

Hibernians gather to honor AOH National President

Hibernians and friends from around the United States and Ireland joined us in mid-October in celebrating the work of National President James F. McKay at a Testimonial Weekend in Washington, D.C.

The events began Friday evening, October 18, in the Irish Ambassador's Residence, where Ciarán Cannon, Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, spoke about McKay's on-going service to Ireland and her Diaspora. Cannon pointed out that the Judge is the current leader of the largest Irish organization outside of Ireland as well as serving the Irish people directly as Honorary Consul for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Friday's event continued with poignant words from Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, our host, who congratulated McKay on his important and worthy efforts. Mulhall specifically pointed to the improvements in marketing and promoting the Order through McKay's leadership. The room was at capacity as President McKay thanked those gathered at the reception.

The National Board held their annual meeting the next
continued on page 11



Judge and Mrs. Marie McKay, right, thanked Ambassador Daniel Mulhall and T.D. Ciarán Cannon.

Fr. Donegan presented with Sean MacBride Award



The 2019 Sean MacBride Award was presented to Fr. Gary Donegan, right, by Hibernian National Vice Presidents Danny O'Connell and Karen Keane.

To memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride, the AOH and Ladies AOH recognized the efforts of Fr. Gary Donegan, who has likewise made contributions to the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people. His acceptance speech, delivered on October 19 in Washington, D.C., was so passionate, so moving and so motivating, that President James McKay wanted every Hibernian to experience his words. Fr. Gary's speech follows.

Fr. Gary Donegan's speech on the occasion of the MacBride Humanitarian Award, October 19, 2019

To my fellow sisters and brothers of the LAOH and the AOH, and dignitaries and friends who have gathered here this night: it is a very humbling experience to have the privilege of addressing you. Those who were present on the Freedom For Ireland night in January 2017, witnessed me receiving the Fr. Murphy Award. It is hard to believe that almost three years have passed since that wonderful occasion in Albany. At the time, I was able to testify that my grand-uncle, Frank Donegan, had been the local President of the AOH in Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh. To become an honorary member and chaplain was not just special for me, but also for the entire Donegan and West clans. To be associated with the name of Sean MacBride is humbling in itself.

This award was announced in Belfast City Hall by the joint Presidents of

AOH and LAOH, Judge Jim McKay and Carol Sheyer, in the presence of the then Mayor, Deirdre Hargey, Sinn Fein. Deirdre was succeeded by Mayor John Finucane, and it was ironic that while preparing these few words, John was addressing BBC Radio Ulster about his father Pat's murder, and the role of state collusion. As First Citizen of Belfast, John has a wonderful platform to represent the entire city and all its citizens, and as a solicitor himself, he is able to voice the concerns of those who have suffered injustices down through the years, not just that of his father, but of the entire community.

Those of us involved in work for Peace and Reconciliation can testify to the fact that peace can only come into being when it is accompanied by justice. Peace and justice are synonymous. Sean MacBride, after whom this award is named, made the work of peace and reconciliation his life's commitment. He was described as a man who 'mobilised the world in the fight against injustice', which culminated in the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974, the Lenin Peace Prize for 1975-1976 and the UNESCO Silver Medal for Service in 1980. MacBride is only one of two people who have been awarded both the Nobel and the Lenin Peace Prize.

Fr. Niall O'Brien was an Irish Columban priest who worked among the poor in the Philippines. On 6 May 1983, he was framed and arrested along with two other priests and six lay workers for the murders of the local Mayor and four companions. The stole that Fr. Niall wore each time he celebrated Holy Mass had a picture of the Dove of Peace, but the dove was surrounded by a pair of hands, bleeding from grasping and pulling apart barbed wire that was stopping the dove from descending. The message was that dove could only land, and peace can only exist, when people have the courage to absorb the pain of the barbs, to grasp the reality of injustice and to work to create a new society built upon equality, justice and diversity.

I am now ordained 28 years. I arrived in Belfast in 2001 and found myself as a Passionist priest immersed in the work of peace and reconciliation directly as a result of one of the most shocking and shameful events in our history, commonly referred to as the Holy Cross Girls School Blockade.

Through that experience, the concluding prayer of the Mass that was celebrated on the day of my Final Profession as a Passionist: 'to embrace the burden of the burdens of the people', became real in a deeper way than I had ever experienced before. My first vow as a Passionist is 'to keep alive the memory of the Passion'. Memoria Passionis is the Passionist charism. Living in the Passionist parish of Holy Cross, Ardoyne, which suffered the highest loss of life in any community in the north (the equivalent of 4.2 million deaths across the United States), I lived in a community where, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, the people were 'familiar with grief' and where the crucified was no stranger.

Our wonderful Pontiff, Papa Francis, endorses the aforementioned when he categorically states:

continued on page 11

In This Issue...

FFAI



Mark Thompson
 Relatives For Justice
 Page 7

Meets with Congressman



Tom Lambert
 NYS President
 Page 16

Convention



Jay McCarthy
 Virginia President
 Page 17

State News

California	.....18
Connecticut	.....18
Florida	.....13
Indiana	.....16
Illinois	.....21
Iowa	.....13
Kansas	.....15
Kentucky	.....22
Louisiana	.....23
Massachusetts	.....20
Missouri	.....15
Montana	.....9
New Jersey	.....18, 23
New York	.....10, 12, 16
Ohio	.....20
Pennsylvania	.....9, 10, 19
Rhode Island	.....13
South Carolina	.....9
Tennessee	.....22
Texas	.....20
Virginia	.....17
LAOH	.....20



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi – AL Chaplain..... jpresley@mobarch.org
 Rev. Michael Healy – CA Deputy Chaplain..... hibhealy@hotmail.com
 Rev. Patrick Collum – LA Deputy Chaplain..... pcollum@arch-no.org

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

James F. McKay III – LA President..... jfmaoh@me.com
 Daniel O'Connell – OH Vice President djocconnell@ysu.edu
 2020 National Convention Chairman, Orlando
 Jere Cole – NJ Secretary..... jcole4838@gmail.com
 Sean Pender – NJ Treasurer paddyspeed@yahoo.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dan Dennehy – NY Immigration Chairman dandennehy@hotmail.com
 Liaison Met NY City
 Ed Halligan – PA Liaison DE, NJ, PA emhall12@comcast.net
 Liam McNabb – NY Liaison NY liammcnabb@hotmail.com
 Dennis Parks – OH Liaison IN, KY, MI, dparks121@yahoo.com
 OH, TN, WVA
 William Sullivan – MA Liaison CT, MA, ME, williamsullivan@verizon.net
 NH, VT, RI
 John Wilson – MO Liaison CO, IL, IA, KS johnj_wilson@yahoo.com
 MO, MN, MT, NE

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Michael McCormack – NY Historian / Archivist aohbard@optonline.net
 Timothy McSweeney – NY Organizer / Liaison Newjack12007@yahoo.com
 CA, ID, NV, ND, UT, WA, WY,
 and All Emerging States
 John O'Connell – NY Editor editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
 Martin Galvin – NY FFAI Chairman mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
 Joseph Norton – GA Charities and Missions docsnorton2@gmail.com
 John Fitzmorris III – LA Catholic Action jdfitzmorris@yahoo.com
 Liaison AL, AR, LA, MS
 John Patrick Walsh – MD Pro-Life Chairman jaywarp1@gmail.com
 Liaison MD, VA, DC
 James Kuhn – LA National Legal Counsel/Constitution jkuhn7478@gmail.com
 Neil Cosgrove – NY Political Education Committee ncosgrov@optonline.com
 Anti Defamation / IAHM Chairman
 James Green – PA Veterans Affairs seamus.green317@gmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Vic Vogel – NY Project St. Patrick victorjvogel@yahoo.com
 Jack Schneider, PA Ritual & Degree Chairman jack1515@aol.com
 Paul Gowdy – MI Hibernian Hunger Gaudy9plow@aol.com
 Jeff Nisler – NY Webmaster Jeff.AOH@Nisler.com
 Michael Joyce – TX Liaison – AZ, NM, OK, TX

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Brendan Moore – NY 2012-2016 / PEC – FFAI brendanaoh@yahoo.com
 Seamus Boyle – PA 2008-2012 / Brexit – Special Projects shay39@comcast.net
 Jack Meehan – MA 2006-2008 meehanaoh1@aol.com
 Ned McGinley – PA 2002-2006 / Chairman Notre Dame nedaoh1@aol.com
 Oversight Committee Chair
 Edward J. Wallace – NY 1994-1998 ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
 George Clough – MO 1990-1994 / Oversight Committee BookODays@aol.com
 Mike Coogan – OH 1988-1990
 Nick Murphy – NY 1986-1988 / Oversight Committee upkerry@optonline.net
 Joseph Roche – MD 1984-1988 jar32@aol.com

The National hibernian digest

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$10.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

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

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

JOHN O'CONNELL National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
SHANNON LEHN Assistant Editor assthibernianeditor@gmail.com
JEFF NISLER Online Editor editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

A P P A R E L
 AOHapparel.itemorder.com
 CarriganAOHColorado.com
ORDER HERE

Hibernians welcome Ireland's President



Michael D. Higgins, center, the President of Ireland, and his wife, the First Lady of Ireland, Sabina Higgins, visited the Irish American Society of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties in Mineola, New York, on September 29, accompanied by Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's Ambassador to the United States; Ciarán Cannon, T.D., Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development; Ciarán Madden, NY Consul General; Dermot Fitzpatrick, Vice Consul General; and Deputy Consuls General Eimery Friel and Sean Ó hAodha; as well as Ireland's Secretary General Niall Burgess. Many Hibernians, pictured here, were honored to be invited to the event. President Higgins' speech was eloquent and inspiring.



OWNERSHIP STATEMENT

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation: (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). Title of Publication; The National Hibernian Digest. Date of filing: August 30, 2018. Published bi-monthly. Office of Publication: Clover Graphics, Inc. 2050 Ocean Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779.

Business Office is at National Secretary, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., 1120 Bloomfield Avenue, Ste. 240 (P.O. Box 539) West Caldwell, NY 07006. Publisher: Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. same address. Editor: John O'Connell, 87-30 256th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Managing Editor: Same. Owner: Ancient Order of Hibernians, c/o Jere Cole, National Secretary, 1120 Bloomfield Avenue, Ste. 204 (P.O. Box 539), West Caldwell, NY 07006.

No bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgagees, and other securities. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (1) Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 months.

Average circulation figures for preceeding twelve months - A. Total printed: 34,000 B.1. Dealer and counter sales: none. B. 2. Mail Subscriptions: 33,000. C. Total paid circulation: 33,000. D. Free distribution by mail: 125. E. Free distribution outside mail: none. F. Total free distribution: 125. G. Total distribution: 33,125. H.1. Office use: 50. H. 2. No unsold newsagent copies. I. Total: 33,175

Circulation figures for issue printed nearest filing date - A. Total printed: 34,000. B. 1. Dealer and counter sales: none. B. 2. Mail subscriptions: 33,000. C. Total paid circulation: 33,000. D. Free distribution by mail: 125. E. Free distribution outside mail: none. F. Total free distribution: 125. G. Total distribution: 34,000. H, 1. Office use: 50. H, 2. No unsold newsagent copies. I. Total: 33,000.



president's message

By Jim McKay III

Fall is slowly (I mean slowly) starting to come in and my attention is devoted (as I write this in late September) to the upcoming Presidents' Dinner in our Nation's Capitol, Washington, D.C. Our National Board will meet on Saturday, October 19. At the meetings, our Directors will give reports to update the National Board on what has transpired over the past year regarding their respective committees. Obviously, committees such as BREXIT, Membership, FFAI, Easter Appeal and Immigration will spark a great deal of conversation at the meeting. I am sure that this issue of the Digest or the next one will have a plethora of photos and articles surrounding the events in D.C. on October 18 and 19.

Hibernians will attend Mass early on the evening of the 19th at historic St. Patrick's Cathedral in Washington, followed by the festivities at the Marriott Metro Center Hotel. A great deal of preparation has been made for not only a successful Board meeting but also an enjoyable weekend with a night tour of the Washington Monuments on Friday.

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.

When the dust settles on the Presidents' Dinner, all attention will turn to our National Convention, planned for Orlando, Florida, on July 22-25, 2020. Our National Vice President Danny O'Connell, our Convention Chairman, has been meeting with the staff of the Rosen Centre to help plan and facilitate the many activities scheduled for that. He has a great many Brothers in Florida assisting and working along with the State Liaison Greg Sean Canning and the new Florida State President Ray Lynch.

We have begun our Annual Label Program and the packets should be hitting your mail boxes any day now. Please remember the good work we do with the proceeds from this endeavor. All proceeds raised go toward our Project St. Patrick, with scholarships for seminarians throughout this country.

I hope to have seen many of you all in D.C. in October and know I will see many more in Orlando at our National Convention.

God Bless.



national secretary

By Jere Cole

Time is Running Out!

Turning the corner on 2019 and we are getting ready to fully implement our new system for roster management.

We are at a critical point of major concern in that as of this writing fully 100 divisions — or roughly 33 percent — of you have not successfully logged in or have not altered your roster. We cannot go on with this low level of participation.

All those who have tried the new system have had extremely good experience. By the end of the year we will not accept any Form 40s and their existence will end. The online tool will be the only way in which your roster can be maintained.

The schedule going forward will be that all changes made to rosters before December 31, 2019, will be recorded and locked in. The number of members you have in your division on that date is what you will pay per capita on for 2019. Unlike in past years, this year the February 15, 2020, deadline has some special significance. Any payment made after that date will cost your division \$4 more per member. That's right, the per capita will be \$16 going forward. If you pay on time you will still qualify to pay the \$12 you have in the past.

Please be sure your roster is up-to-date by December 31, 2019, to avoid any last-minute confusion. Contact my office if you need another secure link to log on to your roster editing system.

Remember

Be sure to log into the new roster editing system before 12/31/19 to make all your roster changes.

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

The National Board meeting, Presidents Dinner and all of the State Conventions are behind us now, so our attention turns to the holidays. Before we know it, we will be into the new year and thinking about the convention. I challenge every division to have at least one representative in Orlando next year. The convention promises to be one of our best.

In preparation for the convention, we are soliciting nominations for the John F. Kennedy Award. Nominations must be submitted to me by January 15, 2020. The JFK award is a gold medallion, known as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal, which is awarded to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. The nominee must agree to attend the convention banquet on July 25, 2020, held during the convention in Orlando.

Now is also the time to think about running for elected national office or hosting a national convention. Five of the six elected directors are termed out. If you believe you have what it takes, now is the time to consider standing for office. Also, if you believe your division, county or state has what it takes to host the 2024 national convention, contact me as soon as you can, and I will assist you with your proposal. It will require a site visit prior to the national convention to verify the hotel capability.

As you know, our web blast took off like gangbusters and then slowed to a snail's pace. As with any new effort, there is a learning curve. We have enlisted the services of Lee Patterson, who will take over the blast for the remainder of this term. Many have suggested the email blast should be our primary point of contact with the membership. This is clearly a cost-effective system; however, we only have the emails for about a third of the membership. We could certainly accomplish a lot with everyone's email. Do we have yours? If not, contact your financial secretary today and have it added to your file.

The marketing and promotions committee is always moving forward. The current project will be a high-quality video to use for promoting the Order. This will be on 3- to 5-minute video that will also be broken into segments that could be used as part of a PSA by any division, county or state. If you have any talent in this area and would like to join our marketing team, please let me know as soon as you can.

I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. For me, like many of you, it will begin with Thanksgiving dinner and end with the St. Patrick Day Parade. God bless you; we appreciate the work you do!



treasurer's report

By Sean Pender

In January of 2017 we only had 167 boards or divisions linked to the National as a valid subordinate and tax exempt 501c8. As of September of 2019, we now have 211 of the approximately 360 divisions and boards linked to the National as a valid subordinate and tax exempt 501c8. Regrettably, this number should be much higher because somehow during this time we have had divisions and boards lose their tax-exempt status because they did not file taxes for three years. Somehow, despite every Digest article, convention presentations, state mailings and email blasts telling the body that all they needed to do was FILE taxes, about 40 boards lost their tax-exempt status because they could not bother to file taxes for three consecutive years.

There seems to be a serious lack of understanding by many boards or divisions in the importance of addressing this matter. This subject will be a matter of serious discussion at the 2019 National board meeting in Washington, D.C. and the 2020 Orlando Convention.

Two matters of clarification

The tax-exempt status is an IRS/Tax compliance issue that if not addressed can lead to the board or division being considered by the IRS as a for-profit tax entity and thereby liable to file/pay both state and federal taxes on a yearly basis. Being out of compliance will not remove boards or divisions as a valid group from the AOH.

Update regarding the fiscal year issue that was brought up earlier this year.

To recap, this issue first presented itself when a PA division that was going thru the reinstatement process was told that as a subordinate to a parent account that the subordinate needed to have the same fiscal year as the parent. Since we have a June 30th fiscal year, any board or division going thru the process of reinstatement who had a calendar year fiscal year would have to change their fiscal year to match our June 30th end fiscal year. The IRS agent even gave the division member the information and format that the letter needed, and told them it had to be filed by the parent. When I received that information, I also called the IRS to review and I was told that was correct. So, at that point I started to update fiscal years for any board that had completed the 501c8 tax exempt reinstatement process, that amounted to about a dozen divisions. I had received many calls and emails about this and returned to the IRS site where I was able to find a master list of all our attached divisions and boards and their current fiscal year. The majority, although attached to the parent, had a December 31st fiscal year end. I contacted a tax professional who deals almost exclusively with nonprofits; I met her at the NYAOH convention. I sent her the info and using her IRS contacts she was able to confirm that we received BAD information. Subordinate attached divisions CAN have a different fiscal year end from the parent. She believes that the error that the IRS agents made was that they assumed that the parent filed ONE tax return for the ENTIRE organization; since each AOH division or board files taxes separately; different fiscal years are allowed.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By LIAM MCNABB

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

As we approach the New Year, new and/or returning Division officers will be installed for the new term. Now is the time for Division leadership to map out a plan for the term by bringing together the team of officers to identify goals. As the group identifies goals, a strategy or workplan must be developed that identifies specific officers or members who will perform critical roles in leading steps or projects to fruition.

I've written of this topic before and I can't reiterate enough how important it is for Divisions to set goals and a plan for the year ahead. Just as important is involving as many officers as possible to develop a core team of leaders to help define and carry out the mission. An outcome of any goal at the Division level should be to better engage as many members as possible. What reason does someone have to join your Division; what reason does he have to stay? If your Division's goals for the new term include raising more funds for charity, growing your membership, promoting Irish culture and history, enriching partnerships with local elected officials, etc., it is critical to find ways to appeal to your membership to join the effort.

As you look at the calendar for the year ahead, think of events and ways to involve and include members beyond monthly Division meetings. This will allow others to contribute their ideas and share their skills to advance the work of the Division. Enthusiasm grows when the team grows all while projects are getting done to advance the work of the Division. Hopefully, as the year progresses, members will feel they have a reason to be there and an even better reason to stay involved as the work and brotherhood is meaningful to them.



A unique blend of full leaf black teas with robust taste.

The AOH will receive 10% of the gross sales revenues of the tea to help further their charitable and scholarship programs.

**Available at:
www.harney.com
1-800-TEA-TIME**



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By BILL SULLIVAN

With the summer of 2019 now a memory and with the fall upon us, many Division, County and State Boards in the New England area are busy planning multifaceted activities such as Turkey Cheers, dances, monthly dinners and Christmas celebrations.

In late summer and early fall, I had the opportunity to attend many AOH and Irish related events, two of which I would like to make note of.

Division 1 of Portland, Maine, held their 20th annual An Gorta Mor memorial service in Western Cemetery on August 18. What a great tribute to the Irish of Portland! Following the service, attendees gathered at the Maine Irish Cultural Center in Portland, the home base for Division 1.

On September 21, Division 1 of Newport hosted the AOH Rhode Island State Convention. Tim Burns was elected State President. My sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Burns and the entire Rhode Island State Board for continued success over the next two years.

On November 23, National Organizer Tim McSweeney and National Director Liam McNabb will conduct a Leadership and Organizational Seminar for New England, New York and New Jersey at the home of the John A. Gildea Division 3, in Danbury, CT. Hopefully many State and County Boards and Divisions will take advantage of this opportunity.

On April 30, 50-year-plus member of the Order and Connecticut AOH Past State President Hubert "Hugh" Ryan passed. Hugh had been a member of the Naugatuck Division 1 and was granted AOH National Life Membership at the National Convention in Baltimore in 2000. We also are sad to report that Gerald E. Curran, a Past President of the Danbury CT Division and one of the founders of the Danbury Irish Festival passed away on July 3. My sincere condolences to our Hibernian Brothers in Connecticut on their passing, May God grant them eternal rest.

I recently received a note regarding our 2019 Irish Way recipient Allyson Tracy. The Irish Way has put on Facebook a link to their 2019 video summary, which is located on You Tube. I have attached the link for Facebook, which will directly link you to You Tube. Please take a few minutes to view this link and see what this terrific program has to offer.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10156986363479130&id=54906914129

Likewise, in late September, I received an email from Cara McCarthy, one of our 2019 Study Abroad Scholarship recipients. Cara writes, "University College Dublin is a wonderful school and I am enjoying my classes very much. I am particularly fond of my Gaelic for Beginners class. I am also playing lacrosse on the UCD team and the Dublin lacrosse club, which gives me a great chance to meet Irish students outside of the classroom." What a once in a lifetime, true life-learning experience!

Information on our 2020 Irish Way Scholarship and our Study Abroad in Ireland Scholarships will be forthcoming in the next edition of the Hibernian Digest and on the AOH National Web Page in late November. Please have your children and grandchildren take advantage of these opportunities.

As the year 2019 fades into the history books, hopefully some of the ideas that have been noted in my column over the past year on recruitment and retention of your members, our scholarship opportunities, as well as the snapshot of New England happenings have helped enrich, develop and strengthen your Hibernian experience.

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

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020!



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By ED HALLIGAN

After the state conventions my AOH activities quieted down in August and September. I did find things to do by attending a couple of festivals, some funerals and Masses for Our Lady of Knock and a communion breakfast. Soon I will be visiting our AOH brothers in Rehoboth Beach, DE, attending the NJ State Board meeting and National President Judge McKay's Testimonial and Board meeting in Washington, D.C. Looking at my calendar it is going to be a busy autumn, and I am looking forward to being busy. This is also the time when the division secretaries will be going online to update their rosters for the December 31, 2019 deadline. Before you drop a member for not paying his 2019 dues, please have someone give him a call. Ask how they are and if they need help. One division asked a member who was in arrears if that member wanted the brothers in his division to chip in and pay. The reply came back, "No, the check is in the mail." I hate seeing members dropped. Retention of members is so important. With the increase in AOH activities at this time of year advertise your events, take pictures and get the info into your local paper. It's a great time to recruit new members. If you need materials for promoting our Order, contact your local Organizer or our National Organizer.

By the time this article gets published, we might know a little more about Brexit. I am headed to a meeting on September 30 at the Philadelphia Irish Center to hear Ambassador Daniel Mulhall and Congressman Brendan Boyle bring us up to date on the situation. Most certainly there will be a call to action to contact our representatives in Washington. Please don't think your call doesn't matter. We have heard from several politicians that they do hear us when we unite for a cause.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John Wilson

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's (1895-1979) remains were transferred on June 27 from the Archdiocese of New York to Peoria, Illinois, following a long legal battle over the late archbishop's burial place, which had placed Venerable Sheen's sainthood cause on hold.

The Peoria Diocese opened the cause for Venerable Fulton Sheen's canonization in 2002, after the Archdiocese of New York said it would not explore the case. On June 28, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI recognized the heroic virtues of the archbishop and announced that the Congregation for the Cause of Saints proclaimed him "Venerable Servant of God Fulton J Sheen." On March 6, 2014, a miracle was attributed to his intercession. The miracle occurred after a baby, James Fulton Engstrom, was stillborn on September 16, 2010, after a healthy pregnancy. The baby remained dead for 61 minutes. James's parents, Bonnie and Travis, began praying — hoping very much against hope — for the intercession of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who was born and raised near their hometown, to "do something!" It was after 61 minutes, something totally unexpected and yet longed for happened. The baby's heart quickened into a healthy rhythm, and a lovely pink flush replaced the ashen gray of his corpse.

Recently, I had the honor of visiting the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria where a museum honoring Fulton Sheen is located. In the museum is a makeshift living room with easy chairs to watch the Life of Fulton Sheen and view some of his old programs of the 1950s "Life is Worth Living."

Life is Worth Living premiered on February 12, 1952, with the Bishop Fulton Sheen appearing in a long cassock, a gold cross and chain on his chest, a long purple cape and a skull cap, speaking from a set designed to look like a rectory study before an audience at the Adelphi Theatre in midtown Manhattan. He won an Emmy in 1952 for the Most Outstanding Television Personality. Prior to his television appearance, he hosted the nighttime radio program, "The Catholic Hour," on NBC, from 1930 to 1950, before moving to television (1952-1957). He taught at Catholic University for 23 years and wrote 34 books during this time and another 32 books later.

I visited his tomb at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral while in Peoria. St. Mary's Cathedral is where young Fulton Sheen learned to serve Mass and was ordained a priest on September 20, 1919.

Venerable Fulton Sheen was also our AOH National Chaplain from 1937 to 1941 while he was a Monsignor at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. When he is elevated to Sainthood I believe he will be our first Hibernian Saint.

I want to congratulate the new Illinois State Board: President Sean O'Dowd, Vice President John Moriarty, Secretary John Resch and Treasurer Mike Tiernan. I also want to congratulate the Montana State Board: President Dan Reardon, Vice President Peter Lorelei, Treasurer Joe Andretti and Secretary Rory Schulte. Thank you gentlemen for stepping up.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas. Over the past several months, I've had the privilege of attending several AOH events. In August, I attended the convention of my home state of Ohio. Congratulations to Bob Harper on his installation as the new Ohio State Board President. A big thank you to Past President Ron Hagan for his service to the AOH and the brothers of Ohio. In September, I attended the Illinois convention in Chicago as well as well as traveled to Wheeling, WV, for the largest Irish Road Bowling tournament in the world. Sponsored by the AOH Bishop Whelan Division, in Wheeling, the tournament is in its 10th year and has more than 800 participants. With the money raised from this event, the Division donates to numerous charitable organizations and scholarships living out our motto of Christian Charity.

In late November, the FFAI committee will be hosting Mark Thompson, CEO of Relatives for Justice on a US tour. Relatives for Justice was established in 1991 by relatives of people killed in the conflict in N. Ireland. On the FFAI trip to Ireland in February, I had the opportunity to meet and hear Mark's story. If you want a full picture of what is happening in N. Ireland today, I urge you to attend. Please see FFAI Chair Martin Galvin's article for more details.

Congratulations are in order to the Stephen J. Walsh Division in Detroit, Michigan. On August 5, the Division celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

Please contact me at dparks121@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns.

Deadline
Articles for the Dec-Jan issue
are due no later than
December 1.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Dan Dennehy

AOH Irish Mass & Installation of Officers in Woodlawn

In 2018 then-NY State President Vic Vogel requested Counties and Divisions to organize Mass in the Irish language. Bronx County Division 5 Woodlawn held its second annual Irish Mass at St. Barnabas on McLean Avenue. Division Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald, a native Irish speaker from Kerry, said the Mass in Irish, with readings and music by Irish speakers from the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center & the Gaelic League and performers from a local Irish Music school. Father Brendan's homily spoke of the need for a celebration of Mass in one's native tongue. He said Irish Mass was one of many benefits Hibernians deliver to his community. Immediately after Mass, I was joined by Vic Vogel and Tom Beirne in publicly installing the Bronx County Board Officers, and Bronx County President Martin Galvin. A reception followed with all in attendance, as well as legislators and many Irish organization representatives. A Bronx LAOH recruitment drive was also part of the post Installation events.

Brexit visits and McGuinness Principles actions

Hibernians play a key role in helping our communities, and legislators understand Irish Unity, and Peace and Justice for all in N. Ireland. I have participated in many Brexit and GFA related meetings and talks since July. Former Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, Irish Tainaste Simon Coveney, Irish President Higgins, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's recent visits to NY and Washington underlined Irish America's vital role. I was fortunate to speak with many of them and other members of their delegations; they appreciate Hibernian leadership on these matters. We can all help people understand by introducing legislation in our community and State to endorse the McGuinness Principles. Here, we are working with local and NY State legislators right now, and the very process is waking up the community to the danger of Brexit and need for Irish Unity. The AOH is leading these efforts, please visit <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com> and start this activity locally.

Good of the Order

The 11th Hudson Valley Irish Fest hosted by AOH LAOH Division 18 Peekskill saw tremendous community support, a significant Irish Consulate Irish Abroad DFA grant, many new applicants at AOH and LAOH tents and great (but fun!) work by many members!

I was delighted to visit and speak at a gathering hosted by Brian McCabe (Retired NYPD Detective / Irish Echo columnist), Eddie Boles (FDNY/ EIIC Board member). The large group of excellent candidates showed great enthusiasm and interest for their new Division, which will soon be sworn in in Warwick, Orange County!

Finally, before Division elections, please share the Blue Book and Constitution with all candidates and new Officers. Also, take time to explain 990 filing and per capita information with your successors as Division officers. The work we have done to restore EIN's is difficult and time consuming, making proper filing and paperwork look so easy!



Dan and Siobhan Dennehy met Gerry Adams, the keynote speaker at Irish Echo Labor Awards recently. Adams spoke of Irish America and Irish American Labor's role in securing the Good Friday Agreement in Post Brexit trade. He asked us to share his continued appreciation for the work that AOH LAOH is doing on McGuinness Principles, FFAI and Immigration legislation and Immigrant support.

Official AOH Apparel by



Keltex
Imprinted Apparel Inc.
Screenprinting, Embroidery
& Promotional Products



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

As a historian, I've always liked Ken Burns's documentaries; however his latest 'Country Music' left me saddened at his apparent acquiescence to the political adjustment fashionable today. I have also been, since childhood, a country music fan and combining that with my Irish history research, I am in no doubt that America's country music was overwhelmingly influenced by America's Irish and Scottish immigrants. Yet Burns emphasized contributions of other minorities, minimizing those of Celtic immigrants; in fact, they were hardly mentioned! Evidence of those Celtic contributions is more than I can include here, but even Encyclopedia Britannica states: "Country music's roots lie in the ballads, folk songs, and popular songs of the English, Scots, and Irish settlers of the Appalachians and other parts of the South." Ohio's Bowling Green State University Library notes: "Without question, country music's early repertoire drew heavily on the folk songs, ballads, dances, and instrumentals brought to North America by British and Irish immigrants who were also the primary influence on the fiddle styles that epitomized country music in its early years."

In 1995, when Johnny Cash was singing his "40 Shades of Green" and Elvis had recorded "Danny Boy," the Country Music Association (CMA) honored its Irish roots with "Nashville Comes to Ireland" – a week of concerts and a TV special promoting country music's Irish roots with top country artists participating. While CMA Executive Director Ed Benson noted: "Country music owes much of its heritage to the Irish," Paddy Moloney of the Chieftains confirmed that the popular "Cotton-Eyed Joe" was adapted from an Irish reel he learned from his grandmother. From other Irish songs that were reworded to become country hits like "The Bard of Armagh," which became "The Streets of Laredo," to the reels danced by cloggers, they are Irish and nothing else! At our national convention in San Antonio in 1982, I watched a band playing Irish reels with Irish step dancers performing. After a while, as the band kept playing, the Irish dancers exited stage right and from stage left came a group of Texas cloggers and the band never stopped playing, never changed the tune and never changed the tempo. After the performance an announcer said, "If there's any doubt that country music came from Ireland, there was the proof!" Too bad Ken Burns missed all that in his research! That is all the more reason to fight for an Irish Heritage Month!

Congratulations to all who keep our heritage alive. Today, members of the Washington, D.C. AOH are leading a committee to erect a statue of Colonel John Fitzgerald and name an Alexandria park in his honor (see my accompanying Echoes column). Believe it or not, some are opposing that effort. If you would like to help, Google: defend-irish-heritage-restore-fitzgerald-square. Tax-deductible donations can be made to Commodore John Barry Division Charitable Trust with "Fitzgerald Memorial" on the memo line.

Keep the faith and keep our traditions alive.

Echoes of Irish History

By Mike McCormack, Historian

Col. John Fitzgerald

In December, 1799, two great Americans were lost. One was John Fitzgerald, a Co. Wicklow immigrant who settled in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1769 and began a mercantile business. Catholics were unpopular in Britain's Virginia colony, but across the Potomac in Maryland, Jesuits celebrated Mass. There he met Jane, the daughter of Dr. William Digges, of Warburton Manor, whom John would later marry. Warburton was directly across the river from the Mount Vernon home of George Washington and, as a frequent visitor to Warburton, John became friendly with the Washington family. On April 24, 1774, Washington even had John and Dr. Digges to dinner and they stayed the night.

Meanwhile, after the Boston Tea Party, Britain closed Boston Harbor and suspended their colonial government. Angered Virginia representatives retaliated with a boycott of British goods. Like most Irish and their descendants, Fitzgerald supported American independence, and on September 21, 1774, when Fairfax County formed a militia, Fitzgerald was among the first to join. War was declared in April 1775 and Washington, chosen as Commander-in-Chief on June 15, left for Massachusetts to lead the rag-tag Continental force. On taking command on July 3 at Cambridge, Captain John Fitzgerald of the Third Virginia Regiment was with him. After chasing the British from Boston on St. Patrick's Day, 1776, Washington pursued them to New York. On the historic July 4, 1776, Washington, still in New York, had Fitzgerald write to Congress listing Washington's recommendation for officers. Promoted to regimental Major in October, Major John Fitzgerald became a trusted Aide-de-Camp for his friend, General Washington, serving with his fellow immigrant Stephen Moylan. Washington now had two Irish-born Catholics as Aides. Washington wrote of them: "Aides-de-Camp are persons in whom entire confidence must be placed: it requires men of abilities to execute the duties with propriety and dispatch, where there is a multiplicity of business as must attend the Commander-in-Chief of such an army as this; I am persuaded that nothing but the zeal of those gentlemen who live with me and act in this capacity, for the great American cause and personal attachment to me, have induced them to undergo the trouble and confinement they have experienced since they became members of my family." Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonels, their \$33. monthly pay was raised to \$40.

As part of Washington's military family at Valley Forge, Fitzgerald crossed the Delaware and fought with Washington at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Subsequently wounded at the Battle of Monmouth, he had to retire from military service, but his contributions weren't over. In April, 1781, British ships arrived to torch Alexandria. Fitzgerald gathered a few men and organized a presence that exaggerated their numbers frightening the fleet away — his bluff saved his city.

In 1783, Fitzgerald became Mayor of Alexandria and in 1785, became a director in Washington's post-war business – The Patowmack Company – to improve Potomac navigation. In 1793, he became President of Patowmack and he and Washington remained involved until their life-long friendship came to an end in December 1799. John Fitzgerald passed away on December 2, just 12 days before the other great American we lost that month – his friend George Washington, on December 14. They died two years before Patowmack opened its first canal at Great Falls and their frequent toast, "Success to the navigation of the Potomac!" became a footnote in American history, just as the name of Colonel John Fitzgerald is a footnote in the history of the town he loved and served so well in life – Alexandria!



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

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."

Excellence in Irish travel for over 50 years

We make Golf & Group travel in Ireland easy

A Hibernian led Ireland Tour Management Agency.
Contact Sean Reilly today to get a special Hibernian discount on Ireland travel.



Email: sreilly@jorireland.com
Phone: (913) 401-5824
Website: www.oreillyirishtravel.com





freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

Thompson tour against Johnson's Legacy cover-up

The AOH organized a major American tour with Carmel Quinn of the Ballymurphy Massacre campaign last November. This tour was a heralded success for the Ballymurphy families, for the AOH and for getting crucial American support for legacy justice. It was an honor for AOH FFAI tour members, led by President McKay, to sit with the Ballymurphy families at the inquest and be told by these heroic victims how important AOH backing was to their campaign.

Proceedings like the Ballymurphy inquest are destroying British fairytale myths about their dirty war in Ireland. They uncover proof that British Army troopers were guilty of murder. Beyond Brexit, Boris Johnson and the Tories are vowing to end what they call "unfair prosecutions" of British troopers for murdering the Irish, where "unfair" really means any. Johnson's Tories want to stall or weaken any legacy mechanisms that might give families justice.

The AOH will combat Britain's legacy cover-up by bringing back Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, in mid-November. Our National VP Danny O'Connell, National Director Denny Parks and National FFAI Committee member Sean O'Dowd are setting up events in Chicago on November 15 and Columbus, Ohio, on November 16. We will bring Mark to Philadelphia, Washington, Albany, Hartford, the Bronx and Peekskill; the schedule is still being finalized.

Mark's visit to Washington on November 19-20 can be another step in building up a network of Congressmen, who understand key FFAI issues and how important Irish issues are to voters in their district. Brothers living in Congressional districts across the country, are a key part of building that network. Ask your Congressman to meet Mark Thompson in Washington and get a briefing on Boris Johnson's legacy cover-up! Tell them that voters in their districts care about the north and want help from their elected representatives. FFAI is calling upon AOH members across the country to contact your local Senators and House members, and ask if they will make time to hear Mark Thompson in Washington, D.C. on November 19 or 20.

Awards

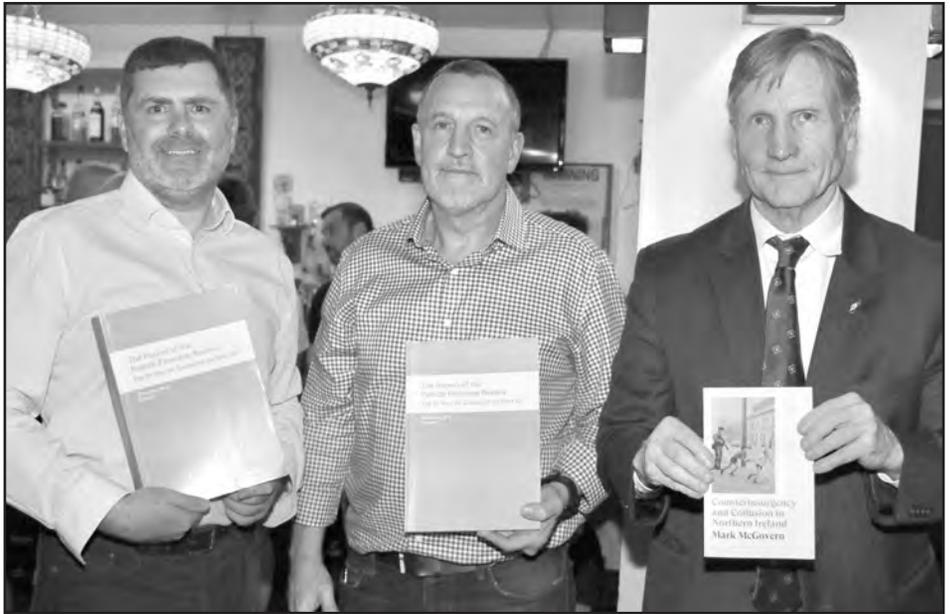
We have received the specially made gifts honoring \$1,000-donors to the Christmas Appeal. This year the premium is a mounted bodhran, made for AOH or LAOH donors by Tyrone ex-prisoners. Your FFAI contributions mean a great deal and these unique awards show how highly we are regarded. We are trying to arrange presentations of these awards at public events that suitably honor these contributors.

Christmas Appeal 2020-21

Britain still denies truth and justice to the families of victims murdered by the crown or loyalist agents in places like Ballymurphy or Loughinisland. Brexit threatens catastrophe across Ireland. They even refuse an Irish Language Act. Instead of opening the door to Irish national freedom, Britain and the DUP want to nail that door shut. America can make a difference, but only if the AOH, as the voice of the Irish in America, leads the way. Our donations to carefully chosen charities through your contributions to



Awards were presented to Brendan Moore for Rockland County, left, Joan Moore and Dermott Moore for Division 3 in Rockland, Martin Galvin made the presentations, and Vic Vogel and Jeff Nisler for their individual Christmas Appeal generosity.



Mark Thompson, left, Malachy McAllister and Martin Galvin.

the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

Our National Officers are asking for a commitment from everyone to participate and support FFAI with a donation or fundraising event. Please donate and help the AOH and LAOH make the difference. Help make Freedom for all Ireland not an aspiration or endeavor but the reality for those Irish people still denied it!



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

I had focused in a previous column on the parallels between the sacred monastic sites in Ireland and our own ritual of the Major Degree ceremony. Ancient pilgrims set out from their homes to seek inspiration, peace and knowledge at these venues established by the holy and learned monks. If you are blessed with the opportunity to travel to Ireland, I highly recommend you try to include some of these monastic sites on your itineraries. You will not be disappointed.

One fantastic monastic site in Ireland that I have had the opportunity to visit in 2014 is Clonmacnoise, centrally located in County Offaly. Founded by St. Ciaran in the mid 6th Century A.D., Clonmacnoise occupies a commanding position along the River Shannon with breathtaking views of the Shannon valley. Quoting from a travel website, "A walk amongst the peaceful stone ruins of this famous place will conjure images of the saints and scholars of Ireland's renowned golden age of learning." To discover more about Clonmacnoise, you may continue on at <https://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/clonmacnoise-monastic-site/16281>

Clonmacnoise is relevant to our own Major Degree ceremony for several reasons both symbolically and historically. The site has two Round Towers, three High Crosses of note and eight churches. It is also the burial site of the last of the High Kings of Ireland, Turlough O'Connor (Reign: 1120-1156) and his son, Rory O'Connor (Reign: 1166-1193).

As with our forebears who ventured to the ancient monastic sites, we invite you, our Brothers, to seek your own inspiration on the path of knowledge at upcoming exemplifications of the Major Degrees of the Order whenever you can. We are currently winding down a very active year for our Order's Major Degree teams with approximately 20 Major Degrees exemplified throughout the land to date. Hopefully, that same activity level will continue into 2020 when we have multiple Major Degree

teams celebrating significant anniversary milestones, which I will be writing about in future columns.

Additionally, at this time of year, we as Catholics traditionally recall and remember those who have passed within the last year. Accordingly, may we take a moment to honor the memory of those former Major Degree team members who have gone forth from this life since last All Soul's Day. May they rest in peace and we thank them for their exceptional service to the Order.

Upcoming Major Degree ceremonies:

National Park, NJ; Sunday, November 2, Noon The Commodore John Barry Gloucester County Division 1 Clubhouse. 200 Columbia Blvd, National Park.

Isle of Erin Major Degree Team Exemplifying.

Candidates may pre-register at www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm





immigration

By Dan Dennehy, chairman

Hibernians fight for Ireland and future Irish Americans!

President McKay, National PEC Chair Neil Cosgrove and I sent a strong message to the Senate about a very bad bill. Senate Bill S. 386, would ruin chances for Irish applicants to H1B visas. How? By allowing unlimited applications from massive countries like India, by removing quotas. India complains that they are on a waiting list, well, so are the Irish! Irish have been on the line the longest, and Irish undocumented are waiting for visas since the 1980's! DV lottery, Morrison Visas, J1 Program, and other methods succeeded with Irish American immigration advocacy. We don't want special preferences. We seek the best possible and equitable legislation and policies for Irish and American people to travel to each other's countries. Hibernians possess unique connectivity in towns and cities across the U.S. Please do your part to let your Senator know, S. 386 is a bad bill.

Thinking of living in Ireland?

It's straightforward for Irish and U.S. citizens to visit each other's countries for up to 90 days, but what about staying longer? And what about living, studying or working, here or there?

The regulations to receive a visa are complicated. Anyone considering staying longer than 90 days should learn all they can before they travel. We know Irish people coming to the U.S. can contact the Irish Immigration Centers here. Do you want to learn more about migrating to Ireland, visit Cross Care: Migrant Project here: <https://www.migrantproject.ie>

Irish Citizens Need To Apply!

The 2021 Diversity Visa Lottery (AKA) opened October 2, 2019, and concludes on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT-5).

The DV Lottery is a green card visa lottery of 55,000 visas for the United States available annually. A computer-generated, random lottery drawing open to people native to Ireland, N. Ireland, Australia and New Zealand are eligible to register (Sorry Canada and the U.K.). Don't let friends fall for scams by bad lawyers! The Emerald Isle Immigration Center in New York is available to answer any questions you may have about the program and registration process. Visit: www.eiic.org The Irish only got 56 of the 55,000 DV visas but this is the only chance to apply for a 'Green Card' or permanent resident visa to live and work in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident by lottery.

Each person can apply ONCE per year, online, and there is no cost, it is free to enter. Contact the Irish Immigration Centers for more information here: www.ciic-usa.org

Find a video and complete info here: <https://bit.ly/2AonaLF>

Who is your Division Immigration Chair? Please introduce him to me!

I ask that each Division and State comply with our Constitution and appoint an Immigration Chair. This chair is a resource on promoting fair and equitable immigration between Ireland and the USA and providing members with background on current Irish and U.S. immigration policies, issues, and concerns. The AOH National Immigration Committee is focused on these issues and is ready to get to work with you, our members when the time is right.



National Director Dan Dennehy greeted Simon Coveney, Tainaste, and Ciaran Madden, Consul General NY, at River House in Manhattan where Coveney gave stakeholders a briefing on Brexit and the N. Ireland Assembly. The Hibernian delegation included Neil Cosgrove, National PEC, and Martin Galvin, National FFAL, who, during question time, discussed the danger Brexit poses for legacy justice issues. Photo by James Higgins.



veterans affairs

By Jim Green, chairman

We now find ourselves in the autumn of the year, with leaves changing and falling in the northeast. Veterans Day and our major holidays are right around the corner. I've already attended our first Division, County and State Board meetings of the new fiscal year and it's great to be among my brother Hibernians again. I continue to meet with fellow veterans from around the State of PA, and I hear from other veterans via email and texts. There is still great interest in the Hibernian Veterans Pin, and still some confusion on how to order them. So, if you're not aware, the process is simple. They can be ordered for \$5 each from the National Board Order Form found on AOH.com, under the Forms tab at the top of the main page. See page 2 of the form for ordering pins.

An interesting inquiry was from an older brother who resides in a senior facility and is looking for a pin. I'm going to take care of it for him, but it hadn't occurred to me that we – especially – don't want to lose track of our brothers being cared for outside of the regular home environments. Men such as this would surely appreciate our Divisions looking in on them occasionally, and doing something special such as a pin presentation would be particularly meaningful to them, I'm sure. This coming Veterans Day, maybe YOUR Division could take on a special project like this. Visit your brother Hibernian Veterans in nursing homes, VA hospitals, and the like, and I think everyone involved will receive a special blessing from it, not just the brothers you visit.

This past September I was honored to participate again in the "POW/MIA Vigil" at Soldiers and Sailors Hall – which serves ALL veterans – in Pittsburgh. Our AOH brothers have stood, at attention, holding the American flag on a quiet hilltop in the middle of the night, to honor and remember those who have served and not returned. The Vietnam Veterans association that organizes the event was about to give up on having enough volunteers to stand guard from midnight to 6 a.m. until Rich O'Malley and the AOH stepped in. With PA Veterans Affairs Chairman Rich O'Malley leading the way, the AOH has taken over the overnight time slots and the VVI is extremely grateful. I was honored, in addition to standing watch at 5 a.m., to be asked to participate in an evening ceremony to lay a wreath at the site, representing the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I was led by an honor guard to a wall with commemoratives and placed the wreath on behalf of all Hibernian Veterans. Hopefully, a few pictures of the event will accompany this article.

I will be attending the AOH National President's Dinner in Washington, D.C. in October, and while there I plan to visit the Arlington National cemetery gravesite of my AOH brother, and first AOH Veterans Affairs Chairman in the U.S. - Sgt Major Chuck McKee.

Lastly brothers, you may have heard that there is a terrible epidemic of suicides among active military as well as veterans. Brother Mark Kelly, of Kentucky, provided the following information if you are a veteran in crisis or concerned about one – The VA offers same-day services in Primary Care and Mental Health at 172 VA Medical Centers across the country. Check out the "Connection Resource Locator" at <https://maketheconnection.net/resources>. Or contact the Veterans Crisis Line at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> 1-800-273-8255, and press 1. To chat - <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>.

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



Members of a local Pittsburgh ROTC group who served as escorts for people who presented commemorative wreaths to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans MIA Vigil.



hibernian hunger project

By paul gowdy, chairman

Recently I emailed a Hunger Project questionnaire to all the AOH State Presidents requesting that they forward the document to all the AOH Boards in their jurisdiction. I was shocked by the reaction, as I received only one reply, from a New York division. I know that many of our AOH and LAOH divisions across the country perform some form of charitable work in their neighborhoods. It is my goal to capture that data, create a report and circulate it to all the Hibernian boards. I want to recognize and highlight the great work their relief provides. If we are serving soup at a soup kitchen, passing out food hampers, preparing food at a church center or making cash donations that helps those unfortunates in need of help, I want to know about them all.

The Hunger project was formed years ago by the AOH National Board in remembrance of those Irish men, women and children who died or emigrated to escape the atrocity of An Gorta Mor. We must never forget or forgive what was truly England's Disgrace.

The National Board implemented this charity effort to assist financially those boards that fund a Hunger project. If you do not work on a Hunger project, you may forward a donation to the National Board's Hibernian Charity and that will find its way to those in need.

Currently my board, the Fr. Solanus Casey Division, and our Ladies LAOH, the Ethel Kennedy Division, are in the planning stages of our annual fundraiser for the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. It is a massive undertaking but well worth the effort. Last year we managed to raise around \$20,000 for the Capuchins.

Please read my report, and if you have a hunger-related project or planning one, please contact me with your details.

Consider appointing a member on your team to be your Hunger program contact. Forward his details to me: gaudy9plow@aol.com

The month of October, when this report is being written, was to be somewhat hectic. One of the events I attended is the LAOH 125th Anniversary, in Michigan, at the Dearborn Inn. Shortly after that I will be attending the National AOH President's Dinner in Washington.

As the joint Chairman along with our LAOH Chair, my time in the rest of October will be premium, organizing the 28th Annual fund raiser, the 'Souperbowl' for the Detroit Capuchin soup kitchen. I was the President of the division all those years ago and I came up with the idea of the event in the hope that we could recruit some new members into the AOH. The event was so popular that at the first event, we were inundated with visitors. We almost ran out of soup and the car park was so full we had to turn people away. This year we require approximately 180 volunteers to work through 8 hours to ensure a smooth and successful event.

November will see us in Ireland for three weeks, visiting family and friends. The last time we were in Belfast, I was invited to the Falls Road AOH Hall for what I thought was a few drinks. It turned out to be a special event as I was presented with an AOH plaque and was honored to be made a lifetime member of their division. I was told that I would be welcome to attend any AOH division in the Island of Ireland. What a great honor.

You may ask what all this has to do with the AOH Hunger Project? Quite simply, I need assistance. I am looking for worthy AOH brothers who have experience within their AOH world in planning fund raising efforts for needy sources. Or, maybe their division has ample monetary income that would enable their ability to regularly donate to sources that help with feeding those in need. I would like to have brothers from all corners of the country to volunteer their time and experience to this worthy National AOH project.

HELP! I look forward to hearing from some worthy volunteers. God Bless.

Pennsylvania

Port Richmond AOH fights hunger

The Hibernian Hunger Project has its roots in Philadelphia at Division 87 Port Richmond. In 1996, then president Bob Gessler, working with his wife on her school project, started providing food for shut-ins and those stricken with poverty. He saw the parallel between those he was helping and the great hunger of Ireland, An Gorta Mor. He took his project to the Philadelphia County Board, and the rest is history. The project became a national Hibernian initiative. One of its annual projects is coming up shortly, providing families with holiday turkeys and food baskets.

At the recent August general meeting of Division 87 a member reported that one of the local parishes operates a food bank and their shelves were completely depleted. They were in dire need of non-perishables to continue providing for the poor in the neighborhood. AOH 87 answered the call. Cases of food were delivered. Sister Linda from the parish stated that she had been praying all morning for food to arrive. There literally was one can of food on the shelf. Even though we had fixed the immediate problem we learned that this would cover only a few days. Discussing this problem over a pint at the local pub, Gaul & Co. Malt House, we asked the barmaid if we could place a basket there with a sign explaining the need. She immediately contacted the owner who was more than agreeable, and there it began. The Hibernians had two more pubs join the project, Kensington Pub and Krick Wuder Saloon. Division 87 does weekly pick-ups and the shelves at St. Joan of Arc Food Bank are doing well. The Hibernian Hunger Project is alive and well where it all started.

South Carolina

Supporting Project St. Patrick

Bishop Patrick Lynch Division joined forces with the St. Ciara LOAH Division on two weekends to conduct in-person appeals for Project St. Patrick at St. Gregory the Great and Holy Family parishes in Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Their successful efforts raised more than \$9,200, which is a significant increase over last year, to help support local seminarians and those studying for the diaconate.

May he rest in peace

Brother John C. Tofaute of Bishop Patrick Lynch Division in Bluffton, South Carolina, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2019, at the age of 73. John left an indelible mark on the division, serving as an enthusiastic and tireless division officer. In addition to his duties as Vice President, he established and coordinated a regular monthly breakfast to promote brotherhood and friendship and assumed responsibility for directing the annual Irish Open Golf Tournament, successfully raising it to a size and level not seen in previous years. He is sorely missed by his Hibernian brothers. John is survived by his loving wife, Kathie; daughters, Becky and Beth Ann; grandchildren: JR, Zach, Katie and Sean; as well as the many nieces and nephews who meant so much to him.



Celebrating 40 years a priest

Monsignor Ron Cellini, pastor of Saint Gregory the Great and Chaplain of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division, in Bluffton, celebrated his ordination's 40th anniversary. The Division paid tribute to this milestone with a proclamation and testimonial. The division also presented Monsignor Cellini with a genuine Irish blackthorn stick as a memento from his Hibernian Brothers.



Montana



NEW OFFICERS IN MONTANA

The 2019 Montana state convention was held in Great Falls at the Avron Hotel, from Sept. 20 to 22. National Director John Wilson, far right, swore in the new officers of the Montana state board. From left, Bobby Mehrens, the outgoing Montana state president; Roary Schulte, Recording Secretary; Vice President Pete Lorello; Financial Secretary Joe Ungaretti; and President Dan Rearden. Outgoing President Mehrens announced during the dinner that he will run for national director at the 2020 national convention in Orlando.

Project Saint Patrick Prayer Cards

Are now available by contacting

Vic Vogel

victorivogel@yahoo.com



pro-life

By John Patrick Walsh, chairman

New Title X regs bar abortion referrals at taxpayer expense

The past few months have seen major policy and legislative wins for the pro-life movement. Coverage of these actions was mostly limited to single articles in print and web-based news media. Since the beginning of the year, nine states (AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, OH, UT) have passed bills aimed at restricting abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected. While those bills are under legal challenge, it is encouraging to see legislatures and citizens debating earlier recognition of fetal viability.

In late March, the State Department strengthened the Mexico City Policy that bars U.S. aid to foreign non-governmental organizations that provide or promote abortion services. While this policy has been enforced by previous administrations, the Trump administration announced that financial support would no longer be given to foreign organizations that fund other organizations that promote or support abortion.

In August, the Department of Health and Human Services started enforcing new regulations tied to Title X, the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing comprehensive family planning and preventive (i.e., contraceptive) health services. The new regulations, announced as the "Title X Protect Life Rule," requires recipients not to co-locate with abortion clinics and to not refer patients for abortions. To be clear, the new rule does not prohibit the discussion of abortion at clinics receiving Title X funding, but it does block referrals and requires the presentation of such information to be "non-directive" in nature.

Many clinics and grant recipients that view abortion as a form of family planning have announced opposition to the new rule and plan to leave the program, including Planned Parenthood. Numerous legal challenges to the regulation have been filed but so far the courts have not blocked or overturned the rule.

I cannot state how important a step the enforcement of this new regulation is for pro-life advocates. For years we have tried to advocate on behalf of health clinics and organizations that offer similar health services to low income patients as Planned Parenthood does, with the noted exception of abortion referrals and procedures. Abortion providers had all but made the Hyde Amendment a joke by co-locating their clinics next to offices of Title X grant recipients, meeting with women on one side of a building for "family planning" services only to walk them to the other side of the hallway to perform terminations.

Brothers and sisters, continue the fight for hearts and minds; continue to support organizations, programs and legislation that make it easier for expectant mothers to choose life. But at the same time take pride in the knowledge that today we are taking a small step forward for the dignity of all life.

Start Planning Now: January 24, 2020 The March for Life

Join your fellow Hibernians in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 24, 2020. The D.C. State Board will once again host all travelers before the march at their annual Pro-Life Breakfast (\$25/pp, advanced notice appreciated). Look for more information soon.

Pennsylvania

Hibernians help celebrate Our Lady of Knock apparition anniversary

The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal and local Irish cultural leaders celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of Knock with a Mass and reception with Irish cultural performances on the 140th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist to the people of Knock, Ireland, on August 21, 1879.

AOH members from throughout the tri-state area assisted with the event.

Irish-American singer Andy Cooney performed during the Mass. After the service, attendees were invited to a reception featuring an additional performance by Andy Cooney, the Rince Ri Irish step dancers and Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums.

"140 years ago, the cornerstone of the Immaculate Conception Chapel at the Miraculous Medal Shrine was laid, and 140 years ago in County Mayo, Ireland, Our Lady appeared to the people of Knock. We feel connected to the apparition at Knock through our Marian devotion and ministry," said Sheila O'Hagan McGirl, director of institutional advancement for CAMM and Secretary of LAOH Division 19, Kings County. "The shrine to Our Lady of Knock at the Miraculous Medal Shrine will bring our community of devotees together in hope, celebrating culture and faith."

This event kicked off the partnership between the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal faith community and Irish cultural leaders in the tri-state area as they collaborate to plan and construct an outdoor shrine to Our Lady of Knock, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary who appeared to the people of Knock.



New York

Gaelic Mass Day in the Bronx, Westchester

It was Gaelic Mass Day for both the Bronx and Westchester on September 7, as leading Hibernians, wearing sashes and medallions, joined with Irish community groups, Irish speakers and parishioners, to hear Mass said in Irish by Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald at St. Barnabas. The ceremony included a musical program provided by the Dawn Doherty School of music and Aisling Irish Ceili band, followed by the installation of Bronx County AOH officers and presentations of awards to major contributors to Hibernian Christmas Appeal donors. The Gaelic Mass, dedicated to those who kept the Irish language and culture alive, was symbolized by a mural of a Mass Rock, where Gaelic speakers gathered in secret to hear outlawed Masses, said by outlawed priests.

Proclamations

With St. Barnabas parish on the Bronx-Westchester border, the day began with proclamations from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, and Westchester County, represented by County Legislator David Tubiolo. Diaz said he spoke for more than 1.4 million people in commending the AOH "for their efforts to support and preserve their language and culture through this important celebration." Tubiolo announced that Irish Language Day had been declared in Westchester.

Bagpipers Dermot Moore and P.J. O'Hara led a crowd of prominent Hibernians, including National Director Dan Dennehy, Past National Presidents Brendan Moore and Mary Hogan, State AOH Treasurer Tom Beirne and Past State President Vic Vogel.

Readings in Irish were done by Irish Deputy Consul Sean OhAodha and Mairead Greenan of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. Irish-English translations of the liturgy were provided by Ray Leyden of host Division 5.

Mass Rock

In his sermon, Fr. Fitzgerald talked about the deep meaning represented by the Mass Rocks in Ireland, "where Irish people had to gather in secret at hidden places just to hear Mass." He described going to a Mass Rock deep in the woods of Killarney and how "the Catholic faith in Ireland, like the Irish language, had survived centuries of persecution and penal laws intended to wipe it out, because our ancestors had defied everything, even attending outlawed Masses said by outlawed priests to keep their language and faith alive."

Musicians and singers included Lauren Tuffy, Aileen Dorrian, Hannah Roughneen, Tadhg O'Callaghan, Michael Dorrian and Marina McEntee, accompanied by AOH member Jack McCarrick.

Awards

Director Dennehy presided over the formal AOH ceremony installing the incoming officers before a reception. Deputy Consul OhAodha congratulated the Woodlawn community for its strong connections to Ireland and the AOH and LAOH for work on issues such as immigration and freedom for all Ireland.

Special awards honoring major contributors to the Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal were unveiled and given to Jeff Nisler, Christopher Thompson, Rockland County Board and Rockland County Division 3.

Former LAOH President Mary Hogan announced moves to reestablish the LAOH in Bronx County.

The County Officers installed were President Martin Galvin, Vice President Bob Nolan, Recording Secretary Jeremiah O'Connell, Financial Secretary Sean McCarthy, Treasurer Bob Cleary, Standing Committee Chair Jim O'Farrell, Marshal Tim O'Donoghue and Sentinel Jack McCarrick.



After the mass, from left, National Director Dan Dennehy, National Project St. Patrick Chairman Vic Vogel, National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin and NY State Treasurer Tom Beirne. One of Immediate NY State President Vogel's major initiatives was to have Masses in Irish throughout the state.

President's Dinner continued from page 1

morning, which included some key actions, as the board approved the kickoff of fundraising for an AOH monument in Dublin, Ireland, recognizing the efforts of the AOH and Irish America in support of the 1916 Easter Rising and the formation of the Irish Republic. The monument will be on Moore Street or O'Connell Street. Related action included a donation for the planning of the Moore Street battlefield preservation.

Other significant actions included a donation to the film production, "A Fragile Peace: inside Brexit and Belfast." Further details of the meeting will be presented in the next Hibernian Digest, including our responsibilities on social media when we list the AOH in our profile. Remember, when you speak as an officer or member of the Order you should respect our policies and principles.

The weekend continued with a celebration of Mass at St. Patrick's Church, led by our National Chaplain Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, at which the Judge and Marie McKay presented the Offertory gifts. Following mass, more than 190 Hibernians and friends joined the celebration of the work of Judge McKay. Emcee Jimmy Kuhn helped us all to understand the McKayisms a bit better, from "Coach," to "Pal," and even "Shambaru." Guest speakers included Ambassador Mulhall and the Sean MacBride Award recipient, Father Gary Donegan.

The evening concluded with words from President McKay, speaking of the importance of family as key to success in all chosen fields of endeavor.



National President Judge James F. McKay, III, front center, was joined by many State AOH Presidents for a group photo after the Testimonial Dinner on October 19. National Chaplain Archbishop Rodi stands on McKay's left.

Sean MacBride Award continued from page 1

When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross, and when we profess Christ without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord.

At a conference aimed at examining the role of the churches during the Troubles, Professor John Brewer, a personal friend and a noted scholar and historian in Queen's University, Belfast, highlighted that the perception in places like Ardoyne, was that the church was at best antiseptic and, at worst, complicit, due to its absence on the streets. However, the reality was, that whatever about the institutions, the work of peace and reconciliation was courageously carried out by both individual clergy and committed members of the faith community; people such as Fr. Raymond Murray, Rev. Bill Shaw, Fr. Gerry Reynolds, my brother Passionists, Frs. Ailbe Delaney, Fernando Carberry and Aidan Troy, Rev. Harold Good, together with the iconic figure that was Fr. Alec Reid. Without Fr. Alec's groundbreaking document, Pathway to Peace, facilitating the Hume/Adams Talks, we would not be where we are in the Peace Process today. Even given its limitations and challenges, we have a form of peace that is the envy of many areas of conflict throughout the world.

So, where do you come in, my sisters and brothers of the AOH and LAOH across the Atlantic? You may feel insignificant or far from the coal face of the actual work of peace and reconciliation, but you have no idea of how your support, in thought and prayer, coupled with your generous role as benefactors, is crucial to our work in peace building.

In a very challenging experience, I found myself surrounded by a threatening mob. It was a very isolating experience. In order to highlight that I would not cover from the crowd, I stepped forward into an increasingly threatening situation. I became aware of someone, slightly behind me, almost shoulder to shoulder. When I turned to acknowledge the perceived threat, it was none other than Brian McKee, affectionately known as 'my wingman.' Brian personifies what was previously stated about committed church people, but he was more than that. He was the truest of true friends.

So, if you think you are irrelevant or minor, you are the Brian McKee. You are the wingmen and women that each time Brian and I take to the streets, attend the risky meetings, decommission weapons, take drugs off our streets, you are there. We feel your presence. In fact, it is true to say that despite the many miles that separate us, you are often more faithful friends, in both your financial and spiritual support, than many of those who live around us.

The recent tragic death of Lyra McKee in Derry City highlights the instability and fragility of our hard-won peace. Her tragic death was at the hands of young people, born after the ceasefire and Good Friday Agreement. These youngsters are the product of radicalisation from those directly opposed to the Peace Process. The work of the Peace Office, together with former prisoners, highlights the lack of romanticism attached to the conflict. Many of those who advocate for a return to violence were conveniently absent during the conflict. This was when we lived in the most militarised region of Europe, not like today, pre-Brexit, where there are no borders, mobile checkpoints, and constant military presence on our streets and on our roads, and the access to modern day communication, i.e., cell phones. Those intent on violent actions today, more or less operate with impunity, without the risk brought by borders, hard or otherwise, mobile or permanent. They cannot compare their actions to those of the past.

In light of the vulnerability of young minds, when I return to Ireland on Monday, I will then journey to Cape Town, South Africa, on Thursday, accompanied by Brian McKee and youth leaders from the RCity project. We will bring young men from Ardoyne who have been engaged in anti-social behaviour, and consequently susceptible to getting drawn into gang activity, within their own communities, but also, more

worryingly, in danger of igniting sectarian divisions.

South Africa will expose them to the raw realities of gang culture and gun violence, and the subsequent prison life associated with such activity. There they will meet directly with gang members and their families, some in prison, some still at liberty. This is all as a result of your support of the RCity project and the Peace and Reconciliation Office.

In truth, this South African experience will be life changing for many of these young men. We do not operate in the safety and neutrality often the domain of vanity peace projects. In partnership with RCity and Foroige, we take young people from Catholic/Protestant, Loyalist/Republican, Nationalist/Unionist backgrounds, and rather than anesthetising their culture, we teach them to live peacefully together and to be proud of who they are.

This approach runs counter to an often-misguided sense that if we could only educate our young people in a neutral environment, somehow we will have found the silver bullet in the solution to sectarianism. This ignores the heroic work carried out in both Catholic and State schools throughout the Conflict to this present day. I personally witnessed during the Holy Cross Blockade, the teachers and children gathered in the Assembly Hall to pray the Prayer of Peace of St. Francis of Assisi after having walked through a gauntlet of abuse and terror, while directly across from Holy Cross Girls was Wheatfield Primary, a State/Protestant school, where similar prayers were being said. All this during one of the most infamous events in the history of the North

Freckle magazine, in spring 2017, described the Houben Centre as having one simple design that elevates it from being a functional building to being a symbolic oasis of hope. Its doors literally straddle the interface, reaching out to both sides of the community. Unlike other buildings in the vicinity, it has been specifically designed without security fences on either side, to ensure that no physical barricade would hinder entry, and encourage the removal of the biggest barricades, those in mind and heart. The social enterprise café run by RCity provides an inclusive and a safe place to hang out regardless of who you are. There is something transformative in the air, a sense that positive things happen in this space.

Today, Passionists throughout the world celebrate the Feast Day of our Holy Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. During Feile an Phobail, former Mayor of Belfast Tom Hartley gives very enlightening tours of the historic graveyards of Belfast. Possibly unique to any graveyard in the world, the Belfast City Council decided in 1869 to build a 6-foot wall underground, separating the Catholic and Protestant graves in the bog meadow. Even in death we were destined to remain separate. However, that same year, the Passionists were invited to care for the parish of Holy Cross, Ardoyne, and we have been a constant presence since. Our mission has been to remove the walls of separation rather than to build them, and to transform mindsets where walls are seen as a way of keeping people apart into minds that are welcoming and open to the dignity of those we perceive to be different.

On the night we officially opened the Houben Centre, I said, 'My hope is that the peace and reconciliation work done here breaks our imprisonment from the past; gives us the freedom to be the people we are; making the centre a byword for reconciliation, friendship and new beginnings.' I stressed that the legacy of loss in the area must be respected, honoured and remembered, in particular for those still suffering from the consequences and the trauma of conflict.

My work in peace and reconciliation has seen me receive various honours, such as honorary doctorates and civic recognition, but this award, the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award, has a special place both for me and for my family. It has family connections. It is also about faith.

On this, the Feast of the Founder of the Passionists, St. Paul of the Cross, may the passion of Christ remain always upon your hearts and upon your lips. [I] conclude with his words: the passion of Christ is the greatest and most stupendous work of divine love. The greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love."

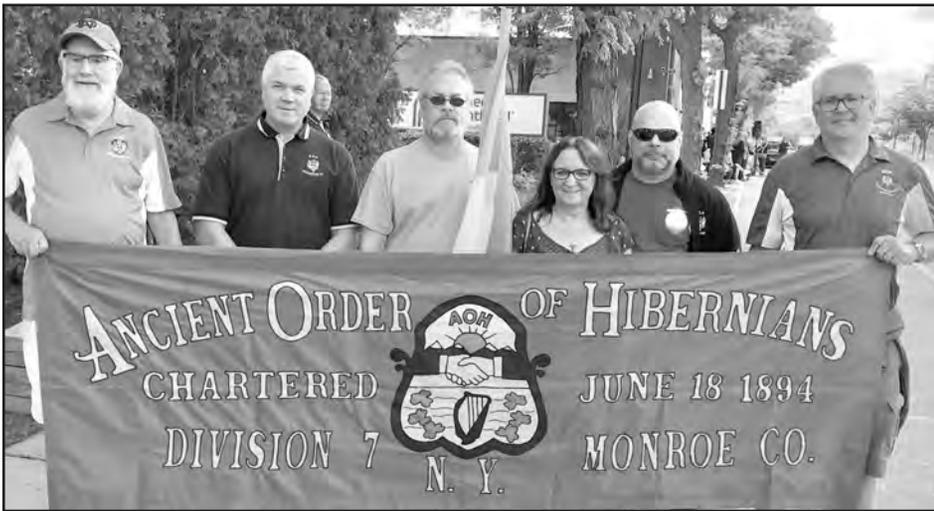


Fr. Donegan delivered an impassioned, moving acceptance speech, which is reproduced in this issue of the Digest



New Jersey Hibernian Malachy McAllister, left, New York State Hibernian Dolores Desch, and Fr. Gary Donegan, after the MacBride award presentation.

New York



Standing up for Life in NY
Rochester Hibernians participated in the Stand Out 4 Life event on August 24 held outside the Rochester Planned Parenthood site. From left, Tom Cusker, John O'Leary, Chris Shalvoy, Gayle Shalvoy, Patrick Miller and Tim Barry.



Rockaway, Breezy Point Irish Fest donations
At their regular monthly meeting on September 16, the officers and members of Division 21 of Rockaway Beach and Breezy Point, New York, once again held true to the AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, as they donated almost \$29,000 of their 7th Annual Irish Festival proceeds to local parishes and organizations. The Hibernians donated \$15,000 to St. Camillus/St. Virgilius Parish, \$2,500 to St. Francis de Sales Parish, \$2,500 to Blessed Trinity Parish, \$1,500 to the Rockaway Knights of Columbus, \$1,000 to the Rockaway W.I.S.H., \$1,000 to the Rockaway Rovers Irish Football Team and \$5,000 to Rockaway Special Olympics for their annual Adaptive Skiing Weekend. This year's donations brings the amount of donated funds from the seven years of the Rockaway/Breezy Point Irish Festival to \$265,000 and fulfills the Hibernians' devotion to their motto.



Oneida Hibernians host Major Degree
Thirty new members of the Order and the NY State AOH Major Degree Team gathered around the St Patrick's Church cornerstone of the Utica Irish Cultural Center following the Sept. 28 degree. The John C Devereux Division 1 of Oneida County hosted the event. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Remember

Be sure to log into the new roster editing system before 12/31/19.

Hibernians celebrate in the Hudson Valley

The beautiful backdrop of the Hudson River Valley in early fall is the setting for a great Hibernian-organized community event.

For 11 years now, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies AOH in Westchester County Division 18 Peekskill, with the support of the local community, great musicians, pipers, Irish dancers and vendors, have run the day-long celebration of Irish culture. They are assisted by nearby Hibernians and a Department of Foreign Affairs Irish Heritage Grant, coordinated by the Irish Consulate of New York.



The Westchester Division 18 Peekskill AOH/ LAOH organized the Hudson Valley Irish Fest, which welcomes Hibernians from far and wide. This year, Fest organizer and AOH National Director Dan Dennehy welcomed Newport Rhode Island Hibernian leaders Pat McGrath and Amy Burnes among the many supporters of the 11th Fest in Peekskill.



Three Past Presidents of AOH/ LAOH Division 18 Peekskill, Valerie Pawlows, and Valerie and Aidan O'Kelly Lynch, greet Hudson Valley Irish Fest attendees and assisted many potential recruits to the growing Divisions in Westchester County AOH and LAOH to fill out applications.



Excellence in Irish travel for over 50 years

We make Golf & Group travel in Ireland easy

A Hibernian led Ireland Tour Management Agency.
Contact Sean Reilly today to get a special Hibernian discount on Ireland travel.



Email: sreilly@jorireland.com
Phone: (913) 401-5824
Website: www.oreillyirishtravel.com



Florida



National AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell, right, attended and participated in the Florida convention. The new officers are, from left, Robert Farrell, Treasurer; Ray Lynch, President; Brendan Kelley, Vice-President; and Greg Canning, Secretary.

Florida Hibernians hold convention

The 20th Biennial Florida State Convention was held in mid-October at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. The convention was co-hosted by the Florida LAOH who were under the direction of President Margot Neuendorf.

Before the proceedings addressed the formal and substantial deal of state business, members were intrigued by special guest Dr. Jennifer Knight. She provided an overview of the new and growing Irish Studies program at the University of South Florida. In the spring of 2016, the first class "The Irish in America" was offered and quickly filled to capacity. From that point forward classes on Irish Rebels and Revolutionaries, Irish History, and Myths and Legends have been developed to growing enrollments. Dr. Knight noted the great contributions Hibernians across Florida made to the growing program. The State AOH and LAOH presidents presented a donation to the program for expenses but also to create a study abroad in Ireland for students.

The formal convention included election of a new State Board; which will lead the organization during the 2020 National Convention in Orlando. There was also a Major Degree Team Ceremony which inducted nine new members.

National AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell attended and participated in the Convention highlighted by his leading the State Officer Installation ceremony. New officers are: Ray Lynch, President; Brendan Kelley, Vice-President; Greg Canning, Secretary; and Robert Farrell, Treasurer. Vice President O'Connell invited both newly elected State Presidents (AOH and LAOH) to speak. They graciously thanked the retiring officers and reminded all in attendance of the challenge ahead in preparing for and hosting the National Convention. With meetings, degrees, initiations, Mass, dinner and all kinds of celebrations and toasting completed, the successful state convention was adjourned.



Florida Hibernians donate to Honor Flight

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Division 1, Lake County, Florida, recently made a donation to "Honor Flight of The Villages." From left, President Joseph Farrell, Honor Flight VP Pete Tetreault, Recording Secretary John Gaffney, Brother Ed Flanagan, Brother Tom Healy, Treasurer Jim Judge and Brother Ed Sullivan. In keeping with our Pro-Life Mission, a recent donation was also made to Hands of Mercy Everywhere, a Christian home for teenage girls, teen mothers and their babies. Athena House, a housing program for homeless female veterans also received a donation. The Division also assisted in the Catholic Charities collection for Hurricane Dorian Relief in the Bahamas, supplying needed supplies and volunteer help in the collection process.

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."

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

Newport hosts RI State Convention

The Rhode Island AOH hosted our bi-annual state convention at the Hibernian Hall, in Newport. We had our highest attendance in years and were privileged to have National Director Bill Sullivan in attendance. We had representatives from most of our divisions in the state, and hosted a special lecture from historian Dean Robinson.

Dean gave a brief history of the beginning of the AOH, including talks of early Irish associations and their influence on the beginnings of our Order. The RI AOH would like to thank him for giving us this history lesson, as we all learned something new. We believe it is always important to keep learning more about our Irish history, which is something the Newport division has taken to heart. Each of their monthly meetings hosts a different guest Hibernian to talk about Irish history.

The delegates elected their new state board, which has a number of new faces. The following members were elected to the RI State Board: Timothy Burns as President, Bill Day as Vice President, Austin Behan as Secretary, Mark Woods as Treasurer, and Directors Patrick McGrath, Conor O'Neill and Charlie Masterson. The RI State Board would like to thank outgoing State President Wick Rudd for all his hard work and for his many accomplishments during his two terms.



Outgoing State President handed the gavel to Incoming State President Tim Burns, with National Director Bill Sullivan in attendance.

Iowa



Green Jackets in Dubuque

Iowa's Dubuque Co. Division 1 held an AOH Green Jacket ceremony during the Dubuque Archdiocesan Priest Outing. Bishop-Elect (Des Moines Diocese) Fr. William Joensen and Fr. Carl Ries received their Green Jackets. From left, Jerry McGrane; Fr. Dennis Quint, Iowa AOH State Board Chaplain & Pastor, Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville; Marc Casey; Fr. William Joensen, dean of campus spiritual life at Loras College, Dubuque, has been appointed Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Des Moines; Archbishop Jackels, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, IA; Fr. Carl Ries, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque; Tim English; Jeff Wieneke; Fr. Mark Murphy, Pastor, St. Jude, Cedar Rapids; Paul Ahern; and Deacon Keith McCarragher, Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, Dyersville.

SNOWBIRD SOCIAL

Wednesday, February 12, noon-3 p.m.

Tim Finnegan's Pub

2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, Florida

Join fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun, food and music benefiting Hibernian Charities. This will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with the AOH during the winter and meet fellow Hibernians who winter in Florida and also meet some Floridian Hibernians.

Do you have a talent to share? Let us know. Pipers, singers, musicians and entertainers are welcome.

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members.

Hot lunch with one drink: \$25. Reservations required.

Contact Tim Myles: timtam614@aol.com or (516) 660-7456 OR Jim Sullivan: jim@brooklynirish.org or (347) 224-4822.

The committee is comprised of Tim, Jim, Ed Wallace, Frank Corcoran, Matt Reilly and Ray Lynch.

To the editor...

Help support FFAI, McAllister

Dear Digest Editor,

The Albany, NY, Freedom For All Ireland Committee invites Hibernians to join us at our 17th annual fundraiser on Friday November 22, 2019.

This event raises funds to support programs in the north of Ireland to effect peace, progress and justice. The Father Murphy Award is presented at this event to an individual who exemplifies leadership in the cause for equality, justice, freedom and a united Ireland. This year's Father Murphy Award winner is Malachy McAllister. Those of us who know Malachy and his story understand what he has contributed and sacrificed in the cause of justice and a united Ireland.

Malachy fled the north of Ireland 30 years ago with his family. Malachy's journey from Belfast to New Jersey was a harrowing one, which witnessed nearly every brutal aspect of the Irish troubles. It is a continuing journey, still uncertain and turbulent. Throughout his life and trials, brother McAllister has stood as a resolute example an Irish Catholic man who works and fights for his community and family. Not only is he an exemplary Hibernian and Irish Republican advocate, but he is also an individual who embodies the American-dream. He came to our country to find peace and built a prosperous home for his family. He is fighting to keep that.

We hope to see you on November 22. If you are not able to attend, please consider supporting this event and cause by sending in a journal ad. We are asking for your help in promoting this important event by following us on Facebook at "LAOH Albany JFK Division 1" and "AOH Father Tansey Division 5 Albany" and liking and sharing the event. We are accepting journal ads until October 31. For more information, contact j.levendosky@gmail.com or (917) 620-4085 or laohdolores@yahoo.com or (518) 598-3378.

John Levendosky, Dolores Desch

Alabama



Father Tracy Division's AOH Recruitment Picnic 2019.

Division holds 'Half Way to St Patrick's Day Recruitment Picnic'

Alabama's Father Tracy Division hosted their second Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Recruitment Picnic for potential members and their families in North Alabama parishes, thanks to the Maggie McGuinness Pub. The recruitment picnic included a live performance by Black Market Haggis, featuring award winning bodhran player Andy Kruspe. The Birmingham Diocese published this event in their weekly One Voice, as did many parishes in their bulletins, which generated a lot of interest in our worthy Order.

in memoriam

RYAN, Timothy E. CFSP, 68, of Siesta Key, Florida, and Lavallette, New Jersey, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on August 7, 2019. He was a member of AOH, Division 1, Toms River, where he served as President, was a constant benefactor for division events and was honored as Irishman of the Year. He even paid for the erection of a prominent memorial to honor victims of Ireland's Great Hunger at St. Joseph Cemetery in Toms River.

Born in Orange, NJ, Tim lived in Bloomfield and Howell Twsp. before moving to Toms River and Lavallette and then becoming a resident of Siesta Key, Fl. He graduated from Howell High School and attended St. Joseph Seminary for Franciscan Friars. He graduated from The American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service in New York, earned the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner and was also a Certified Sterile Eye Enucleation Surgeon. After receiving his Mortuary Science License, he managed the Colonial Funeral Home in Lavallette for 11 years before purchasing the funeral home and another in Seaside Park and growing to the largest family owned firm in New Jersey with six locations in Ocean County recognized in 2002 as

New Jersey Family Business of the Year.

In addition to many professional funeral associations, he was a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees at Community Medical Center, Toms River and at The Florida Cancer Specialist Foundation in Sarasota. He also served Seaside Park as councilman, chairing the Water and Sewer Department and was Past President of the Coast Guard Building Restoration Fund Raising Committee. A member of the Seaside Park Fire Dep't, he was a candidate for U.S. Congress and the office of Ocean County Freeholder. He served on the Lavallette Mayor's Advisory Committee, the Environmental Protection Committee and was Past President and Director of the Board of Public Assistance and past secretary of the Lavallette First Aid Squad. As parishioner of St. Barnabas RC Church Bayville, he served on the Parish Council and the Diocese of Trenton as a member of the Board of Trustees and The Ocean County Board of Catholic Charities. He was formerly a member and trustee of St. Bonaventure Church, Lavallette, where he also served as President of the Holy Name Society.

Other memberships include: the Rotary Club of Seaside where he served as President, the Ocean County Emerald

Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

I mBaile Dhún na nGall tá séadchomhartha mór atá tiomnaithe do na Ceithre Máistrí. In Donegal Town there is a large monument dedicated to the Four Masters. Ba scoláirí iadsan a chur le chéile ceann de na leabhair is tábhachtaí dá scríobhadh in Éirinn, Annála na gCeithre Máistrí (Annála Ríochta Éireann). They were scholars who put together one of the most important books ever written in Ireland. Bailiúchán atá ann de stair na hÉireann as mórán seanleabhar as gach cearn den tír. It is a collection of Irish history from many old books from every part of the country. Rinne siad stair chuimsitheach den eolas seo agus eolas a bhí acu féin, faoi aimsir na Díleann go dtí 1616. They made a comprehensive history from this information and their own knowledge, from the time of the Flood until...

Rinne siad an obair mhór seo idir 1632 agus 1636. They did this great work between... Proinsiasach darb ainm Mícheál Ó Cléirigh a rinne an méid is mó oibre, ach bhí cabhair aige ó Cú Choigríche Ó Cléirigh (a chol ceathair), Fearghus Ó Maol Chonaire agus Cú Choigríche Ó Duibhgheannáin. A Franciscan named Michael O'Cleary did most of the work, but he had help from Peregrine O'Cleary (his cousin), Fearfasa O'Mulconry and Peregrine O'Duigenan. Rinneadh an obair i nDún na nGall i measc na mBráithre, agus d'íoc Fearghal Ó Gadhra as Contae Shligigh na costais. The work was done in Donegal amongst the Brothers, and Feargal O'Gara from Sligo paid the costs. Scríobhach as Gaeilge (shean-nósach an lucht léinn) é. It was written in (old-fashioned scholarly) Irish.

Tá an saothar seo rí-thábhachtach ann féin, agus freisin toisc gur cailleadh ó shin beagnach gach foinsé a bhí acusan. This work is extremely important of itself, and also because almost every source they had has been lost since then. Lámhscríbhinní ar veilleam ab ea iad. They were manuscripts on vellum. Sciosadh an chuid is mó acu sna cogaidh sa chéad céanna sin. Most of them were destroyed in the wars of that same century. Tá cóipeanna den leabhar seo fós ann, buíochas le Dia - fiú an bhunchóip, atá ag na Proinsiasaigh san Eilvéis. Copies of the book still exist, thank God - even the original, which the Franciscans have in Switzerland. Tá leagan Béarla ann de a rinne O'Donnovan. There is an English version by... Tá seacht imleabhar troma ann. It consists of seven heavy volumes.

Is maith go mbíonn cuimhne againn ar na máistrí seo, gan dabht. It is good that we remember these masters, no doubt. Chonaic mé an séadchomhartha i nDún na nGall, agus bhí an-suim agam ann. I saw the monument in Donegal, and I was very interested in it. Ach nuair a bhí mé ag glacadh grianghraf de, thug m'ínion faoi deara go raibh déagóirí ag magadh fúm. Níl a fhios agam go dtuigeann gach duine tábhacht na máistrí seo - ach tá a fhios againne! I don't know if everyone understands the importance of these masters - but we know!



Missouri

Kansas City MO Scholarships for 'My Favorite Irish Song'

Padraig Pearse Division 1 annually awards scholarships to diocesan students attending Catholic high schools. Earlier in the year the Division announced an increase in the scholarship amount to \$750 and the result was an overwhelming 62 entries. The Kansas City Irish Fest for several years has partnered with the Division to award an additional scholarship.

Judging was conducted by 13 Hibernian volunteers evaluating entries on: volunteer, religious, academic and extracurricular activities and a 500-word essay. Entries are blind so judges do not know the names or the schools. Each year a new essay topic is selected and for 2019 students were asked to write about their favorite Irish song. As might be expected, the choices ranged from traditional songs to modern Celtic music. One song, Men of Erin, was the choice of two winners and it was one written and recorded by Kansas City's The Elders.

The winners were Ian Quinn – Men of Erin; Emerson Chirpich – Drunken Sailor; Anna Cernich – Men of Erin; Emma O'Connor – Irish Rover; Megan Kuckelmen – Irish Blessing; and Natalie Rovello – Galway Bay.

The Hibernians welcome winners and families to an August award event and are honored that the Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Bishop of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese, has graced the stage each year he has been in Kansas City. The Bishop brings a good deal of formality and ceremony to the program but is happy to share a laugh with those attending.

The 2019 event was topped off with a surprise announcement of a sixth scholarship established by the family of recently passed away Pearse member Will Lueckenhoff. The family created a special \$3,000 annual scholarship that will recognize the top application from St. Michael the Archangel; the first recipient was Emma O'Connor, daughter of Pearse member John O'Connor.

Will was a much-loved Pearse member who came back to KC after a distinguished law enforcement career with the FBI. His new career found him as a passionate advocate for services for recently released prisoners, believing every person had value and needed a chance. He never met a stranger nor was reluctant to share a laugh or a glass.



With Bishop James Johnston are scholarship winners, from left, Ian Quinn, Emerson Chirpich, Anna Cernich, Bishop Johnston, Emma O'Connor, Megan Kuckelman and talie Rovello.

St. Louis City and County St. Charles Division

The Saint Louis City AOH divisions have initiated their 2020- 2021 Saint Patrick Day parades coordination efforts. The chairman of the parade planning committee is Joseph Murphy of Division 2. This will require a robust support across all of the American-Irish Catholic community in the Saint Louis metropolitan community.

All three St Louis city divisions are working the logistics for the Andy Vineyard Helping Hand fundraiser on November 9 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

he County Saint Charles Division 1 had a successful fundraiser in support of the Celebrate Saint Peter's festival at the cities' Lakeside 370 Park. The music, food and carnival ride event was held over Friday and Saturday, September 20-21. The division also held their annual Green Tie dinner on September 18. Our Irish Man of the Year was Firefighter Craig Tihen and our Cu' Chulainn Award was Judge Christopher Mc Donough.

The Missouri AOH State Board State Board meeting was held on September 28 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish In Columbia, Missouri. The meeting focused on the approval of several resolutions, including support of the Heart Beat bill, written by AOH member Nick Schroer representative of our 107th state district and approved by our legislators and signed by our governor. A resolution regarding our AOH position on Brexit was adopted. Membership encouraged to write both of Missouri's senators.

The morning business meeting was followed by a hurling and Gaelic football matches at Cosmo park in Columbia.



Missouri State Board meeting, hurling and Gaelic football

Missouri State Board meeting was held on September 28 in Columbia, Missouri. Following State President John Callahan's welcome and introductions, the meeting business focused on the approval of resolutions, including support for the pro-life 'Heart-Beat Bill' and for the AOH position on Brexit. Officers were directed to return to Divisions and encourage membership to write the Missouri U.S. Senators.

The morning business meeting was followed by hurling and Gaelic football matches between lads from Kansas City and representing the east side of Missouri, teams from St. Louis. Both competitions were held in Columbia's beautiful Cosmo Park. The two athletic events, along with historically ideal weather, have become an annual tradition of the fall state board meetings.

The East West Gaelic Cup Games saw the Kansas City Club take home their first trophy in the five-year history. They were awarded the Hurling cup-trophy by John McEvoy, State Vice-President, the trophy received by Kansas City Gaelic Athletic Club (KCGAC) leader Jeff Owens. The KCGAC also won the Football Trophy being victorious in an exceptional match that featured outstanding performances from both sides of the ball. The State Board provided lunch and refreshments for the players and spectators.



Members of the victorious Kansas City Gaelic Athletic Club pose with clubs and trophy.

Kansas

Kansas and Missouri: Remembering Hedge Row Masses

On a warm late-afternoon fall day, the Color Guard from the Fr. Donnelly Division, Johnson County Kansas participated in and celebrated the annual Hedge Row Mass with AOH brothers from the St. Patrick Division, St. Joseph, Missouri. With over 200 participants, the event took place outdoors near the Knights of Columbus Bishop LeBlond 5067 Hall the Hedge Row Mass was being held for the sixth year and has regularly included participation by the Donnelly Color Guard.

The Mass serves as a reminder of British persecution of Catholics in Ireland. Priests were often forced to offer Mass in hidden caves, remote wooded areas or on hillsides to avoid discovery by British forces. Discovery could mean banishment, imprisonment or death.

In kilts wearing County Cavan tartans the Color Guard carried flags of the United States, Ireland and the Vatican in procession. The guardsmen provide a solemn and distinguished presence but also serve as a visible reminder of the strong ties between the Irish and Americans and, along with the Mass, they reinforce the history of the tyranny of British rule in Ireland. It is a recognition of the important role of Hibernian in defense and protectin of faith, Church and the priesthood.

The Donnelly color guard is 15 Hibernians with the County Cavan tartans representing the home county of Fr. Bernard Donnelly. When at full strength the guardsmen, beside flags in St. Joseph, will carry those of the Irish Provinces (Ulster, Connaught, Munster and Leinster), the Fighting 69th of New York, the 1916 Rising flag and a Kansas City Irish flag. The Division's Color Guard is in much demand, and has been available for state and national Hibernian conventions and in the Kansas City metropolitan area for funerals, parades, ceremonies, fund-raisers and Irish celebrations and events.



Members of the Donnelly Division Color Guard, from left, Shaun Cronin, Charlie Roulit and Charlie Lamont

Indiana

Hibernian summer fun in Indianapolis

In mid-summer, Kevin Barry Division AOH in Indianapolis and Indiana State AOH combined their annual golf outing, picnic and reverse raffle. This year's festivities took place on Aug. 11, at Pleasant Run Golf Course and Moose Lodge, both located on Indianapolis' eastside.

The day began at 7:30 a.m. with tee time at the golf course. Mike Tobin chaired the outing. A competitive group of 24 duffers battled to the end and finished around 12:30, in time for the picnic. The winners were Joe Wesling Sr., Joey Wesling, Brian Wesling and Steve Nesbit.

The AOH picnic in the Moose Lodge pavilion, chaired by Jeff Veldhof, began around 1:45 after a short Mass said by Father Jeff Godecker, followed by the drawing for the winner of the Notre Dame Football Season Tickets and Parking Pass Raffle. This very successful raffle, coordinated by Jimmy McGinley, was begun several months earlier. It helps provide funds for our Division's charitable gift giving. The winner, drawn by Father Jeff, was Chuck McGinley. He donated one of the games as a prize in an upcoming event.

The picnic was free; members and friends just brought their favorite dish. AOH provided the meat and chips, while State AOH paid the Moose Lodge rental and provided soft drinks and beverages. As in past years, the Hibernians rented a bouncy house/water slide for the kids and Irish Arts Academy of Indianapolis performed great Irish music.

After the picnic, Indiana State AOH conducted its Reverse Raffle, with a prize of \$1,000. This event is also the major fundraiser for State AOH in providing charitable donations throughout the year. Chaired by State President Dan McGinley, the raffle's MC was again the engaging Jimmy McGinley. After one of the most suspenseful raffles in years, the winner was Tom McAndrews. He received his winning check at our Sept. 5th meeting.

The day's events completed, AOH members, families and friends had a fun-filled, light-hearted and successful day.



At the fun-filled day, were, from left, Dan McGinley (Reverse Raffle Chair), Brian Lyons, Lucy Lyons (grill workers), Dave Moriarty, Denis Moriarty Jr., Denis Moriarty Sr. and Jeff Veldhof (Picnic Chair).

Kevin Barry Division at Indy Irish Fest

Twenty-four years ago, Kevin Barry Division 3 and LAOH members with other Irish enthusiasts organized Indianapolis' first Indy Irish Fest. Today, a larger and equally diverse board organizes and operates the festival with a mission to preserve, promote and nurture Irish culture, arts, music, sports and history. The annual event provides an opportunity to share Irish heritage during a September weekend of activities and family-fun.

Held downtown in historic Military Park, 2019 experienced perfect weather. Music acts included The Fenians, The Fighting Jamisons, Adair, Terence O'Leary, High Kings, and Boxing Banjo. Local performers were The Irish Airs, which includes Dublin native and Division member Brian Cunningham, and Kinsale featuring Ireland native Katherine Nagy, The Indianapolis Ceili Band and the St. Patrick's Day Rogues Band. Irish dancing was provided by local Richens/Timm Academy of Irish Dance.

The Barry Division 3 sponsored a good-sized tent where members, families and friends purchased food and drinks while enjoying conversation and music. Revenue from the tent supports the Division's funding of numerous charitable activities.

This year's Division tent activities were under the especially capable guidance of Tom Branson. He appreciates members' volunteer efforts handling the multiple tasks of set-up, food preparation, grill work, food assembly and serving, beer service and tear-down. Tom also coordinated the annual AOH Irish Fest Raffle. The drawing took place on the festival's last day with the first prize of Notre Dame football tickets going to member Cornelius Carr. The second prize, a 50-inch TV, went to another member, Victor Doucleff.

Operating the tent requires teamwork and effort but promotes great fellowship and a good time. The Division's performance in 2019 only reinforced the tradition of great leadership and volunteer help, resulting in a very successful weekend.

The Barry Division sends thanks to all.



Indy Irish Fest tent volunteers, from left, Chris Meehan; Tom Branson, AOH Tent Chairman; Bob McCurdy, President of the Kevin Barry Division.

New York

NY Congressman says 'Backstop' should be a united Ireland

Congressman Brian Higgins, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, representing Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York, recently met with New York State AOH President Tom Lambert and District Director Craig Speers, to discuss issues affecting Ireland and Irish America. The congressman specifically commented on Brexit by noting, "Brexit's backstop should be Irish unity." Mr. Higgins also noted that with its self-inflicted political dysfunction of Brexit, Britain has "influenced growing support for Irish unity."

The AOH leaders met the Congressman to discuss Irish community concerns about issues including Brexit, legacy and freedom for all of Ireland. The two AOH leaders also discussed Congressman Higgins' recent trip to Ireland along with Speaker Pelosi and Congressman Neal, then expressed appreciation to Congressman Higgins for all he has done on crucial Irish issues.

State President Lambert noted, "Congressman Higgins has a long record of support on Irish issues. However, it is important for our elected representatives to hear how much their work on Irish issues means to their voters. The AOH believes that American Congressional scrutiny can help make a difference on issues like Brexit, immigration and all for legacy victims in their long fight for truth and justice. We welcome Congressman Higgins' statement and as NY State AOH President I am encouraging our members around the state to meet with their local elected officials."



NY AOH District 2 Director Craig Speers, left, Congressman Brian Higgins and NY State President Tom Lambert met recently to discuss Irish and Irish-American issues



Thanking First Responders

Nassau County's Division 3 sponsored a Blue Mass on September 22 for all first responders and EMS personnel. The Mass was held at Saint Joseph's Church, in Hewlett. After the Mass, everyone was invited to a picnic, also sponsored by Division 3, at Cederhurst Park, in Cederhurst.

New York



Fundraiser for fellow Hibernian John F Kennedy Division 1 Schenectady Hibernians mounted a fundraising effort and party August 17 for Brother Jim Scott, who is battling back from a near-fatal motorcycle accident. Scores of Jim's motorcycling friends joined a stout turnout of Hibernians for the event. The fundraising effort for Brother Scott's is ongoing.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-jim-scott>
— Submitted by Tom Loughlin, Jr.

Virginia

The 22d Virginia AOH/LAOH Biennial Convention was held in Leesburg August 16-18. The Colonel Cunningham Division (44LO01) did outstanding work organizing a convention that included a golf outing at Lansdowne Country Club, a Civil War battlefield tour, a spirited ice breaker, gourmet banquet and a great time was had by all.

During the business meeting, outgoing State President Bill Halpin addressed BREXIT as urgent business for all Hibernians. He explained the BREXIT backstop "deal" will prevent a hard border and preserve the Good Friday Agreement.

Hibernians are called upon to educate our Members of Congress on the perils of a "no deal" BREXIT, using National PEC Chairman Neal Cosgrove's suggested narratives found on the National AOH website. Halpin said it has been an honor to serve as state board president and concluded with this reminder: "There is no strong performance without some fanaticism (i.e., Hibernian zeal) in the performer."

Mass was celebrated on Saturday with our Virginia State Chaplain, Father Joseph Farrell assisting. Following Mass AOH and LAOH officers for the 2019-2021 term were installed. National Vice President Danny O'Connell installed AOH officers: President Jay McCarthy, Vice President Brian Kiernan, Secretary Bob Fay and Treasurer Vince Eckmeier.

The installed LAOH officers are: President Kathy Sullivan, Vice President Lori Forbes, Secretary Carol Rowan, Treasurer Jennifer Frost, Mistress at Arms Betty McGowan, Historian Maggie McGann, Catholic Action Susan Holman; Missions & Charities Mimi Kloeppel, and FFAI/Immigration & Education Helene McGann.

Featured banquet speakers National Vice President Danny O'Connell, Embassy of Ireland's Political Counselor Brian Cahalane and Leesburg's Mayor Kelly Burke gave informative presentations. Mayor Burke spoke of her Irish-Catholic heritage as she welcomed the Hibernians to Leesburg. Danny O'Connell said he was impressed by the energy of Virginia AOH, noting our accession rate is roughly twice the national average and the high number of brothers and sisters in attendance. He presented National President Judge Jim McKay's vision for the next year. Brian Cahalane spoke about the perils of BREXIT and how much American persuasive support is needed to assure the "deal" that will preserve the status quo on the Republic's border with the north of Ireland. He wasn't optimistic.

Concluding the convention on Sunday morning, the Brian Boru Major Degree Team conferred our Order's Major Degrees on 16 brothers.



New officers
From left, Brian Kiernan, Jay McCarthy, National Vice President Danny O'Connell, Bob Fay and Vince Eikmeier.



Fathers Joseph Farrell, Colin Davis and Anthony, SMA, celebrated the Convention Mass. Fr. Farrell is the new Virginia State Chaplain and a Cunningham Division brother.



Outstanding!
Bill Halpin, right, presented the St. Columcille Award for outstanding achievement to Brother Terry Riley, of the Herbert-Cady Division.

We try to get everything submitted into each issue, as long as it's received by the deadline and meets publishing requirements. But space is finite and sometimes everything doesn't fit. If you don't see your item, please resubmit it before the next deadline, December 1. — John O'Connell, Editor



Speaking on BREXIT
Irish Embassy Political Affairs Officer Brian Cahilane addressed the Virginia convention.



Loudoun Ladies
LAOH Daughters of Erin Division, Loudoun County, enjoyed the Ice Breaker.

California



It was a great day for the Irish as the AOH California State Board held their 92nd Biennial convention at the American Legion Post 496 in Long Beach on September 21. Congratulations to the incoming board: David McKenna, President; Michael O'Keefe, Vice President; Daniel McGowan, Treasurer; and John McNally, Secretary. We look forward to another two great years. Many thanks to National Officers Jere Cole, and Tim Mc Sweeney for attending.



Hibernian state secretary meets Taoiseach John McNally, right, the president of the Easter Rising Division 1 in Ventura, and the AOH California State Secretary, was invited to meet Ireland's Taoiseach at one of his Los Angeles events. This was at the grand opening of the new Irish consulate in Los Angeles, at Loyola Marymount University. Orla Keane, our new Consul General, Eleni Kounalakis, our first female Lieutenant Governor, as well as Irish leader Leo Varadkar, made speeches. "I didn't have much time to talk to [Varadkar] but I gave him an 'I Support A United Ireland' bumper sticker, which he read intently."

New Jersey



Three generations of Hibernian pride
This past May the New Jersey State Board LAOH elected Jennifer Colleen Goodman (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Division 4, Elizabeth) as its new State President. Jennifer is the daughter of Past State President JoAnne Goodman and granddaughter of the late Anne Sullivan, Past LAOH State President and the late Joseph B. Sullivan, Past AOH State President and former National Director of Missions and Charities. Three generations of proud Hibernians. Keeping the tradition alive.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Southport is a beautiful coastal hamlet located in the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut. On its historic Green overlooking Southport Harbor is a simple sign that reads:

"From the Wharves of Southport went out Men who fought under John Paul Jones, Isaac Hull and John Barry." It was this simple sign that inspired the Fairfield County AOH Board to begin, in 2007, the annual commemoration of John Barry's birth, which is held in Southport each September in partnership with the National Association of Naval Veterans.

An able assist in celebrating the life of John Barry is provided by the Fairfield Gaelic Pipe Band and the John Barry Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of New Haven. The Port Five Naval Reserve Club again hosted a luncheon at their club in Blackrock.

The AOH has long been in the lead in honoring Commodore Barry. The Hibernian organization was among the leaders in getting Congress to appropriate \$50,000 for the erection of the statue to John Barry that stands in Franklin Square Park in Washington D. C. and which was dedicated on May 16, 1914 before a huge crowd that included thousands of Irish Americans from all parts of the U.S. AOH National President James J. Reagan of St. Paul, Minnesota was one of the keynote speakers. Some stated that the day was somewhat marred by President Woodrow Wilson who it was said took a swipe at Irish Americans when he denounced what he called hyphenated Americans and declared that when John Barry left Ireland he took his "heart" with him!

The John P. Holland Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians sponsored its 18th Annual Bob Butler Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday, October 14, 2019 at the Pequot Golf Course in Stonington, CT.

The Stamford AOH held a half way to St. Patrick's Day Dance on September 16 in the spacious Hibernian Hall. However, the big news out of Stamford is the opening of the Hibernian Thrift Shop on October 3, 2019 which features the sale of clothing, household goods, toys and many other items. The profits from this endeavor will go to the Hibernian Association and the various charities which the Hibernians support.

Division 7 of New Haven was founded in May of 1889 and is one of the oldest surviving Hibernian organizations in Connecticut. Division 7 meets in the historic Hall of the Knights of St. Patrick at 7:30 on the last Thursday of each month.

Waterbury Hibernians celebrated their annual family picnic on September 22. A highlight of the picnic was the singing performance of the AOH/LAOH choral group known as the Angels of Harmony who have become a popular fixture at Hibernian events in Waterbury.

The Angels of Harmony Singers resumed rehearsals on September 19. All AOH/LAOH members and their families are invited to join this fun group. There are no auditions and all members are invited to come and sing Irish favorites! Rehearsals are every other Thursday from 7 to 8.

The Meriden AOH held a Bunco night in September and planned a Halloween party for October 26.

The AOH and LAOH of Danbury traditionally celebrate the Celtic New Year with a Druid Ceremony under the annual chairmanship of John Feeney.

The Greater Danbury Irish Festival has come and gone. This annual event was begun in 1995 and Chairman Steve O'Tree reported that it was the most successful festival in a number of years with an increase of over 600 attendees for the weekend.

Before closing we would like to give a Hibernian shout out to past State President Dave Howe with the hope that he is on the mend from his recent misfortune!

For news or info: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



CDR Paul Malcarne, USN, left, the guest speaker; Mike Tetreau, First Selectman, Fairfield, presented a proclamation; Bro. Tom Keane, County Treasurer; Bro. Bob Fox, County Secretary; LCDR (and Hibernian Bro.) Brian Conatser, USN.

Pennsylvania

Mass of the Golden Rose in Pennsylvania

The Notre Dame Division 1, Montgomery County, sponsored, along with the LAOH Division, the 23rd annual Mass of the Golden Rose this past August as part of the 26th annual weekend St. Patrick's Irish Festival. The Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Church in Norristown; the church was established in 1839 for Irish immigrants and was the first Catholic Church in the Division's home county.

The festival and Mass are scheduled to coincide with the August 21, 1879, apparition of Our Lady of Knock. The 'Golden Rose' is associated with that first Knock apparition of 1879 where a witness reported seeing a golden rose in the area of Our Lady's brow. During the 1979 centenary year papal visit of Pope John Paul II he presented the Shrine with a golden rose in recognition of the vision.

The Mass is a grand celebration with the Notre Dame Division's own Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums leading the procession into the service and Irish tinged music, bagpipe and harp playing, and singing. At the Mass' conclusion the festival continued with good food, games and rides and fund-raising raffles.



Prior to the Mass, from left, Pete Hand, Irish Thunder Drum Major; Larry Daly, Pennsylvania AOH State Officer; Rae DiSpaldo, Past-President Pennsylvania State LAOH; and Ed Halligan, AOH National Director.



Division Color Guard collecting Golden Roses from the congregation of Saint Patrick's Church for the Lady of Knock.



Running in memory of Paul Hook O'Malley

The 27th Hook O'Malley 5K Run/Walk Against Cancer was held in memory of Paul Hook O'Malley, who believed in the spiritual, emotional and physical health of the youth in his community, and who is the namesake of the AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4, Scranton, Pennsylvania. From left, Jim Moran, Matt O'Malley, Patrick O'Malley II, Vincent O'Malley, Patrick O'Malley, Jim Barrett, Jason Miller and Jim Foley. From left, kneeling, Jerry DiPasquale, Top Walker, time 41:52; Tiffany Leventhal, Top Female and Overall Runner, time 21:52; Cole McFadden, Top Boxer, time 35:50; Jim Babkowski, Top Male Overall, time 22:45. Thank you to AOH members for their help with the race.

Division 5 honors Jamie Egan

Approximately 68 members of Division 5, the Officer Joseph Friel Division, and their friends gathered on October 5 for the Division's annual Jamie Egan Memorial Golf Outing at Walnut Lane Golf course. In addition to those folks, about another dozen members turned out to support the event.

Division 5 is named in honor of Philadelphia Police Officer Joseph Friel who was killed in the line of duty at age 25 while patrolling and protecting our local community.

Jamie Egan II was a popular member of the Division. He was an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and a friend of many a Police Officer. Jamie died of an illness at the early age 42.

Each year, the Jamie Egan Memorial Golf Outing raises money to present a supportive gift to the Egan family, and, to provide a partial scholarship to at least one relative of an AOH member. Recipients must be teenagers of sound character, be approved by the Division 5 membership and be accepted to a local Catholic high school. In May, our Division awarded a partial scholarship to a young man who is now attending Roman Catholic High School for Boys in Philadelphia. Our 2019 outing will help the fund our 2020 recipient(s).



Hibernians volunteer against addiction

Philadelphia Division 87 Port Richmond volunteered and participated in the 4th annual Pink Elephant Philly 5K race on October 5. The Pink Elephant was created to assist children and families whose lives have been affected and altered because of a loved one's addiction. There are countless numbers of grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members who are raising children because their loved one has either passed away because of addiction or is actively using and unable to care for their children. This day brought together approximately 1,200 people affected by this epidemic. The AOH/LAOH provided volunteers to work the intersections to provide safe traffic control for the runners and walkers, sponsorship and support to the Pink Elephant in achieving their goal to uplift these families spiritually and financially in their time of need. The proceeds of the funds raised by the Pink Elephant provide individual family support including school tuition, school supplies, child day care, extracurricular activities and Christmas gifts just to name a few.



The Msgr. William Farrell, Division 2, AOH, Carbondale, PA, front row, from left, Jim Kelly, John Moran, Don McCarthy, Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, John Ketchick, Rick Burnett and Frank Truman; back row, from left, Joe Walsh, Joe Hosie, Congressman Matt Cartwright, Jeff Sears, Henry Smith and Dave Sutton.

Breakfast with the Ambassador

Congressman Matt Cartwright sponsored a lecture at the University of Scranton on October 2, featuring Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Daniel Mulhall. His agenda was Ireland, the European Union and the challenges posted by Brexit.

The following morning the Lackawanna County AOH and the Ladies AOH along with other Irish organizations, met for breakfast in Scranton with Ambassador Mulhall, his wife, Gretta, and Congressman Cartwright.

—Submitted by Joe Hosie, Past PA AOH State President.



Texas

Austin

AOH Austin hosted its fifth annual Half Way to benefit the Gabriel Project. On September 20, central Texas Hibernians came together to celebrate the halfway mark to St. Patrick's Day 2020.

Beginning in 2014, this is the Msgr. Richard McCabe Division 1's longest running event featuring live music, raffles, Irish step dancing and plenty of shenanigans. This year's event raised well over \$2,000 with part of the proceeds benefiting the Gabriel Project at St. Austin's Church. Located just off campus from the University of Texas at Austin, the Gabriel Project helps expecting mothers with training, necessities and support. A special thanks to the "Friends of the AOH" - B.D. Riley's Pub, Hight Brush and Irish Tapes.

Know anyone in the Austin/Round Rock or San Antonio areas? Let Nolan Maloney know at AOHAUTX@gmail.com

Dallas

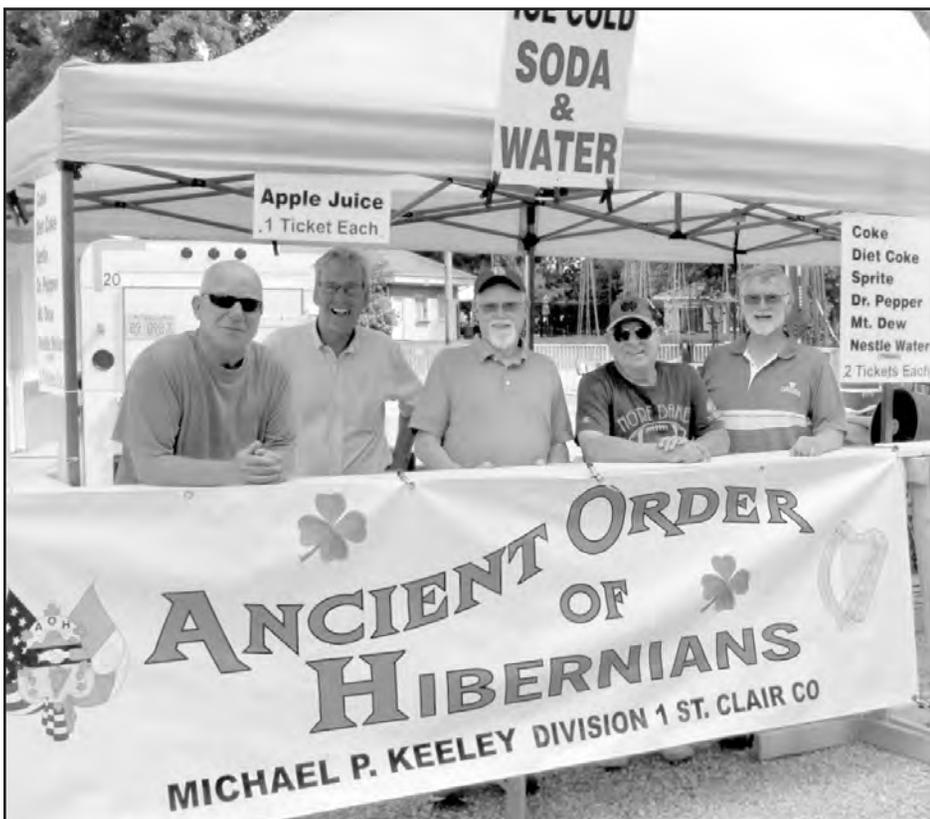
DFW AOH hosted its first Half Way to St. Patrick's Day in Arlington, TX. The newly formed Michael Collins Division 1 hosted their first fundraiser on September 21 at Plaza Pub in Arlington. Owned by Brother Ed Redmund and orchestrated by President Rob Healy and the boys, they lined up live music, a bounce house for kids, silent auction and a raffle for a brand new 20 Gague Mossberger shotgun. Welcome to Texas!

Know anybody in the Dallas/Fort Worth area? Let Rob Healy know at dfwaoh1@gmail.com



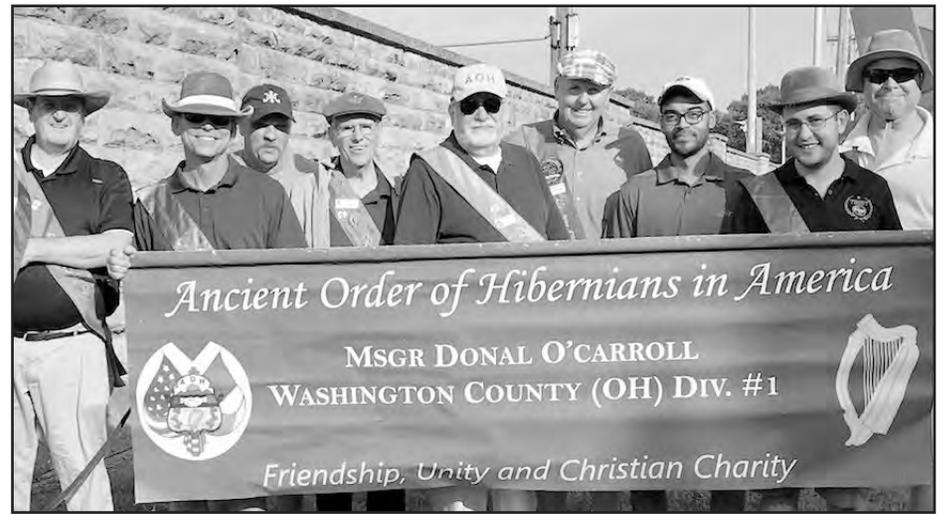
AOH Austin Brothers.

Illinois



Members of St. Clair County Division 1 prepared to sell refreshments at the annual O'Fallon, Illinois, City Fest in August. From left, Charlie Herr, John Reichert, John Sheahan, John Byrne and Mike McAnally. The event is a good fundraiser for the Division.

Ohio



The Boys of Washington County, Ohio, Division 1, at the start of the Washington County Fair Parade.

Washington County, Ohio, Division 1 on parade

As a part of its outreach and recruitment commitment the Washington County, Ohio, Division 1 (Msgr. Donal O'Carroll) participated in the annual Washington County Fair Parade in Marietta, Ohio, on August 31. The Division, under the direction of Thomas Binegar, vigorously continues its outreach to the public and the recruitment of prospective Hibernians.

The group displayed its Hibernian pride and Irish heritage with banners, flags and sashes. The group proved quite popular with the crowd. With Irish music, and appropriate Irish humor and with the notation, "We weren't born in Ireland - Ireland was born in us!" the Division marched through the streets of Marietta. A note of thanks and a tip o' the cap to Moran Construction (Marietta) and Steve Spilatro for their vehicular contribution in rounding out the formation.

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."

Massachusetts

By Ed McNeil

Division 8 Lawrence

Division 8 hosted the quarterly meeting of the Massachusetts State Board on September 8. The Division's Annual Irish Outing was held on September 14 on the grounds of the Greater Lawrence Boating Program. The event featured Irish entertainment, food, activities and games for all. The event closed with a Mass celebrated by Rt. Reverend John Delaney, Division 8 Chaplain, on the banks of the Merrimack River.

On October 16, Division 8 held a fundraiser for its 2020 Irish Heritage Month festivities at the Irish Cottage, and on November 1 the Division kicked off their 48th annual FFAI Fundraiser and Christmas Appeal, which is being headed by FFAI Chairman Bob Collins.

Division 8's Christmas Celebration will be held at the Claddagh on December 11. A committee of Division 8 officers and members is in the midst of planning for this event and promises a night of delicious food, entertainment, great prizes and fun, fun, fun!

Division 14 Watertown

In September, Watertown celebrated a special day with brother Arthur Griffin and family on the occasion of his 97th birthday. Happy Birthday, Arthur!

Division 14 turns 125! The division's 125th Anniversary was celebrated with a wonderful dinner on October 26th.

On November 22, there will be the Annual Turkey Shoot. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. There is a cash bar to benefit the Sonny Whooley Fund, helping local families in need during the Christmas Season. www.aohdiv14.com for details.

Division 19 Lowell

Lowell hosted a very successful 2019 Golf Classic on September 10. Golfers had a great day on the links followed by a nice dinner. Special thanks to all the golfers and especially brother Tom Casey and President Steve Daly for all of their efforts and energies.

In December, the Division will man the kettle at the local grocery again donating time, ring the bell and the occasional carol or two for the Salvation Army. The members will also gather for the annual Division Christmas party.

Division 36 Worcester

Worcester plans to hold the 2nd annual 0.5K walk/run October 5th at the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Centre parking lot, 19 Temple Street, Worcester.

Illinois

Illinois Convention a huge success

AOH Division 32 Chicago and LAOH Division 1 Chicago hosted the 58th Biennial State Convention on September 14. The convention was well attended with over 70 AOH and LAOH delegates, alternates and guests at the convention, mass and dinner reception.

The Convention was opened with prayer by Division 32 member and Seminarian Colm Mitchell. We were honored to have in attendance AOH National VP Danny O'Connell, National Directors John Wilson and Denny Parks, and State of Ohio Director Pat Williams.

Saturday evening began with mass celebrated by Division 32 Chaplin Fr. Dan McCarthy, followed by National VP Danny O'Connell's installation of the new Illinois State Board Officers. The reception started with an impressive performance by the Chicago Shannon Rovers Irish pipe band courtesy of AOH member Jim Murphy.

The night was capped off by a stirring and informative keynote by Oireachtas Senator Billy Lawless. The Senator started by talking about the Diaspora and how Ireland is the only country that doesn't allow its citizens living abroad to vote back home. Next was E3 visas and the disparity between Ireland and other countries involved in program. There was a bill in Congress to transfer unused E3 visas in Australia to Ireland. It stalled in Congress but there is hope it will get through next session. Senator Lawless then moved to U.S. Irish businesses. He noted that many people are aware of U.S. companies in Ireland but pointed out that many don't know there are 800 Irish companies in U.S. employing over 100,000 U.S. citizens. He concluded by saying that Ireland's population is over 5 million for the first time since the 1850s, and pointed out the special relationship between the U.S. and Ireland.

— Illinois State Board President Sean O'Dowd

Upcoming events: Division 32 will hold a November 3 Bears Bash, a November 20 Thanksgiving Turkey dinner for the less fortunate at The Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen, and a December 7 Christmas Party at La Villa Restaurant, Chicago. For more info check Facebook AOHAOH as well as the revised website of AOOH.ORG.



Illinois State Board Treasurer Mike Tiernan, left, Division 32 Chaplin Fr. Dan McCarthy and National Director Dennis Parks.



Newly Elected Illinois Board John Resch Secretary, Sean O'Dowd President, John Moriarty VP and Mike Tiernan Treasurer.



National Director John Wilson, left, Seminarian Colm Mitchell, IL State Board Secretary John Resch, IL State Board VP John Moriarty, Irish Senator Billy Lawless, IL State Board President Sean O'Dowd and National VP Danny O'Connell.



Danny O'Connell swearing in Sean O'Dowd.

Happy strikes

St. Clair County Division 1 held its 5th Annual Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Bowling Event on September 20. The lanes of St. Clair Bowl were active with many happy bowlers. Financial Secretary Mike Lenz organized the event, which has become a major fundraiser for the Division.



Illinois Hibernians convene

At the Illinois 58th Biennial State Convention on September 14, Division 32 Historian Gerry Loughran addressed the group in the Saturday afternoon seminar on Irish culture in America, and the need to debunk negative stereotyping of the Irish. Gerry also mentioned the vast contributions of the Irish race to modern society as part of his remarks. At the convention, held in Rosemont, the state officers of Sean O'Dowd as President, John Moriarty as Vice President (John also the D 32 Ken Sullivan Man of the Year), Mike Tiernan as State Treasurer and John Resch as Recording Secretary were elected.

Kentucky

By Rob Fallahay

Good works, good times in Louisville

The Father J Ryan Division President John O'Dwyer and fellow Hibernian Deacon Greg Gitschier attended the Blue Mass held at the Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville on June 12. Local police, fire and emergency officials were honored for their service to the community. Those who have died in the line of duty were remembered. Louisville Firefighter Sergeant John "Strawn" Nutter's widow attended to honor her late husband's sacrifice. A roof collapsed under him and he was trapped. He died of smoke inhalation and burns. Nutter's widow said it's very important to remember her husband's sacrifice and the sacrifice of others.

"This is nice that I can just go to this and be there with some other families and just kind of take a minute to remember because this isn't about me. I mean I know it's hard to be the ones left behind, but sometimes I feel like we get so caught up in us that we don't really remember what it's really about. So it was about his sacrifice," she said.

God Bless All Our First Responders!

On a very warm September 13 afternoon over 120 golfers took to the course for the division annual Irish for Kids Golf Scramble, benefiting Boys & Girls Haven. Despite temperatures in the mid-nineties, everyone had a good time. Afterward, it was off to Molly Malone's Irish Pub for the hooley, where everyone cooled off with their favorite beverage and prizes and awards were handed out. This year's scramble raised over \$17,000 for Boys & Girls Haven. Thanks for all who came out on such a hot afternoon to support a great cause.

On September 25, a group of brothers attended the Catholic Education Foundation, Salute to the Game Luncheon. The event takes place each year during the week when Trinity High School & St. Xavier High School face each other on the football field. The brothers displayed the shillelagh given to the winner of game between the two schools. I understand there was a long line from both schools' fans wanting their photo taken with the shillelagh. This is one of the biggest high school football rivalries in the nation. The Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville announced that an endowment fund in honor of the Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, DD, Archbishop of Louisville, has reached its \$2,000,000 fundraising goal ahead of plan. Earnings from the new endowment will be used to fund the Foundation's tuition assistance program for Catholic elementary school families across the Archdiocese. The Hibernians are very proud to be part of the luncheon each year.

On September 27, Trinity Shamrocks and St. Xavier Tigers met on the football field for their annual rivalry game. The Shamrocks got the best of the Tigers this year by a score of 35 to 3. The Hibernians awarded the victorious Shamrocks with the shillelagh at midfield afterwards. As always this was a hard fought battle to the very end.



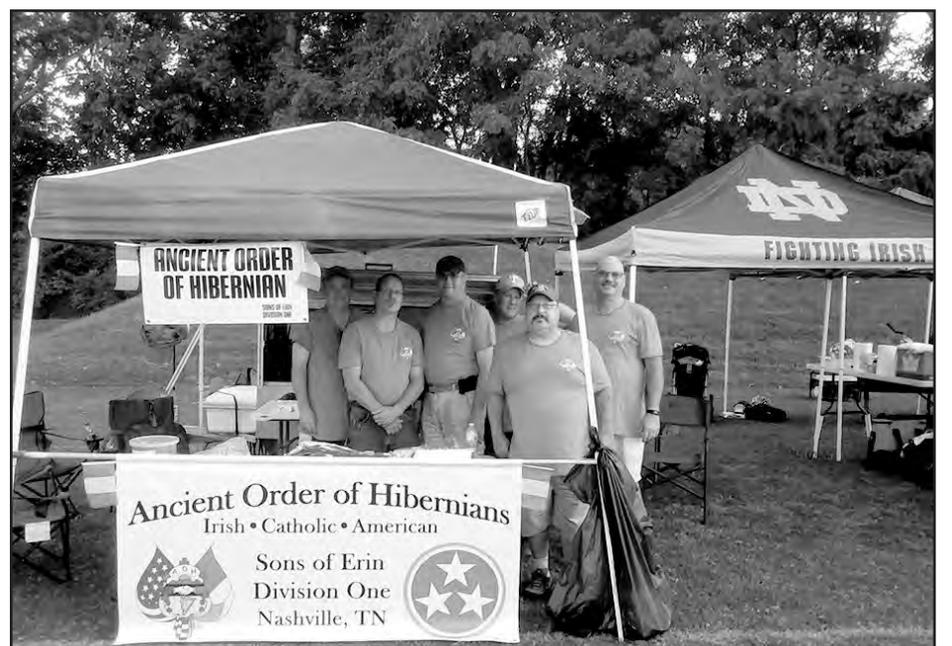
To the winner goes...

Brother John Callahan and friends posed with the shillelagh, given to the winner of the Trinity and St. Xavier High School football game each year.

Tennessee



The Sons of Erin Division 1, Nashville, has celebrated their one-year anniversary. This is Tennessee's only AOH division, and there are efforts underway to form a division in Knoxville and Memphis. The Sons of Erin are growing and we are the sponsors of the Father Ryan High School rugby team. Our AOH St. Patrick's Day coloring contest is now part of the curriculum of all Catholic grade schools in the Diocese of Nashville, whose Bishop Mark Spalding has been very supportive of Nashville's new AOH Division. We meet the 1st Thursday of each month at the Lost Paddy Irish Pub in Nashville.



Brisket and brotherhood

Nashville's Division participated in the Pride in the Pitt Cook-Off at the Father Ryan Homecoming Football Game. We Bar-B-Q more than 40 pounds of pulled pork and a smoked brisket. We were promoting the AOH and recruiting new members to our division. We also sponsored the Fr. Ryan High School Rugby Team and were recently at the Rugby Tournament at Fr. Ryan High School. From left, John Shea, David Kennedy, Peter Kennedy, Billy Philbin, Mark Austin (president) and Steve Keogh (recording secretary).



Nashville Hibernians support Catholic education

The new Sons of Erin Division 1 Nashville just celebrated one year of formation in July. We are the only Division in Tennessee. This picture was taken at the ACE Dinner with Bishop J. Mark Spalding. The Sons of Erin raised \$2,500 for Advancement for Catholic Education (ACE). From left, Mark Austin (President), Tommy Ragsdale Jr, Dr. John Shea, David Kennedy, Billy Philbin, Brian Philbin (Sentinel), the Most Reverend Bishop J. Mark Spalding, Tim O'Connor (Chairman Standing Committee), Terrence Heaney, Tom Ragsdale Sr. and Joseph Finley. It was a fun event and many people in the Diocese of Nashville now know more about the AOH.

Louisiana

Louisiana AOH State Convention 2019

The 71st biennial convention of the Louisiana Ancient Order of Hibernians convened on Saturday July 27, at the Cambria Hotel in downtown New Orleans. More than 50 delegates represented Orleans Parish Division 1 (Archbishop Philip Hannan Division), Jefferson Parish Division 1 (James Cardinal Gibbons Division), Tangipahoa Parish Division 1 (Republic of West Florida Division), St. Tammany Parish Division 1 (Fr. Thomas Mossy Gallagher Division) and Lafayette Parish 1 (Acadian Division). The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Margret Haughery Division, joined the Hibernians for the opening general session.

Orleans Division 1 Vice-President Matthew Toups served as the convention chair with outgoing State President James Kuhn and National President James McKay in attendance.

The traditional call to order, roll call of divisions and the opening prayer began the proceedings, after which national and state reports were made and accepted into the record. The Ladies AOH then left to conduct their own meeting and afterwards enjoy lunch at a French Quarter restaurant.

State Board elections took place after the candidates received their nominations and seconds. Sean Kennedy, John Durnin and Matthew Toups were elected President, Treasurer and Secretary by acclamation. Raymond "Randy" King was elected Vice-President in a landslide vote.

The convention business addressed the Celtic Cross statue and park in New Orleans, increasing membership and the Christmas and Easter Appeals. Breakout sessions included discussions and strategies for the Freedom For All Ireland committee, Political Education, Project St. Patrick and Organizing.

Each division then met individually and presented their reports followed by the nominations for division offices, which will be held open until their next respective divisional meetings.

The convention concluded with both the AOH and LAOH traveling over to St. Patrick's Church to attend the investiture of officers, followed by Mass celebrated in the historic church of the Irish in New Orleans.

The events ended with a banquet at the Cambria Hotel featuring fine food that one would expect of an event in New Orleans.

The Louisiana Hibernians are now counting down the days until July 22, 2020, when they will join their Hibernian brothers from around the country at the National Convention in Orlando.

Submitted by Dennis Roubion and Don Jennings.



Louisiana brothers at Mass during the convention.



The newly elected State Board of the Louisiana AOH stands with National President James McKay in the sanctuary of St. Patrick's Church. From left, Secretary Matthew Toups, President Sean Kennedy, Judge McKay, Vice-President Raymond "Randy" King and Treasurer John Durnin.

New Jersey

A Division's Legacy

Most Hibernians are inspired when they see photos in the National Hibernian Digest of new members being sworn into thriving divisions.

Then there are others that struggle with low membership rolls. Rev. William J. Clifford Ocean County Division 1, in Toms River, NJ, was among them. This summer it closed down. It marked the end of 40 fruitful years in support of Irish heritage, community contributions, Tri Color flag raisings, colorful festivals and musical gatherings. Among its proud members was the late New Jersey Congressman James J. Howard.

The primary reason for the demise was the gradual passing of the men who formed the division, which was chartered in 1979 in a ceremony presided over by then National Organizer Joseph Roche, now one of the Order's esteemed Past National Presidents. A contributing factor was the difficulty in recruitment of new members. Most of the remaining members are residents of several retirement communities that dot the Jersey Shore's Ocean County.

The officers were at times successful in recruitment drives and their efforts could be a model for other divisions. They sent recruiters to the doors of several Catholic churches at weekend Masses, appealed through items in church bulletins and in local newspapers. In the end the efforts did not sustain enough brothers to carry out the work of the group.

There is a beacon of hope for the remaining brothers. Last March members of Father Duffy Ocean County Division 2, in a gesture of friendship, attended a Division 1 meeting. Later some of their members attended a St Patrick St. Joseph dinner dance at Division 1's meeting place at St. Maximillian Kolbe Church, in Holiday City at Berkeley. The camaraderie of the visitors and their hosts raised ideas of more joint ventures and a possible merger of the divisions.



The need for younger members is vital to keep any organization vibrant. Last year a New York division recruited a large group of students at Iona College. There's a Catholic college in Ocean County and perhaps in time the old timers can attract students who might be inclined to be a part of a fraternity where all its endeavors are truly Irish.

— Jim Lowney, Charter Member, Rev. William J. Clifford Ocean County Division 1.

Hibernians act to comfort hospitalized children

In 2015, two nurses from the pediatric unit of the Jersey Shore Medical in Neptune, New Jersey, posted a call to action on Facebook appealing for pajamas and fleece blankets for children in need of comfort. Kevin Weldon and Ray Barnes, of Division 32 in Belmar, answered their plea.

Recently, Division 32 happily merged with Division 16 Saint Oliver Plunkett, of Freehold.

Now, as one united Division, we are continuing this tradition by supporting the bi-annual pajama drive for the pediatric unit in Central-State hospital in Freehold and the Jersey Shore Medical Center. Children ages 0-16 will receive new, unused pajamas and fleece blankets in hopes to give a little joy to those young people suffering from an injury or illness, and lessen the stress of the parent or guardian that they are enduring.

And although we may never receive any 'thanks' or see the smiles

we may provide. We know that what we do is for the greater good as Christians.

No child should suffer or go without and no parent should ever feel that they cannot provide. There is a definite need in every state. We challenge all AOH and LAOH divisions to reach out to their local hospital and speak with the administration. Let us all provide a little softness to these young people when life may seem hard.

Ladies hibernian news

LAOH Missions & Charities

by Colleen D. Bowers, National LAOH Missions & Charities Officer

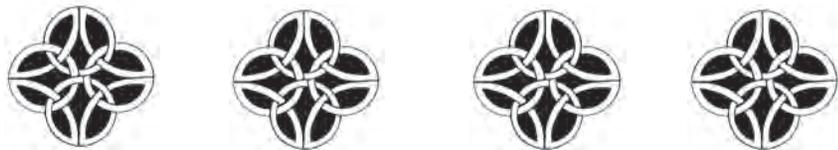
I again thank you for entrusting me to continue servicing all of you as your National Missions & Charities Officer for the years 2018-2020.

Since elected, I have been receiving donations for Columban Fathers, Mass Stipends, Columban Sisters, Appeals for Aid and the Appeals for Aid Assessment. They have been deposited into the National Missions & Charities bank account as per one of my duties for this office. In addition, I have sent quarterly reports to each State M & C Officer & State President.

Presently, per our National Convention, there have been Appeals for Aid Assessments of \$0.50 per total membership. There was a creation of a new form to track the assessment and has been available on the National website, ladiesaoh.com, under the Missions & Charities tab with all the other M & C forms for your referencing. These forms have been included in my quarterly reports along with the process and procedure of said donations.

I received the National Membership totals from National Secretary Marilyn Madigan and sent out the Appeals for Aid Assessment totals to each State Missions & Charities Officer along with the State Presidents with a due date of June 15, 2019.

Unfortunately, to date we have many states that have not adhered to the direction sent in April. I have sent another reminder personally addressed to each state that they are not in compliance to the assessment as voted on at the National Convention of 2018. I thank the State/Divisions that have complied. If you still owe the Appeals for Aid Assessment, please forward the correct form and check to me.



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
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Treasurer/Asst. Webmaster	maryannlubinsky@gmail.com
Sandi Swift	Irish Historian/Webmaster	sandiswift@ladiesaoh.com
Colleen Bowers	Missions & Charities	colleenbowers@ladiesaoh.com
Cathy Turck	Catholic Action	laohcathyt@gmail.com
Patricia A. O'Connell	Organizer	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Shannon Lehn	Digest Asst. Editor	assthiberniandigesteditor@gmail.com
Agnes Gowdy	Freedom For All Ireland	sengarose@gmail.com
Maire Leffel	Fundraiser	maireleffel@aol.com
Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty	Immigration/Education	dancingds@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	Program Chair	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Mary Conlon	Supplies	mandjconlon@atmc.net
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	mhtax@optonline.net
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

Patricia A. O'Connell	Illinois	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	New York	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Michigan	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	New York	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Massachusetts	
Dorothy Weldon	Pennsylvania	dorothyweldon@comcast.net
Mary T. Leatham	New York	mtleatham@aol.com
Mary B. Dolan	Massachusetts	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Pennsylvania	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	New Jersey	marypaglione@comast.net
Kathie Linton	Ohio	kathielin10@gmail.com

President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer



It is hard to believe that by the time you read this column we will have already celebrated the LAOH 125th Anniversary. Many thanks to Past National President Maureen Shelton and National Vice President Karen Keane for all their hard work which made this a very successful event.

There are no words to say how grateful I am to my Ohio LAOH Sisters. No attendee can say they did not enjoy themselves at the Hooley. As the saying goes "It's not a party until OHIO walks in." It should now be said "It's not a party unless OHIO plans it." The Ohio LAOH did a marvelous job in planning the most amazing Hooley ever! Thank you.

The following week, after the celebration in Dearborn, many LAOH members traveled to Washington, DC to attend AOH National President Judge Jim McKay's Testimonial Weekend. During the dinner, the 2019 McBride Humanitarian Award was presented to Father Gary Donegan, a Passionist priest from County Fermanagh. Father Donegan served as the rector of Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne (North Belfast) for 15 years. Presently, he spends his time working with the youth groups from Ardoyne and Shankill at the Houben Centre.

In September, the LAOH was well represented at the Hibernian Lecture, at the University of Notre Dame. The lecture this year was presented by Dr. Tara McCarthy of Central Michigan University.

In the next few months, information will be forthcoming about the 2020 National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The dates of the Convention are from Wednesday, July 22, 2020 thru Sunday, July 26, 2020 and the location is the Rosen Centre Hotel. Please begin to make plans to attend.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Holiday Season.

Freedom For All Ireland

by Agnes Gowdy, LAOH National FFAI Chairperson

Ladies, we are at that time of the year again when we need to start thinking of the FFAI Christmas Appeal. Anything that we can do to raise funds to donate to this project is very much appreciated. The LAOH's generosity in 2018-19 was excellent, let's try to go above and beyond in 2019-20. Those ladies who have gone on the FFAI trips have seen first-hand how much these donations are needed by the organizations in Ireland.

Once I receive the 2019-20 paperwork from Martin Galvin, AOH FFAI Chairman, I will send it out to the LAOH National Board, the State Presidents and the State FFAI Chairpersons.

If your FFAI chairperson has changed, or if your FFAI Chairperson needs added, please send me her email address at sengarose48@gmail.com, and I will add her to my distribution list.

Just a reminder that when the LAOH are sending their checks, they need to be sent to me. Make the check out to LAOH Inc. If you want to designate the money to a specific organization, note that in the "note" line.

On September 11th, we had the young boxers and coaches from Bridges Beyond Boxing here in Detroit. Bridges Beyond Boxing is one of the recipients of the FFAI donations. These young men are a delight; they are well mannered, polite, friendly and so appreciative of being able to come to the United States. Some of them have never been out of Northern Ireland. Some do not even have a gym to practice, they train in the street. When coming to the United States, they boys do their own fundraising events to help with the cost of the airline tickets. When in Detroit they live with families here and develop a close bond with those families. The boxers and coaches also visited Cincinnati, and I am sure that they do the same there.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the LAOH on its 125th anniversary and to our National President on her Testimonial Dinner to be held at the Dearborn Inn, Michigan. Congratulations also to Judge Jim McKay, AOH National President on his Testimonial Dinner which will be in Washington D.C.

Sengarose48@gmail.com

www.ladiesaoh.com

Notre Dame Hibernian Lecture



National Vice President Karen Keane presents lecturer Tara McCarthy with gifts from the LAOH at the annual Notre Dame Hibernian Lecture.



LAOH members at the Notre Dame Hibernian Lecture (L-R): Colleen Bowers, National Missions and Charity; June Lewis; Marilyn Madigan, National Secretary; Shannon Lehn, Assistant Editor, Hibernian Digest; Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Cushwa Center Director; Lecturer Tara McCarthy; Moira Manning; National President Carol Sheyer; JoAnn Shire; National Vice President Karen Keane; National Treasurer MaryAnn Lubinsky; Rita O'Hara; Michelle Pesa-Neal and Kathleen Diulus.

Pennsylvania

The Mary Ellen O'Neill Division 4 gathered at the Back Porch Restaurant in Charleroi, Pennsylvania on August 2 to celebrate 35 years of their charter on the anniversary of its presentation.

The ladies were blessed by Monsignor William H. Maher, who was the pastor of the St. Jerome Church at the presentation of the charter and is currently at Mary, Mother of the Church in Charleroi.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was organized in Omaha, Nebraska in 1894 and is comprised of Irish Catholic Women who pledge themselves to God and Country. The LAOH is a fraternal, charitable organization that promotes the ideals of perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people and promoting Irish culture.

In addition to all the major projects that the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians has accomplished, the Order makes significant contributions to various local and national charities; assists in appeals for the retired religious; scholarship funds and Project St. Patrick, which provides financial assistance to religious in their studies.

Junior Divisions create a greater interest in the history of Ireland and of the Irish in America.

The annual Irish History Contest awards prizes to winners on elementary and high school levels that have included Washington County.

Religious including the celebrations of St. Brigid and St. Patrick are attended faithfully by LAOH members.

The Hibernian Lecture series began in 1982 at Notre Dame University. Annually, at least one distinguished scholar provides a lecture on the Irish experience.

The Hibernian Endowment sponsors conferences at Notre Dame relating to the study of the Irish in America as well as awards scholarship assistance.

A contractual agreement signed in 2006 between Dr. Robert K. O'Neill, Boston College Curator and Dorothy Flaherty Weldon, who was the LAOH National President at the time, providing the John J Burns Library Repository at Boston College would serve as the permanent receptacle for the historical records and documents of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

In the 125-year history of the LAOH, there were five National Presidents from Pennsylvania: Anna Clair Malia Ruddy (1906), Mary Timon Hogan (1925), Lenora Shea (1988), Margaret Cooney (1998), and Dorothy Flaherty Weldon (2006).



Shown (L-R) sitting: Dorothy Flaherty Weldon, Past National and State President and Division 4 President; Dottie Taylor Division, 4 Vice President. Front: Carole Cohill Seader, Division 4 Catholic Action, Financial Secretary and Irish Historian. Back row left to right: Helen June Bednarczyk; Stephanie Martinet; Francis Smith Division, 4 Sentinel; Margaret Might, Past Division 4 President; Father James Bump. Ellen Lahey Cmar, Division 4 Missions & Charities; Pat Cohill Loversidge, Division 4 Freedom for All Ireland and Immigration and Education. Not pictured: Trenna Loversidge; Gloria Tracey, Division 4 Past President and Kathleen Lynch; Division # Recording Secretary

Ohio

The Ohio LAOH gathered in Toledo, Ohio August 15-17 for our biennial state convention. Our brother and sister Hibernians of northwestern Ohio were most hospitable hosts and provided much fun, fellowship and a few high crimes and misdemeanors (in the form of mystery dinner theater!)

Officers installed were Theresa Cory, President; Teresa Harris, Vice President; Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti, Secretary; Nichole Parks-Norris, Treasurer; JoAnn Shire, Irish Historian; Marie Rizzo, Missions and Charities; and Cindee Case, Missions and Charities.

Nobody will forget Immediate Past President Clara Joyce and her affinity for banging the gavel, the live music of the hospitality rooms, dinner and dancing, the mug shots and characters created, all of the fun, new friends being formed and Hibernian sisters creating memories and taking strides in moving our proud Order into the future.

One of Immediate Past President's last actions as State President was to present to Eddie Cotter, Jr. and the Dead Theologians Society with a contribution from the State of Ohio Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Dead Theologians Society focuses on inspiring young adults of high school and college age to become the saints of tomorrow through the saints of yesterday.



Clara Joyce, LAOH Ohio State President 2017-2019, presents a contribution to Eddie Cotter, Jr. of the Dead Theologians Society.



LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC
NATIONAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE
 2019-2020

30 Chances to Win!

\$100.00 Thanksgiving Early Bird Drawing

\$100.00 Christmas Early Bird Drawing

\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2020

26 weekly drawings every Monday for \$25.00
 (January 6th, 2020 – June 29th, 2020)

\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

*To be drawn at the AOH/LAOH National Convention
 Orlando, FL (July 22-July 26)*

Tickets are \$20.00 each

Six months of winners, what a great stocking stuffer for Christmas. Get your entries in early to be eligible for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Early Bird drawings!

Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.

C/o Máire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair

17710 Flamingo Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44135

(PLEASE RETURN ALL UNSOLD TICKETS TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS)

Need more tickets or have any questions, email:

nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

*Thank you for supporting the LAOH, Inc.
 Let's proudly set the foundation for the next 125 years!*

California



Right to left: Peggy Cornish, LAOH CA State President; Eleni Kounalakis, CA State Lieutenant Governor; Kate McCarthy, Orange County Division President. All were there to welcoming the new Consul General of Ireland to LA, Orla Keane.

On September 27, 2019 The Irish Consulate in Los Angeles opened and appointed a new Consul General of Ireland to Los Angeles, Orla Keane. The event was a great day for the Irish of Southern California and all over the USA. The California State President, Peggy Cornish and the Local Division President, Kate McCarthy both attended the event.

Michigan



LAOH members pose in front of the An Gorta Mor Memorial in Irish Hills, Michigan. In the background are two limestone columns that support a lintel. The lintel, originally from Penrose Quay in Cork Harbor, Ireland, is one of several steps emigrants crossed before setting sail for a new life in a new land. It is suspended over a large, empty bronze bowl that symbolizes the absence of food during the "Great Hunger."

Our Lady of Knock Division in Adrian, Michigan held the annual An Gorta Mor Memorial Mass in the Irish Hills of Lenawee County at St. Joseph Shrine on Sunday September 15.

Margaret Noe, National Legal Counsel and President of the hosting division reports that we gathered for a mass full of reminders of our families' past hardships and survival of the Potato Famine. We sang songs, cited verse and prayed for a better world which honors the dignity of all.

After Mass, we enjoyed a visit to the An Gorta Mor Memorial monument that references all counties of Ireland and the presence of the last footstone most Irish stepped on when leaving the Motherland.

Lastly, we enjoyed snacks and beverages prepared by our division. It was a delightful event attended by approximately 50 LAOH and AOH members from various divisions.

Louisiana



Members of the LAOH, Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, and their guests gathered on Sunday, August 25, 2019, to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Knock. Each year as part of the celebration, the Golden Rose Award is presented to a person who has excelled in supporting the goals of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and who has served the community in an outstanding manner.

The recipient of the 2019 Golden Rose Award is Patricia Colleen Johnston. Patti has been an active member of the LAOH since 2014 and currently serves as Freedom for All Ireland Officer. She is also co-chair of a local LAOH Ad Hoc Committee working on the effort for canonization of Margaret Haughery, an Irish immigrant living in New Orleans during the time of the yellow fever epidemic whose life's work was dedicated to procuring resources to care for orphaned children.

Patti, working with LAOH volunteers, coordinated the Irish exhibit at the Louisiana Children's Museum's World's Fair in 2018 and 2019. All aspects of Irish culture were covered including music, dancing, games, and food. From childhood, Patti loved art, music, history, and volunteering. She learned Irish dancing, how to play the bagpipes and tenor drums, pursued an education in art and history, and became an artist in her own right. She also serves as volunteer curator/archivist at St. Alphonsus Church, a historic Irish church that was saved from demolition through the efforts of the Friends of St. Alphonsus. She was also a past judge for the New Orleans Rose of Tralee Gala, helped with fundraising for cancer and leukemia organizations, and is an active member of the Friends of St. Alphonsus and the Advertising Club of New Orleans. A busy lady indeed!

The day began with Mass at St. Patrick's Church followed by a delicious brunch in the church rectory. We were honored to have Judge Jim McKay, AOH National President, join us for this special occasion. Patti's husband of 40 years and her sister were also on hand to help her celebrate.

Congratulations to Patricia Colleen Johnston for being named the LAOH Margaret Haughery Division's 2019 Golden Rose.



Wednesday – Sunday
July 22 - 26, 2020

Single/Double
\$115 + taxes

ORLANDO
host city for the
AOH/LAOH
2020
National Convention



Rosen Centre Hotel
located on International Drive
Offers 24 Stories
1,334 Guest-Rooms
80 Extraordinary Suites
2 Club Level Floors



2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention

The 2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, from Monday, July 20, to Sunday, July 26. The convention kicks off with an Ice Breaker (Welcome to Orlando) on Wednesday evening, July 22. Irish Night will be held on Friday evening, July 24, and the Installation Banquet on Saturday evening, July 25.

The convention will take place at the Rosen Centre Hotel, located on International Drive across from Orlando's world class Convention Center. Connected via the Rosen Centre Skywalk to the Orange County Convention Center, the Rosen Centre is located 12 minutes from Orlando International Airport and minutes to Walt Disney World, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Sea World, Universal Studios, downtown Orlando and other Orlando attractions. Its location on International Drive will put us a short stroll from the nearest entertainment, restaurants and shopping, as well as minutes to some of Orlando's finest golf courses, including Rosen's Shingle Creek Golf Course.

This first-class hotel was especially built to handle conventions with all of its amenities located near each other. It offers 24 stories with 1,334 guest rooms and 80 extraordinary suites with two club level floors.

The special room rate for our Convention is \$115 + taxes per night. For you and your family's pleasure, this special rate includes two shoulder days before and after the Convention Week should you wish to plan an extended vacation in the Orlando area.

More information will be coming later in October as a special link is established on the National Website for bookings, merchandize and registrations.

Your Florida AOH and LAOH Brothers and Sisters are looking forward to welcoming our Hibernian Brethren to the Sunshine State in 2020.

President's Testimonial Washington, D.C. - October 18-19



Ambassador Daniel Mulhall addressed Judge Jimmy Kuhn, Judge Jim McKay and his wife, Marie, at the Testimonial dinner. *Photos by John O'Connell*



Annie Partika, Ambassador Mulhall, Ciarán Cannon, Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development; Emily Partika, Abbey Partika and Danny O'Connell.



Ambassador Mulhall hosted a reception for Hibernians, Pennsylvania Hibernians, Katie Hosie, Past State President Joe Hosie, and LAOH National Treasurer Mary Ann Rehnert Lubinsky.



At the Ambassador's Reception in Washington, D.C. on October 18, were, from left, National Treasurer Mary Ann Rehnert Lubinsky, National Secretary Marilyn Madigan, Ambassador Mulhall, National President Carol Sheyer and National V.P. Karen Keane.

President's Testimonial

Washington, D.C. - October 18-19

More photos at: <https://oconnellphotos.com/p850903711>



National AOH Officers, from left, Vice President Danny O'Connell, Chaplain Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, President Jim McKay and Judge Jim Kuhn at the President's Testimonial dinner Oct. 19. *Photos: John O'Connell*



Judge James F. McKay, III.



National AOH Chaplain, Archbishop Thomas Rodi, preached the holly at the Hibernian Mass at Washington's historic St. Patrick's Church on October 19.



Ireland's Ciarán Cannon T.D. with Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award recipient Fr. Gary Donegan, right.



National Historian Mike McCormack, left, Washington's Jack O'Brien and Past National President Ed Wallace at the Ambassador's Reception on October 18.



Past National Presidents and current elected and appointed national officers posed for a group photo with President McKay.



Past National President Ned McGinley, left, with Hibernian Jack O'Brien and National Liaison Joe Norton, National Charities and Mission Chairman.



National Director William Sullivan, left, with Lawrence, Massachusetts, Division 8 members Carol Calderone and Jack Lahey. Jack is the Massachusetts AOH State President.



Ireland's Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall, left, Ciarán Cannon T.D. and AOH President Jim McKay at the ambassador's residence.