Obelisk of the AOH with markers with all the names of the Medal of Honor Recipients.

South Carolina



Vice Consul Eilis O'Keefe, second row center, with local AOH and LAOH members.

Vice Consul visits AOH members

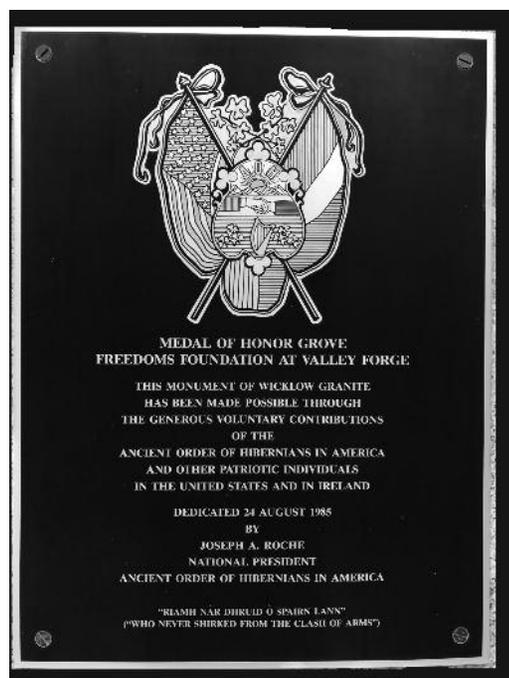
Eilis O'Keefe, Vice Consul of Ireland's Atlanta Consulate, visited AOH and LAOH members in Myrtle Beach. Ms. O'Keefe updated Hibernians on current affairs in Ireland, including Brexit, the Good Friday Agreement, as well as the J-1 Visa program and how it affects those in the Myrtle Beach area. The talk was well received by all, as everyone appreciated Ms. O'Keefe's expert insight.

Pennsylvania



Scholarships in Scranton

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Lackawanna County Division 4 presented \$500 scholarships to two students at All Saints Academy in Scranton, Pennsylvania. From left, Jim Barrett, Joe Holland, Ron Prislupski, Jim Foley, Maggie Dolphin, Father Stephen Ruth, Patrick O'Malley, President, Kevin Donovan and Mark Dougher.



This plaque is on the AOH Obelisk

Missouri

The Missouri State AOH Convention closed in late May with the selection of new officers. Installation was part of the morning business meeting. The new officers are Financial Secretary Dennis Murray, Recording Secretary Jamie Dugdale, Vice President John Mc Evoy, and State President John Callahan.

Our Pearse Division (Kansas City, Mo.) has continued their parochial scholarship program and again will award six scholarships. Pearse Division leaders have begun to set up for the Kansas City Ethnic Food Festival in early August. Also, our Pearse Division executive officers have begun to marshal resources for the Irish Festival during Labor Day.

The Roarty Division (Saint Charles) continued their support of the children in need. The membership has provided a monthly Sunday dinner for children and staff at the Saint Charles County youth facility.

Saint Charles County Roarty Division members spent a warm Saturday morning on July 27 as volunteers, busy with a clean up at our Saint Peter's municipal campgrounds and park. After 90 days at a historic flood stage, the Missouri River has returned close to its normal channel. One is amazed at the amount of plastic, Styrofoam and dry wall collected. It was also noted the heavy moldy odor throughout the park and campground. Mud was our challenge! The Hibernians were pleased to see their Roarty Division president, John (Rocky) Reitmeyer, providing bottled water to hundreds of volunteers.

Pearse Division Hibernian of the Year

Annually members of the Padraig Pearse Division 1 Kansas City, Missouri, select a Hibernian of the Year to recognize members who have provided exemplary service to the Division. In 2019 the Division selected Kurt Killen for his efforts in creating and developing the annual scholarship award program, his presence as a cheerful volunteer at all things Hibernian, and his clear strong Catholic faith. While not particularly Hibernian-related, Kurt's unique hobby involves getting his picture taken with school and professional team mascots from across the country. He is well on his way to the goal of 200, which has kept him busy on his free time, when not engaged in Hibernian activity.

For four years, the Division has relied on the impressive talent and skills of regionally recognized painter, and Pearse member, John Carroll. Annually, he provides a cherished memento to each year's Hibernian of the Year. John will paint an Ireland scene and the framed work is then presented to the selected Hibernian. For 2019, he painted and the Division presented to Kurt, "The Quiet Man Bridge," from the movie of the same name. Now a full-time artist, John received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) and had a career with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, while fine tuning his craft. John's work is regularly on display at art fairs throughout the Kansas City region and can be viewed at www.kavanaughgallery.com.



Pearse Division Hibernian of the Year Kurt Killen with Creighton U. "Billy the BlueJay"

New Jersey

NJ AOH Irish Fall Festival in N. Wildwood

The largest Irish festival on the east coast will be held from September 19 to 22. This festive event is sponsored by James J. Reilly, Division 1.

The activities begin on Thursday, September 19, at 8 a.m. with a round of golf at the Cape May National Golf Course, Route 9 and Fairway Drive, Cape May Court House. The fee is \$110 on or before September 5 (\$120 after September 5), and includes greens fee and cart, light breakfast, buffet lunch, beer and many prizes. Space is limited and reservations are suggested. For more information, contact the AOH.

Boxing is back! On Thursday evening, 10 amateur boxing bouts will feature the Jack Costello Boxing Club, in Philadelphia, vs. the Gleann Amateur Boxing Club, from Belfast. This event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Wildwood Catholic High School. Tickets are \$30. For advanced ticket sales, call 215-820-1547 or email shay39@comcast.net

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the festivities will take place on Olde New Jersey Avenue. Street vendors will display their Irish memorabilia, and the food vendors will offer a variety of Irish and non-Irish treats. This activity begins at 8 a.m. each morning and continues until 7 p.m.

On Friday and Saturday there will be free live entertainment continuously from noon until 8:30 p.m. The National Anthem will be sung at noon. Featured performers include: Shenanigans, Broken Shillelaghs, Birmingham 6, Timmy Kelly, Galway Guild, and Ballina. In addition, Irish Schools of Dance will perform throughout both days.

Saturday begins with a 5K RUN. You can sign up at 8 a.m. at the AOH tent (between 1st and 2nd Avenues) on Olde New Jersey Avenue. Cash prizes will be awarded. For additional information on the run visit TheIrishJog.com.

Saturday at 10 a.m. the Brian Riley Pipe Exhibition will take place at Bill Henfey Park (8th and Central Avenues, North Wildwood). Come see and hear some of the best pipe bands in the East!

Also on Saturday, the AOH will host free Irish Dance lessons at the Elks Lodge, (Chestnut and Olde New Jersey Aves) from 10 'til noon. All are welcome.

On Sunday, everyone is welcome to celebrate our faith and heritage at Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Church in the Notre Dame de la Mer Parish, Glenwood and Atlantic Avenues, for 10:30 a.m. Mass. There will be a procession starting at the main entrance to the altar by the Protectors of the Faith Guards, the Cape May County Emerald Society Honor Guard and a liturgical bag piper soloist.

Sunday at 12:30 p.m., the parade begins at 20th and Surf Avenues and will continue to Spruce and Olde New Jersey Aves. We are again honored to have Seamus Boyle, Past AOH National President, as a special guest. The parade will feature Miss North Wildwood, Charlotte Mendelson, many fraternal organizations, bag pipe bands, Irish dance groups and more. All AOH organizations are welcome to be a part of this celebration of Irish history and heritage.

As always, bus service will be available from the Anglesea Fire Hall – 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenue along Surf Avenue to 26th Street. Additional bus service will be available through Wildwood and Wildwood Crest. For detailed information, please call 609-884-5230 or visit gatrolley.com.

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

This festival is sponsored, in part, by Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey, the Greater Wildwood Tourism Improvement and Development Authority and the City of North Wildwood.

The AOH is happy to acknowledge and thank Mayor Patrick Rosenello, City Council and the City of North Wildwood for their annual support of this event!

For additional information contact the AOH at 1-800-IRISH-91 or www.cmcaoh.com.

Virginia



The Father John Lynch Division 1, in Roanoke, set a record for donations to Roanoke Catholic School this past year. The donations were \$5,500 awarded in scholarships: \$1,500 was awarded at the Division's St. Patrick's Day Dinner and \$4,000 was awarded at the school's awards ceremony in May. Pictured, from left, are Jim Sullivan Scholarship winner Isabella Alvarez, President's Scholarship winner Christopher Schaible, Ray Donnelly Scholarship winner Alexis Potter, and Rev. Thomas Miller Scholarship winner Maddy King. Not pictured is second Jim Sullivan Scholarship winner Colin Hagy. The awards were presented by Division President Glen Waldis. The Jim Sullivan Scholarships are new this year in memory of our Brother and Immediate Past President, who died earlier this year. More than \$20,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Roanoke Catholic School students since 2015.



Fairfax Division at new church ceremony

The Father William Corby Division 3, in Fairfax, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new St. Mary of Sorrows Church. The historic church was built in 1858 by Irish laborers, so it was fitting to have Hibernians participate in the ceremony. Division members formed part of the honor guard for the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, who presided at the ceremony. Additionally, Brother Tim Dwyer was a ceremony lector and participated in the actual groundbreaking ceremony. He was joined by fellow division brother, the Reverend James Barkett, Pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows Parish. In keeping with the Irish heritage of St. Mary of Sorrows parish, the new church will have a Celtic cross at its apex.

New York



Great American Irish Festival
NY Supreme Court Justice Bernadette Clark, left, reads the gospel, as Father Sean O'Brien, Eucharistic Ministers Robert and John Sullivan, and the Andy Cooney Band join her on the improvised altar-stage at the AOH-sponsored Irish Mass at the Great American Irish Festival. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Irish Cultural Center Opens in Utica

Utica's long-awaited, \$2.5 million Irish Cultural Center recently opened with public officials and 300 guests with ties to the local Irish community in attendance. The center was substantially backed by AOH fundraising through the Utica Irish Festival and will be the new AOH meeting place for our division.

Father Richard Dellos, of neighboring St Joseph and St Patrick's church, and Father Jim Salerno, of Our Lady of Lourdes, blessed and dedicated the new center, A procession of members of the AOH and LAOH, a ribbon cutting and declarations and pronouncements by local and state officials followed.

During the blessing ceremony, the holy water vessel rested on the cornerstone of the old St Patrick's church which occupied the current IRC site from July 15 1894 when it was laid by Bishop Ludden until St Patrick's was razed in 1968 . The red stone block sits at the entrance to the ICC's pub.

The 21,000 square foot facility, completed 13 years after the project start, includes an Irish history museum, an event center with a 300 person capacity, and nearest to the corner of Columbia Street sits the Center's aptly named "Five Points Pub."

The ICC sits at the intersection of three streets, which create a five point intersection similar to the Five Points neighborhood in New York City to which the pub name gives a knowing nod and a wink. The Five Points contributed much to the history of Irish immigration and assimilation rite of passage into America's family.

The Pub's bar, accouterments and furnishings were totally assembled and custom fitted to specifications in Ireland, taken apart, shipped and reassembled here.

Syracuse attorney Vaughn D. Lang, whose financial participation in the project is generally credited with the accelerated completion of the Cultural Center, said that the facility and operations would soon be open to the public and would not require membership. Peter Karl III, a ranking official with the Center and the upcoming Great American Irish Festival in Frankfort, narrowed the public opening date to one of the first two weeks of August. *Story and photo by Tom Laughlin Jr.*

Rockland Division 1 recruits at minor league game

Division 1 members participated in recruiting new members at a July 6 Irish Night at the Rockland Boulders baseball game. The festivities included an afternoon featuring an exciting Gaelic football game with the New York City Police Department facing the Philadelphia Police Dept. Also there was great musical entertainment by the Narrowbacks who had everyone singing and dancing to our favorite Irish tunes. A great day!

Many stopped by the Division 1 recruitment table where info was provided on the four AOH Divisions in Rockland County and new candidates are expected to attend Fall meeting when once again they resume.

As a follow up, a second Irish Night will be held at the Rockland Boulders stadium on August 17 with plenty of pre-game activities with great music and entertainment being provided by the Cousins Moran.



Haverstraw Division 1 recruiting at Baseball Gaelic Night
Division 1 members stood behind the table on July 6. From left, Rich Caunitz, Division Organizer and Webmaster; Jim Clarke; Division Treasurer; and Dan Donohue, Division President. The gentleman in the photo on the right is Tom Moore from Pearl River who stopped by our table.

Celebrating a Division ordination

All Irish Martyrs Division 20 (Nassau County) honored newly ordained priest, Fr. Matthew Browne, by gifting him vestments and a AOH Chaplain's medallion. Fr. Browne was ordained on June 22, one of six new priests in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He is a member of Division 20, as are his father, Marty Browne, and uncle, John Murnane.



Past Division President Tony Lennon, President Joe McDonald, Fr. Matt Browne and Marty Browne.

New Jersey



Meeting to discuss the Essex 9 division's commitment to the archdiocese were, from left, National AOH Secretary Jere E. Cole, National President James F. McKay III, Cardinal James W. Tobin, National VP Daniel O'Connell, and Essex 9 Division President James P. Fallon.

Hibernians commit to the archdiocese

The Michael L. Delahunty Division Essex 9, in Montclair, has chosen to support the Archdiocese of Newark's "We Are Living Stones" campaign, with a yearly donation of \$500. The campaign was chosen to ensure the Archdiocese will remain a steadfast and vibrant Church for generations to come.

On February 21, Essex 9 President James P Fallon, National President Judge James F. McKay III, National Vice President Daniel O'Connell and National Secretary Jere E. Cole, Jr., met with Newark Archbishop Cardinal James W. Tobin to discuss the division's commitment to the campaign.

Project Saint Patrick Prayer Cards

Are now available by contacting

Vic Vogel
victorjvogel@yahoo.com

Georgia

The Irish roots of 'Gone With The Wind'

The Archbishop Donoghue Division is proud that one of our own, Brother Dave O'Connell, professor emeritus at Georgia State University and distinguished author, has published a 2nd edition of his 1996 book, The Irish Roots of Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind.

The book provides a new understanding of Mitchell's personal and private views about her Irish and Catholic identity (including the role that Marist priests played in her life) based on heretofore unpublished letters to which Dr. O'Connell has been granted access, and fresh insights into the lives of her ancestors thanks to unpublished documents written by her brother, Stephens Mitchell, and her great aunt, Sarah Jane Fitzgerald.

He gave a preview of his work at last year's Irish Fest in Atlanta, and the audience was amazed to learn the history and connections between her life, Irish Atlanta, and the book and subsequent movie. The book is available on amazon. Congratulations to Brother Dave O'Connell!

Ladies hibernian news

National LAOH Secretary

Convention time is in progress. Many States have already held their Conventions. This is a time of renewal when we look back on our accomplishments and look forward by making goals for the next two years. It is a time for work at the business sessions and also for fun at the social events. What I enjoy most about Conventions is meeting up with friends and meeting new friends.

I had the privilege of attending the New York and Pennsylvania Conventions. This was my second time at both Conventions. The business sessions at both ran smoothly under the leadership of their State Presidents. The State Officers and Appointees work over the last two years was appreciated by the delegations. We can accomplish so much when working together. I have worked with many of these Officers during my terms on the National Board. All the State Officers that I have worked with are a blessing to our Order. These Officers are very dedicated and hard workers. It is commitments like theirs that have made our Order exist for 125 years. Thank you to all members who have made the commitment to serve as State, County and Division Officers.

After the last National Convention, a Veterans' Pin was made. Many Divisions, Counties and States have already given these Pins to their Veterans. As the National Secretary, I would like to send out a thank you on Veterans' Day to our members who are Veterans and those currently serving, thanking them for their service. I need your help to accomplish this goal. I am requesting that if you are a veteran or in active service, please send me an email at laohsecretary@gmail.com by October 11.

I encourage all our members to attend your Conventions and other Hibernian events. This is how you make new Hibernian friends. Think about joining us at the Hibernian Lecture at Notre Dame and the 125th Anniversary Celebrations in Michigan.



Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
Carol Sheyer	President	csheyer@fuse.net
Karen Keane	Vice President	laohkaren@live.com
Marilyn Madigan	Secretary	memadigan@gmail.com
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Sandi Swift	Irish Historian/Webmaster	sandiswift@ladiesaoh.com
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Kathie Linton	National Convention Chair	kathielin10@gmail.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Maureen Shelton	125th Anniversary Chair	mtshelton@live.com

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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Kathie Linton	Ohio	kathielin10@gmail.com

President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer



With summer coming to an end and fall on the doorstep the LAOH will be finishing up their State Conventions and starting up with their various events. One event I sincerely hope that is on everyone's calendar is the 125th Celebration in Dearborn.

Many members of the LAOH have been putting in long hours on the 125th Celebration. Beginning with, Past National President and the 125th Celebration Chairperson Maureen Shelton, to whom we owe a big thank you to for agreeing to chair the event. Presently, she is busy working on the final plans to make the event a great success. And thank you to National Vice President Karen Keane for all the help she gave as the National Board Liaison and willing to share her expertise with us. The Michigan LAOH have stepped up to help with the numerous tasks that will help to make this celebration special. National Catholic Action Officer Cathy Turck is working on the details for the 125th Mass. National Irish Historian Sandi Swift, along with National Secretary Marilyn Madigan and Past National President Mary Hogan, have been working feverishly to gather as much of the LAOH history for the event as possible. Past National President Mary Paglione has been working to put what history she has on a flash drive to be used at the 125th. And, of course, we can't forget to thank the ladies who agreed to work on the reservations and the registration desk in Dearborn. They are Past National President Patricia O'Connell, National Treasurer Mary Ann Lubinsky and National Supply Officer Mary Conlon.

The Registration Form and hotel information, along with the 125th Commemorative Jewelry Form, can be found on the LAOH website. There is much to see and do in the Dearborn area. The Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and the Automotive Hall of Fame are all very near the hotel.

Thank you for the many invitations to your State Conventions. I have and will attend as many as possible. So far, I have been able to attend the Massachusetts State Convention and in July I attended the New York, Pennsylvania and Kentucky Conventions. It is so nice to be able to meet all the many ladies throughout the different States and be able to sit and talk to them, which is not possible at the National Conventions.

Just a reminder, after your State Convention please send an updated list of the new Officers to National Secretary Marilyn Madigan.

On behalf of the National Board, I want to congratulate our National History Day winner, Channin McNaughton from Ohio. Her entry was *Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington: An Irishwoman's Triumph in Confronting National Tragedy in the Senior Individual Performance category.*

I would be remiss to end this message without saying the 125th Celebration has already been a great success in my book. It has united the members of the National Board, especially the elected officers. I just have to say can you, and it is done, and they are asking what else they can do to help. THANK YOU, ladies, for being here for me.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Dearborn.

Dear Hibernian Sisters,

I would like to thank you all for your support during our 2018-2019 National LAOH fundraising campaign. So many Divisions, County, State and National Board members, along with many individuals made this fundraiser such a success.

I would like to thank Karen Keane and the State of New York for allowing the National Board to adopt a well-established fundraiser. Karen was also responsible for the donation of the tickets and initial mailings. This greatly reduced expenses towards this campaign.

Congratulations to our Sisters Divisions from St. Elizabeth, Div. 4, New Jersey and Pittsburgh Div. 21, Pennsylvania, our multiple winners and Early Bird submissions with the returns.

All winners are posted on the ladiesaoh.com website thanks to Sandy Swift, not only our National LAOH Irish Historian, but also our LAOH webmaster. Thank you to Mary Ann Lubinsky, our LAOH National Treasurer, who expedited the checks of the winners. Wow!

It is a great privilege to work with such a wonderful team of women and the LAOH National Board.

Our goal was to sell at least 500 tickets, and, yes, Sisters, we met that goal. We are keeping with the same fundraiser for 2019-2020. Tickets will be mailed out soon.

**30 chances to win!
6 months of Winners!**

I hope to see many of you at our 125th Anniversary celebration in Dearborn, Michigan. I hope the 2019-2020 campaign will be a foundation for the next 125 years!

Máire Leffel
LAOH National Raffle Chair
nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

LAOH National Historian

by Sandi Riley Swift

Sisters, there will be several topics addressed here:

Information on our 125th Commemoration Celebration:

1. Each state is requested to create some sort of display on the LAAOH/LAOH history in your state. Your display may be a pop-up retractable banner, scrapbook, poster board, historical items, etc. (we CANNOT accept any display that needs to be attached to a wall). You as a State will decide what you will display to represent your state's rich history. Maureen Shelton advised that the hotel will be providing space upstairs in the area by the ballroom. Will the State Presidents, if you are not attending, please appoint someone from your state to bring what it is you want to display about the history of your Divisions, Counties, and State? Please let me know by the end of September what you will be bringing so I may ensure there is enough display space for everyone.

2. Please encourage your members to attend our 125th Anniversary Celebration commemoration.

Additionally, the LAOH 125th commemoration items we currently have will be available for purchase; once we sell out of these items they will not be reordered. They are limited quantities available so again, please encourage your members to order them now. As for the collectible "challenge" commemoration coin, these are nice to keep extras on hand to give to speakers, or those who you want to show appreciation to by presenting them with a LAOH commemorative coin. It is in the similar fashion as the police and firefighter coins. If you wish to order these items in advance please contact Colleen McKenzie at cjmckenzie2002@yahoo.com. The order form, with photos, is on the National Website.

3. I will be putting together our 125th Commemoration book on the history of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in the United States from 1894 - 2019, with the help of Mary Hogan and Marilyn Madigan. We spent several days together going through our archives and were able to scan and copy many items but we are still lacking much information on our states. This is where we need the help of every member. Every state/county/division/degree team is being asked to submit a written history for our Order's book. We would like written histories from ALL Divisions, Counties, Degree Teams and States for the book. This book will be available for future generations to know what we are all about; DON'T BE LEFT OUT, once the book is printed we cannot add late entries. You may send your information to me, Sandi Swift. Please make sure to send a copy to your Division, County, and State Irish Historian so she may also keep a copy for her records AND keep a copy for your division records. **It needs to be on 8.5 x 11, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, single space, Word format.**

—We will also accept submissions on any disbanded division, county or state; if any sister has information on a disbanded division please forward it for inclusion into our history book.

—If there is a Past National President, who is deceased from your State would that State please provide a separate submission for that person? **Please keep this to LAOH history only and not personal history.**

The book will be available at our 2020 National Convention. Our October, LAOH 125th commemoration celebration will be included in the book. **All submissions for this book will need to be to me by February 1st., the feast of our Patron, Saint Brigid of Ireland. Please have it in the proper font, done in Word format.** Email ALL submissions to Sandi Swift sandiswift@ladiesaoh.com **Put in subject LAOH History.**

Additionally we will have a "sponsor ad" available to support the printing of this book. These sponsor ads will be for congratulating the LAOH on the 125th Anniversary. I will send a form out with further details; if anyone has seen the book the AOH did for the 175th, it will be similar to that type of a publication. These sponsors are separate from the program book for President Sheyer's celebration being held this October.

If you have, or have access to any information with regards to a person in our Order, an event, or copies of original programs, medallions, etc. separate from your own history, please let me know, we would like to scan them for our Archives and possible use in the book. Please check "grannies" attic, make phone calls to older or former members, the families of deceased members who still may records or memorabilia about the LAAOH/LAOH; check old newspapers, particularly local ones who may not be on-line; libraries, and historical societies in your area for information; do an online search for a person or event that was important in your division; ask your brothers in the local AOH if they have old records or histories, many include the LAAOH/LAOH.

Please make copies of any info you may find about the LAAOH/LAOH for our archives; even if you do not use it in your history submission the info is still valuable for our archives and future research.

www.ladiesaoh.com

Kentucky



From left to right, back row: Treasurer, Natalie Peterinelli; Secretary, Maureen Toner; Vice President, Molly Dobson; Irish Historian, Peggy Baas; Catholic Action, Clara Fulkerson; Missions and Charities, Shannon Huelsman. Seated: President, Julia O'Dwyer; National LAOH President, Carol Sheyer

New York

The NYS LAOH held its biennial convention in Albany, NY. There were numerous displays on the LAAOH/LAOH history, celebrating our 125th Anniversary.

Kiernan Madden, Ireland's Consulate General spoke at the Awards banquet.

The NYS LAOH Awards were presented by NYS VP MaryBeth Durkee. Honored was Ms. Aidan Arnold as NYS Junior Hibernian of the Year. Aidan is the current VP of the Broome County JR Hibernians is in 10th grade and she plays varsity lacrosse and tennis.

NY's LAOH most coveted honor, The Mother Teresa of Calcutta Award was presented to Delores Fitzgerald of the LAOH, Dean Michael Barry, Division #3, Oswego County. Delores has been a member of the LAOH for almost 50 years, she has held various Division offices including President, but she is most comfortable behind the scenes in the kitchen wearing her apron. Delores's life is one of helping others and many charitable acts, she lives her Catholic Faith and our Motto every day of her life.

The LAOH NYS "Marie English Award" was presented by NYS Secy, Aggie O'Leary to LAOH Div.5, Orange County for the most increase in membership. Accepting the Award was County President, Mary Wingenter who presented it to Annemarie Mulholland (Div. 5, Pres).

National President Carol Sheyer attended and with the assistance of several National Board members installed our new LAOH officers and Appointees. NYS Board; Pres- MaryBeth Durkee, VP-Aggie O'Leary, Secy-Regina Begley, Treas-Therese Meyer, Historian-Joann Gundersen, M&C- Catherine Doherty, Cath Act-Teresa Kearns, Past President & Org- Jacqueline Clute, Auditor- Christina Parisi, Freedom for All Ireland- Joan Moore, Fundraising- Mary "Sissy" Durkee, Immig & Education- Jeryl Hess, Info Technology- Kimberly A Clancy, Public Relations- Mary Hogan, Chaplain- Deacon Charles Z. Wojton



LAOH NYS HONOREES: Irish Consulate General, Kieran Madden; LAOH Natl Pres, Carol Sheyer; Broome Cnty, Deborah Burke; NYS VP, MaryBeth Durkee; NYS JR Hibernian, Aidan Arnold; Mother Teresa Honoree, Delores Fitzgerald; "Marie English Membership Award" Orange County, Mary Wingenter.



Dear Sister and Brother Hibernians:

It is with great pride that we invite you to the Testimonial Hooley to honor our LAOH National President and Ohio Sister Carol Sheyer. Carol has been a long-serving and dedicated Hibernian at both the State and National level.

Carol's Testimonial Hooley will be held on Friday, October 11, 2019 from 7:00 - 11:00 pm. The celebration will provide transportation, food, and entertainment at the Hibernian Hall, 25300 Five Mile Road, Redford, Michigan 48239. The cost of the Testimonial Hooley is \$35.00 with checks made payable to the **LAOH Ohio State Board**.

Reservations are due by September 15, 2019 and can be made with Maire Manning, 1435 Olivewood Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44107. For questions, email Maire at manningrince@gmail.com.

A Testimonial Journal will be published to honor President Sheyer. This Journal will provide a lasting tribute to honor her many years of dedication to our Order. We ask that you show your appreciation and support of President Sheyer by purchasing an ad in this Journal. Details and requirements for the ads are shown on the ad form. The cost of the ads run from \$10.00 to \$250.00. Checks should be made payable to the **LAOH Ohio State Board**.

Ads are due by September 1, 2019 and should be sent to Patricia Lavelle, 26559 Chapel Hill Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070. For questions, email Patricia at LAOHOOLEY19@gmail.com.

Please join us for a fun filled night to show your appreciation for Carol and all that she has done. We look forward to seeing you.

In our motto,

Clara Joyce

Ohio State President
ss_teacher_5m@yahoo.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.

*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

Michigan

Michigan LAOH celebrates 50 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity



L-R Mary O'Connell and Mary Ochab

We were honored to have two charter members attending the Michigan LAOH/AOH Convention in June.

Mary O'Connell attended the first meeting of the Rose Kennedy Division with eight other ladies in the basement of the old Grey Hound Terminal in Detroit in April 1967. By 1968, they had enough members to get their charter.

Mary Ochab reports the Ethel Kennedy Division first met in June 1969 and received their charter shortly after. Both of these charter member are past Division and State Presidents and held most other positions in their respective Divisions and on the State Board. They are both active members of the St. Brigid Degree Team.

There are two other charter members in the Rose Kennedy Division. Shirley O'Kelly an active member and Janet Hurley, the first President of the Rose Kennedy Division, who is semiretired.

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



Testimonial Hooley Ad Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ad Size Desired _____ Amount Paid _____

Please Check Correct Box Exact Repeat Repeat w/Change New Ad/New Layout

Word or PDF files are required. If files are e-mailed, please state the name of the buyer within your correspondence and submission form **MUST** be included with your ad, either mailed or e-mailed.

E-MAIL ALL FILES TO: LAOHOOLEY19@gmail.com

Deadline For Submission
 September 1, 2019

Premium Ad Space

Back Cover \$250.00
 Inside Front Cover \$150.00
 Inside Back Cover \$150.00

Full Page \$100.00
 1/2 Page \$ 55.00
 1/4 Page \$ 35.00

One Line Patron Ad
 Only \$10.00

Please make checks payable to
 LAOH Ohio State Board

Mail Ad Request to:

Patricia Lavelle
 26559 Chapel Hill Dr.
 North Olmsted, Oh 44070
 440-899-5185

1 / 4 Page
 3-3/4 x 2-1/4

Circle, Vertical,
 or Horizontal

Full Page

1 / 2 Page
 3-3/4 x 4-1/2

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania AOH honors State President Joe Hosie

The weekend of May 17-19 brought a large delegation of Hibernians from across the state — and beyond — to honor Pennsylvania’s outgoing state president, Joe Hosie.

On Friday night, the early arrivals were treated to some real Hibernian friendship as President Hosie’s Division, Msgr. William Farrell, Carbondale, put on a welcome party to the many travelers. The brothers put together quite a menu for the Hibernians and their spouses. Bob Rogers brought the Irish Balladeers for entertainment.

On Saturday, the Pennsylvania State Board met for their final meeting of President Hosie’s term, at the Trinity Club, in Carbondale. Present at the meeting were National Board officers and PA state officers and brothers from other states. Following the meeting, Mass was said at Saint Rose of Lima Church. Father James Price, Division 2 Chaplain of Hosie’s Division, honored us with a beautiful Mass. The homily was quite interesting as Father has quite a wit.

Following the beautiful Mass, the Testimonial Dinner — attended by more than 150 — was held at the Hotel Anthracite, in Carbondale. Festivities started with the National officers being escorted by two of Pennsylvania’s finest bagpipers, Mike Brown and Mark Ryan. Also piped in were Pennsylvania’s State

Board officers, followed by the guest of honor, President Joe Hosie, and his wife, Katie. During dinner, girls from the Gallagher School of Irish Dance performed. Hosie was honored by his granddaughter, Lindsay Wise, and great granddaughter, Annabelle Wise, with a special performance.

Hosie was also honored by his division brothers with a three-foot Irish Knee Harp, thanking him for his leadership on the State Board. The State Board officers presented him with Redbreast Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey, lottery tickets and a gift card. The LAOH County Board honored Hosie with a case of his favorite brew, a Celtic Cross and a Pennsylvania State Flag. The Lackawanna County Board honored Hosie with a Hibernian of the Year Award, a plaque and a religious medal. The Lackawanna Commissioners gave Hosie a proclamation stating the success of his term of office, and specifying May 18 as “Joe Hosie Day” in Lackawanna County. Hosie’s home division honored National President Judge James McKay with his own piece of anthracite coal, presented by Division Vice President Frances “Hard Coal” Truman. The remainder of the evening was dancing with entertainment by the band, Old Friends.

On Sunday morning, Msgr. William Farrell Division 2 hosted a free breakfast to the Brotherhood before they departed for home. A fine time was had by all.



PA State Board Vice President Pat O’Brien, PA State President Joe Hosie, Immediate Past PA State President and National Director Ed Halligan, PA State Treasurer Glenn Cannon and PA State Secretary Tim Carley.



Accepting the Irish Knee Harp, PA State President Joe Hosie, left, Joe Moran, Div. 2 Vice President Frances Truman, Ken Moran, and Div. 2 President Jeff Sears.

Liam McNabb announces candidacy for AOH National Treasurer

Liam McNabb will seek the Office of AOH National Treasurer at the 2020 National Convention in Orlando. Liam is a member of the Albany Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5 and was endorsed by his Division for National Treasurer. Liam was also endorsed by the Albany County Board and Capital District Council before receiving the unanimous endorsement of the New York State Board at the Biennial State Convention in July. The Pennsylvania State Board also endorsed Liam at their Convention in Pittsburgh, which was also held in July.

Liam was elected AOH National Director in Atlantic City in 2016 and was re-elected in Louisville in 2018 representing New York. He has served in numerous elected and appointed positions at the Division, County, State and National levels since joining the Order as a Junior Hibernian in his hometown of Auburn.



Liam McNabb



National President Judge James McKay and Division 2 Vice President Frances Truman; and in the back, Division 2 President Jeff Sear, Lackawanna County President and Division 1 President (and Master Ceremonies) Tom Gilbride.

New York

NY Convention a success

The New York State AOH held their 100th Biennial convention in Albany in conjunction with the New York State Ladies AOH 61st Biennial convention from July 10 through 13. A dedicated local convention committee, comprised of Albany AOH and LAOH members, hosted the convention at the Hilton Albany Hotel.

Hundreds of delegates representing AOH and LAOH Divisions from throughout the Empire State converged on Albany to participate in meetings, social events and elect new leadership for the next term.

The NYS AOH elected Thomas Lambert, Erie County, as their State President, while the NYS LAOH elected Mary Beth Durkee, Rensselaer County, to lead their organization for the next two years. There was significant National AOH and LAOH Board representation at the convention as well, including Danny O'Connell, AOH Vice President (Ohio), and Carol Sheyer, LAOH President (Ohio), both of whom swore in the new officers of their respective organizations.



The incoming New York State Board. From left, front row: Immediate Past President Vic Vogel, Vice President John Manning, President Tom Lambert, Secretary Tom O'Donnell and Treasurer Tom Beirne. Back row, from left; District Directors Timothy Tobin (from Chemung County), Kevin O'Reilly (Albany County), Steve Kiernan (Kings County), Craig Speers (Erie County), Robert Nolan (Bronx County), James Russell (Rockland County) and Sean O'Rourke (Nassau County). Photos by Digest Editor John O'Connell.



Historic St. Mary's Church was the site of all the convention Eucharists. The parish was established in 1797 and is the second oldest Catholic parish in New York State – the oldest in Upstate New York.



New NY State Presidents Mary Beth Durkee and Tom Lambert.

Ciaran Madden, Consul General of Ireland, was the featured speaker for the Irish & Awards Night dinner and spoke to a large crowd in front of an enormous Irish flag at the back wall as the backdrop. Awards were given to dedicated LAOH and AOH members for their contributions to local charities and Divisions were recognized for growth in membership.

Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller, spoke to the AOH General Session regarding his efforts to uphold the MacBride Principles, which promote fair employment practices along with many of the state's investment partnerships with Northern Ireland.

Numerous committees of both organizations met to discuss specific topics that included Irish History, Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI), Immigration and Political Education to name a few. As always, delegates enjoyed socializing through hospitality events at the hotel and music at the Albany Hibernian Hall.

Syracuse was selected as the site of the 2021 NYS AOH & LAOH Convention and will be hosted at the newly restored Marriott hotel in downtown.



Past New York Presidents, from left, Tim McSweeney, Ed Wallace, Chip McLean, Vic Vogel, Jim Burke, Martin Kelly and Peter Durkee.



Consul General Ciarán Madden, second from left, attended the NY convention. He is pictured here with Vic Vogel, far left, new state President Tom Lambert and Secretary Tom O'Donnell.



National Officers of the AOH and LAOH, from left, Liam McNabb, Sean Pender, Marilyn Madigan, Bill Sullivan, Dan Dennehy, Carol Sheyer, Ed Halligan, Cathy Turck, Denny Parks, Jere Cole, Karen Keane and Danny O'Connell.