

Take Irish American Heritage Month to heart



By Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

Brothers, March and Irish American Heritage Month is here. 2020 marks the 30th year that Irish American Heritage Month will be proclaimed. While we have made significant progress in seeing our Heritage Month recognized, we still have far to go before it is recognized in just parity with other "Months" when as a nation we rightly focus on other heritages and applaud their accomplishments. At the July 2004 National Convention, the AOH committed to Irish American Heritage month by unanimously adopting a resolution urging the formation of "IAHM Committees charged with developing and implementing strategies for the promotion and expansion of Irish-American Heritage Month."

Brothers, investing in Irish American Heritage Month is not a duty; it is just plain good sense. Without a commitment to our Heritage and Culture, how are we different from a hundred other fraternal organizations? Our schools are frankly not teaching the contributions of the Irish to America, or, worse yet, when they do it's an unflattering, edited version without context. If not us, who? Needless to say, when you find someone interested in your Irish American Heritage activities, you have likely someone interested in joining your division as a Hibernian.

We are currently in the final stages of our Irish American Heritage Month Video. Last year our video proclaimed Irish

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Hibernians march for life in D.C.



Hibernians from Maryland, Virginia, D.C., New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, Minnesota and other states joined the National AOH Board and state boards in the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 24. A Hibernian breakfast at the Irish Channel and Holy Mass at Mary Mother of God preceded the march. (More photos, page 23.)

By John Patrick Walsh

The 47th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. was another recording breaking event for the Hibernians. The pro-life breakfast had more than 70 attendees, and more than 130 Hibernians marched together up Constitution Avenue, led by brothers from the Montgomery County (PA) pipe band. We had participants from as far west as St. Paul, Minnesota. Even our Hibernian Mass set a new record for clergy participation. (Fr. Kevin Fields, newly appointed Chaplain for D.C. Division 3, made the mass his first "national" function; thank you, Father!) And President Trump, who previously addressed attendees of the

rally by live video feed, became the first U.S. president to attend the March for Life. His presence attracted widespread media attention to the March that heretofore has been minimal. Americans who usually only hear about the March in passing got to see the prevalence of enthusiastic, joyous young people on the streets, experience the passion of our fellow marchers, and witness our growing numbers.

Breakfast attendees were also fortunate to hear a preview of Congressman Chris Smith's (NJ-4) remarks to the arch for Life rally, delivered by Policy Advisor Abigail Balmert from the

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Irish • Catholic • American

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The National hibernian digest

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?



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Virginia



Alexandria Hibernians welcome the National Board Members of the AOH National Board, in town for the March for Life, participated in the regular monthly meeting of the Hibernian Division in Alexandria on January 23.

'Sweats For Vets' in Virginia

The Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division and the LAOH Daughters of Erin Division, both in Loudoun, participated once again in the 13th Annual "Sweats for Vets" program at the Martinsburg Veterans facility in WVA. In concert with the Knights of Columbus Assemblies and Councils of Northern Virginia and the VFW in Leesburg, the AOH/LAOH distributed over 625 new sweat outfits along with over a thousand pairs of socks and over \$8,000 in cash donations to approximately 500 Veterans in residence.

The VA AOH/LAOH was responsible for at least \$2,000 in cash donations and 50 sweat outfits, collected last fall through local charity initiatives.

Also, the AOH was privileged to distribute several hundred "Thank you for your service" cards prepared by the K-thru-8th graders at St. Joseph School in Herndon, VA. Many of the Veterans found the cards as valuable as their new sweat outfit.

The facility director, Tim Cook, took time to join us once again – this time as his last official act as director, as he heads out to become the director of the VA in Orlando, Florida – to express his appreciation for this annual program, which grew from 50 sweat outfits to 600-800 in recent years while he was director. Tim is a staunch supporter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and will be missed in this community. Tim will definitely bring his Hibernian enthusiasm to Florida in his new, demanding role.

Kudos to my fellow AOH and LAOH Brothers and Sisters, family members and all those in our community (such as the Vistas of Lansdowne HOA) who helped make this event such a success.

— Jay McCarthy, VA AOH State President; Margie McCarthy, VA LAOH Daughters of Erin Division.



Margie McCarthy, VA LAOH Daughters of Erin President, and Jay McCarthy, VA AOH State President.

We regret that we could not fit
 all the submitted items
 into this issue of the Digest.
 Please re-submit for the next issue.
 ALL accepted submissions will be posted
 to the AOH.com website —Editor



president's message

By Jim McKay III

As you read this article in our Digest, we will be well into the St. Patrick's Season of our year with all the preparations for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day events. I hope all goes well with the celebrations across the country honoring our Patron Saint of Ireland.

Many Hibernians recently descended on Washington, D.C. for the Right to Life March. Because of the weather, we had one of the biggest turnouts in recent memory for this very solemn commemoration. This year we again had our two pipers from Pennsylvania, thanks to the work of our Brothers there. Anybody within a two-block radius of the event knew that the Irish were on the march.

BREXIT has finally come to a close and the United Kingdom is no longer a member of the European Union. Our National PEC Chairman Neil Cosgrove, who has been covering the story daily, is now monitoring the United Kingdom's secession and what effect it will have on both the North of Ireland and the Republic. At our last National Board meeting, our FFAI Chairman, Brother Martin Galvin from New York, made a special appeal for the FFAI campaign. He challenged all divisions, counties and states to match or surpass all contributions from prior years. With the start-up of the post-BREXIT era, the talk of unification is discussed daily on the island and the support of those Northern Irish cross community organizations becomes even more important.

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

Recently, the National Board kicked off the campaign for a Commemorative Hibernian Monument in Dublin. At the Right to Life March, I received the first donation from our Brother Dan Layden, who presented a check to me for \$100. Hopefully this was the first donation of many.

We are also in the middle of making final preparations for our National Convention in Orlando in July of this year. By the time you read this, I do not believe there will be many rooms available in the block at the Rosen Centre Hotel. There are some overflow hotels in the area that will be put on the website shortly. The National Convention is when our Brothers from all over the country get together to conduct the business of our Order. We also award our prestigious JFK Award. (We are currently in the process of voting to see who will receive this prestigious award. We have four final qualified candidates and by the time this Hibernian Digest arrives at your door, he will have been named.) Hope to see many of you in Orlando, as it will be my last as National President of our Order.

I hope all of you have a safe, memorable and Holy St. Patrick's Day and please keep in mind that all the eyes of the world are on the Hibernians in this country at this time.

God Bless.



At the breakfast before the March for Life in January, Hibernian Dan Layden, right, presented the first donation to National President Jim McKay for the planned Commemorative Hibernian Monument in Dublin. Hopefully this was the first donation of many. Photo John O'Connell, Editor.

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

Happy New Year, and welcome to all our new and returning officers for the start of what we anticipate will be another year filled with many successes and opportunities for the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Here's hoping that during Christmas you had the opportunity to relax and reflect on the impact our Lord has in our daily life. Now we all need to get back into the swing of things for Irish American Heritage Month working together to celebrate our Irish Heritage. At the same time, we are preparing for our national convention to be held July 22-25 in Orlando, Florida. Every division should have the goal of sending their president to the convention to participate in defining and preparation for our future.

While the year ahead is sure to bring us challenges, especially given the political climate in the U.S., Ireland, and around the world, we know we will have opportunities to facilitate positive change in all our key areas of support. Pro-life, Freedom for all Ireland, Catholic Action, Hibernian Hunger, Immigration, Political Education, Scholarships, and every area Hibernians participate in around the country, in Ireland and around the world.

Most importantly, we look forward to the opportunity to continue to grow as an organization and building an environment of success and participation at every level. Thank you, each and every Hibernian, for your hard work in 2019; let's make 2020 one of our best years yet. Each one of us can guarantee success in 2020 by recruiting and sponsoring a new member before the end of Irish American Heritage Month. What better time to recruit than now as every Irish Catholic in America prepares to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Recruit everyone you see at your St. Patrick's Day mass, luncheon, dinner or parade. Be sure to have an application or a business card to distribute to everyone you meet. Get the name and number for every potential member and follow-up to land that new Hibernian.

I can't tell you how many members have told us they haven't joined before now because no one asked them. Our success depends on your efforts. I remember when I recruited my father. He always supported the Irish community. He always attended mass. The night of his installation I asked the question, why haven't you joined before today? The answer was simple, no one asked. Today, I am asking you, recruit. Family first, friends second, and every good Irishman that are members of your parish. Together Everyone Achieves More!



national secretary

By Jere Cole

We are on our way

We are well on our way with the new roster editing system and we would like to thank all of you for adopting this new system so quickly. Most all feedback has been positive as most see the obvious advantage on controlling their own data.

Sadly, there are a few divisions that have not logged on or begun using the system as of this writing. Again, it is imperative going forward that your division have someone who is willing and able to conduct this duty. If you are unable or chose not to do this, please see that someone from your division is appointed immediately.

At this time, we are permitting only the Financial Secretary to perform these duties. In a few instances we have given credentials to the division president as well, but the fewer individuals making edits the more efficient we will be.

We are constantly asked about changing the degree info. This is only permitted by the home office as proof of the degree is required. This proof can be in the form of an old membership card that showed the degree or a copy of the degree card issued at the time of the ceremony or a written confirmation from the degree team. Sorry, but this rule is firm.

All forms you will need are available online at the AOH.com website under the heading of Forms. These forms are Fillable PDFs and are the most up-to-date. PLEASE USE ONLY THESE FORMS. DO NOT USE OLDER FORMS. To use these properly you should first save to your computer, then complete. The proper way to complete the form is to use the "tab" key to navigate from field to field. Once you have all your info entered, Save again, and then email to the office.

Older forms will eventually be rejected and returned to you for editing.

We are looking to further streamline our reporting and will make more changes later this year.

Deadline

Articles for the April-May issue are due no later than April 1. Please send in your parade photos with captions.



Treasurer's Report

By Sean Pender

I wish you all a great St. Patrick's Day season and a happy and joyful Easter to you and your families.

Brothers, as I wind down my time as your national treasurer, I want to comment on the evolution of the 501c8/EIN number process that we have dealt with since my first term of office and how this office will address it moving forward. The process evolved from dealing with a lot of uncertainty after being notified by scores of divisions whose tax-exempt status was revoked in 2016, to investigation and research on causes of revocations and the steps needed to be taken for reinstatement.

We then undertook the challenge of educating the membership on the IRS responsibilities that they had. We used Digest articles, website postings, national board and state conference calls and presentations at National and State conventions. Additionally, many National and State Board members were employed to help divisions and boards that were non-compliant in the attempt to move them toward compliance.

After more than three years of work, we are still not where I had hoped we would be, but I have come to the conclusion that this office and the national board has done everything in its power to help divisions and boards understand the tax-exempt process and the tax responsibilities each entity has. Moving forward, that responsibility rests solely on the individual divisions and boards. At the Louisville convention we updated the National Constitution assigning the responsibility of tax compliance to the treasurer of the local board or division.

Brothers, the information is out there; it is now a matter of execution and understanding that this needs to be done. Ignorance is not a valid defense. Any IRS penalties or fines are solely the responsibility of the board or division.

Moving forward, the AOH website <https://aoh.com/treasurer/> will be updated to include all information needed for a division or board in regard to tax responsibilities and IRS help desk numbers. It is also strongly recommended that tax professionals be engaged if needed. The office of the national treasurer will continue to monitor, add and update subordinate units to the national parent of the group exemption.

For questions pertaining to tax exempt organizations wanting to get reinstated or any info on tax exempt:

IRS help desk for exempt organizations: 877-829-5500; Option #1 English; Option #2 Exempt info (listen)

May route to www.iris.gov/eo to follow re-instatement steps or if you still need help #1. Listen then #4.

For questions pertaining to entities that are non-tax exempt:

Call the for-profit or business side at 800-829-4933, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



Director's Report

By Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation....

Celebrating Our Heritage: March is an opportunity to put our "best foot forward" and showcase our organization for others to see because we are the "voice of Irish America."

'Tis the season of St. Patrick and of celebrating all things Irish. As Hibernians, we're Irish every day of the year, and the month of March presents an opportunity for us to lead or contribute to local St. Patrick's season events. This month is full of Hibernian Communion Breakfasts, special lunches, dinners and/ or raising the Irish flag at City Hall with local government leaders. Whatever the event is that brings together the Irish community, it is our chance to lead.

We must look around our communities and evaluate what we are missing. Is there a local parade? An event at City or Town Hall? Is there an opportunity to collaborate with other Irish and/ or Catholic organizations by inviting them to an event organized by the AOH? Is this the time to start something new?

March is an ideal opportunity to educate others about the AOH, our impact in America, Irish History and the many important issues for which we advocate. We should start with local government by scheduling meetings to introduce Division officers and members to ensure all are aware of our presence. We can then discuss a resolution related to declaring March as Irish American Heritage Month. Once local elected officials learn of our Order, they often welcome the opportunity to sponsor and promote this type of resolution celebrating the Irish American community. With all of this comes a very public occasion to market our mission to grow the Order through a mini local campaign, new partnerships with government, increased visibility, etc.

Whether you're marching down Main Street, attending Mass or listening to your local Priest speak at the Communion Breakfast, please represent the Order proudly and professionally. We all will have done our jobs if, because of St. Patrick's Season, many others aspire to join our ranks to march alongside us and pray with us all the while wearing AOH lapel pins and a smile.



Director's Report

By Bill Sullivan

Happy Irish Heritage Month!

We have all heard the expression, "Everyone is Irish on Saint Patrick's Day." With this thought in mind, the month of March gives us a great opportunity not only to celebrate our Irish culture, history and heritage, but to also use the Saint Patrick's Day season for recruitment of new members. Why not set up a membership table at all your March events? For some attendees, it just might be their first experience at an AOH event. For others, they may have heard about the AOH, but know little if anything about the organization. Let's keep in mind that many of those who attend Irish events probably have Irish ancestry and are potential AOH members.

My sincere sympathy to our brothers in Pennsylvania on the recent passing of two great Hibernians Brothers, Past National President Joe Roche, who passed on December 28, and Pennsylvania State Treasurer Glenn Cannon, who passed on January 20. I knew Joe Roche for more than 35 years and had the honor of Joe introducing me at the Atlantic City National Convention in 2016 at the Pennsylvania Caucus. His introduction was amazing, and I will always be thankful for his help and support over the years. May perpetual light always shine upon both these fine Hibernian Brothers.

The Clock is Ticking! The deadline for our scholarship application is fast approaching. Complete information on our \$1,000 AOH Irish Way Scholarship and our AOH \$2,000 Study Abroad Scholarships for a full year of Study in Ireland, as well as for our \$1,000 Semester Abroad Scholarships in Ireland, is now available on our AOH National Board Website. An Application Request Form for both these scholarships can also be found on our National Web site under the heading: Committees/Projects; Please click on the heading: Scholarships. All these scholarships are available to the children and grandchildren of AOH members.

In the last Hibernian Digest, we shared an email from one of the recipients of our 2019 Study Abroad Scholarships. This month we have a short note from Allyson Tracy, our 2019 Irish Way Scholarship Recipient. In her most recent note Allyson writes:

"Thank You! Words cannot express how grateful I am for your support for my trip last summer with the Irish Way Experience. While there I learned so much about the history and culture of Ireland. I felt very at home there, and this trip has inspired me to return in the future. This is truly a unique and special place in the world and thanks to you and your support I was able to see it."

As you can see from Allyson's note, just as we saw recently from our other scholarship recipients' comments, our scholarships can provide big dividends for our future!

Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to take part in a variety of AOH and Irish-related events, including state boards meetings in Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as County Board and Division meetings and Installations. I am happy to report that our Warwick Rhode Island Division is back on track with Steve Mulcahey at the helm as President. Our thanks to Rhode Island State President Tim Burns, AOH RI Past State President Wick Rudd and the entire RI AOH State Board for helping to make this happen. My best wishes to all for a Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Please contact me with comments or questions. williamsullivan@verizon.net

How to become a National Board Member, elected, appointed or committee member?

Now is the time to decide if you will be running for an elected office during the 2020 Ancient Order of Hibernian National Convention. There are four individually elected officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are also six directors elected at-large. Of the current elected directors, only one is eligible for re-election this year, Ed Halligan, from Pennsylvania. Now may be the time for you to stand for office on the National Board of the AOH.

There are several appointed offices available. If you would like to place your name in contention for any specific office, you can send your details, including a cover letter explaining your qualification for the appointment you seek, to our national secretary, Jere Cole, at: jcole4838@gmail.com. Jere will pass your information on to the new president who makes all national board appointments. You may wish to include a brief listing of your talents, experience and background with your letter. Please also detail if you wish to serve on a committee regardless of the chairmanship.

Constitutionally appointed officers include: Historian/Archivist, Organizer, Editor of the National Hibernian Digest, Chairman of Freedom for All Ireland Committee, Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Pro-Life, National Legal Counsel, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Veterans Affairs and Chairman of the Immigration Committee.

Additional officers traditionally appointed include: Notre Dame Scholarship fund, Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger, Webmaster and Rituals & Degrees Chairman.

Committees critical to our marketing and promotion include the Digest committee, a group of fabulous Hibernians that work together to edit the articles submitted to the Hibernian Digest. Working along-side the Hibernian Digest committee is the Marketing and Promotions committee. These committees combine to promote the work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at every Level. These brothers are the basis of membership retention and growth.

The Hibernian Digest, and the Label Program letter, are the only correspondence that reach each and every Hibernian personally. This highlights the importance of the work these brothers do.

The majority of the officer duties and responsibilities are listed on WWW.AOH.COM/aoh-job-descriptions/.

Please contact secretary Cole if you have any specific questions.



Director's report

By Dan Dennehy

On January 18, I participated in the NJ AOH State Board. I joined National Secretary Jere Cole in the presentation of AOH National Life Membership medallions to Past NJ State President Bill Young and National Treasurer Sean Pender. Malachy McAllister gave a great report to the body about his struggle to stay in the USA, and thanked his Brothers nationwide for their support. The previous week, Malachy, Sean Pender and I were on hand as the Nassau County Brehon Law Society honored Congressional Representatives Tom Suozzi and Peter King, two tireless supporters of Irish causes. We thanked Peter King, who is doing everything he can on Malachy's behalf in talks with the U.S. Executive Branch.

At the NJ AOH State Board meeting, Mercer County Division 10's Gerard O'Rahilly relayed that Gael Scoil had received their 2nd Irish Emigrant Support Program Heritage Grant, which funds their annual event. Division 10 wants this youth education program to spread across the AOH. The Gael Scoil is a two-day program educating children from 6-17 about Ireland. There are classes on food, history, language, music, dance, sports, etc., and instructors are volunteer musicians, championship dancers, university professors and authors. Learn more at www.gaelscoil.com

The plight of Emma DeSouza

National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and I attended the National Committee on American Foreign Policy discussion with Derry native Emma DeSouza. Ms. DeSouza has always identified as an Irish person, not British. She is fighting the British government, which is preventing her American husband's permission to live with her in Derry, and for her Irish identity. The case is testing the boundaries of Brexit and the Good Friday Agreement. The couple has broken no laws, here or there, and deserves their life together in the place of her birth. The British Home Office considers her marriage to an American inconsequential and launched an expensive legal army on them. At the same time, the young coffee shop operator must pay for her defense. Please stand up for the GFA, learn more, and help Emma DeSouza with their daunting legal fees at www.gofundme.com.

Save the Date! AOH New York County Division 7's 2020 Celtic Cruise in support of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center sets sail for 4 hours of sailing past NYC Skyline on Wednesday, June 10. Get info at www.celticcharity.com



National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and Dan Dennehy attended the National Committee on American Foreign Policy discussion with Derry native Emma DeSouza in February.



Project St. Patrick

By Vic Vogel, chairman

Each year, the spring months are designated for the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal. A \$500 contribution is the equivalent of a grant to a Seminarian or a Novitiate. As a Thank You from the Project St. Patrick Committee for making a generous donation of \$500 or more, a Certificate of Recognition will be awarded.

Your Division, County or State may consider offering \$50 in the name of a Chaplain, an Officer, a Hibernian of the Year, a Grand Marshal or any serving Honoree. Easter Appeal contributions are also appropriate in remembering a deceased member. Our Easter Appeal Grant Program is thankful for any donation you may offer, large or small.



Director's report

By John Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and Christian socialist, at a time when, according to him, "patriotism and national feeling was at low ebb." It was part of a movement to have American flags placed in every schoolhouse; a flag salute was intended for a Columbus Day celebration in schools across America. In 1942, the United States Congress officially recognized the Pledge for the first time. The official title "The Pledge of Allegiance" was adopted in 1945.

The Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution in 1951 to amend the Pledge of Allegiance as recited into their own meetings with the addition of the words "Under God" after the words "One Nation." In 1952, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, at its annual meeting, adopted a resolution to urge this change to the Pledge be made on a national level. They sent letters of request to the President, Vice President and Speaker of the House.

The Knights of Columbus repeated this resolution at its next annual meeting in 1953, with the addition of sending letters to every member of both Houses of Congress requesting this change. Many favorable replies were received; as a result, 17 resolutions were introduced to the House of Representatives to add "Under God" to the Pledge. Then, in 1954, one of these resolutions was adopted, passed by a Joint Resolution of Congress, and signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower on Flag Day, June 14.

On September 26, 2019, President Donald Trump said, "Every Child, Born and Unborn, is a Sacred Gift From God." He spoke at the United Nations General Assembly, before heads of state, diplomats and country delegations, in unprecedented remarks, saying: "Like many nations here today, we in America believe that every child - born and unborn - is a sacred gift from God."

On January 22, 2020, the President of the United States of America proclaimed January 22nd as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. He called on all Americans "to reflect on the value of our lives; to respond to others in keeping with their inherent dignity; to act compassionately to those with disabilities, infirmities, or frailties; to look beyond external factors that might separate us; and to embrace the common humanity that unites us."

At the 2020 March for Life two months ago in January, President Trump told the crowd, "Every Child Born and Unborn is a Sacred Gift from God." Perhaps it maybe the right time for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America to petition Congress and the President to add at the end of the Pledge of Allegiance, the words "Born and Unborn." I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, Born and Unborn.



Director's report

By Ed Halligan

On January 24, several Hibernian brothers and I boarded Amtrak to attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. We met up with the National Board and many other Hibernians, ladies and men. It was a great turnout. We had banners, pipers and a drummer. Each time I go it seems like the crowd is bigger than the year before. The number of young people is incredible. President Trump, the first President to address the March for Life crowd, said that the young people are the heart of the March for Life. They certainly are. You could feel their positive energy, and their behavior was brilliant. It would be nice to see even more Hibernians participate next year.

Soon we will be planning our St Patrick's Day festivities. As Hibernians it is our special time of year. For many non-Hibernians it is a time when they remember that they're Irish. They will be out there for the parades and will want to go where Irish music is being played. This is a great time to recruit. As we proudly show our being Irish, please remember that as Hibernians we are proud of our heritage and our being a Hibernian. There will be some that go overboard. Please assist them and make sure they are home safe. Over the years we have had to put up with too much negativity about the Irish. Let us not give our detractors any more ammunition or, worse, a "told-you-so" remark. Let's try and be like the young people in the March for Life. Be energetic and happy and show our pride for what the Irish and especially Hibernians have done to make our nation great.

Please remember in your prayers the Pennsylvania State Treasurer Glenn Cannon and his family. Glen passed on January 20. He worked in public safety for more than 40 years and was proud of his Irish heritage and of being a Hibernian.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Director's Report

By Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you well. I want to wish all of you a Happy and Blessed St. Patrick's Day. Every quarter or so, the six National Directors gather on a conference call to discuss different things going on in their parts of the country. One of the items that keeps coming up in our discussions is the need for members to know the job descriptions of elected Division officers. The elected Division officers are listed in the National Constitution, which is available at AOH.com. Does your Division have a plan in place of what is expected of incoming officers? This might be something you want to develop to ensure a successful transition. Please reach out to your State President, National Director or National Liaison with any questions. The email addresses for National Directors and Liaisons are listed on the inside cover of the Digest.

As we gather in our parades and attend our events in the next couple of weeks, remember that the AOH is the "voice of Irish America." This is a prime time for recruitment. What is your Division doing to recruit new members during Irish American Heritage Month? Does your City or State recognize March as Irish American Heritage Month? If not, reach out to your local governments to try and get a resolution recognizing the contributions of the Irish in your area.

In January, I had the chance to attend the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C., with brothers from across the country. This yearly event is a highlight on the Hibernian calendar. I urge you to try and attend this event next January. I would like to thank National Right to Life Chair J.P. Walsh for his hard work in setting up all the events that Hibernians attended.

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



Liaison Report

By Mike Joyce

Brothers, a dispatch from the Southwest.

Hibernians in the Southwest are busy prepping for the new year as budgets are being approved by local divisions in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. We boast the nation's youngest divisions and are beginning our transition from formation into carrying out the business of our noble Order, setting up new traditions, establishing regular meetings and experiencing growing pains that come with new life.

In my home division in Austin, Texas, the Brothers of the Msgr. McCabe 1 are gearing up for their 4th Annual Irish Stew Cookoff at B.D. Riley's Pub. This event has raised thousands for local charities CARITAS and the St. Gabriel Project over the past few years.

In Dallas/Fort Worth, the Brothers of Michael Collins 1 are in talks to participate in the Dallas St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as helping to organize a St. Patrick's Day celebration at Plaza Pub (owned by Brother Ed Redmund) in Arlington, Texas, on March 15.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Brothers of Bernalillo County 1 are set to help celebrate the 68th Annual Brother Mathias Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 17, with proceeds benefiting the Good Shepard Center.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Brothers of the Bobby Sands 1 are rallying Okie Irish for "A Celtic Rising" being hosted by the local VFW Post 577 with a veterans benefit concert on Feb. 1.

Finally, but never forgotten, the Brothers of Phoenix, Arizona, are rallying the community for a special screening of "A Proper Pint," a documentary by their very own Keven Siegert on March 9.

We look forward to joining our Brothers in Orlando this year at the National Convention. Current count has 6 making the trek from Texas and we'll update you as numbers come in.

In Our Motto,

Mike Joyce, Texas State President, National Liaison for the Southwest

Label Program Early Results, 4.8 percent member participation

Brothers, at the time of this article we have 1,438 members donate to this year's label program, which is a 4.8 percent participation rate. Our average donation is \$26.05. Please remember, no donation is too small or too large as it takes everyone working together to make the Ancient Order of Hibernians a success. We still remain \$7,000 short of last year's collection and 5.2 percent behind our 10 percent participation goal. Remember, every cent raised under the label program supports our National Charities.

Now it the time to join your participating brothers and make you label donation today. Make checks payable to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. and send to Danny O'Connell, AOH National Vice President, 340 E Kline Street, Girard, Ohio 44420. With your help, we can increase our participation to 10 percent.



Catholic Action

By John D. Fitzmorris III, Chairman

The Chair of Catholic Action shall be responsible for updating the Order on issues regarding the Catholic Church. The Chair shall collaborate with the Chaplain and maintain contact with the local (arch)diocese to keep abreast of all issues regarding the Catholic Church.

My profoundest thanks and gratitude to all Hibernians who joined in the Day of Prayer and Fasting in solidarity with the victims of sexual abuse. While it is only a start, I hope that our sacrifice will bring all of us closer to our brothers and sisters who have been traumatized by both the abuse and the resulting cover up.

Many Hibernians have inquired about the status of the canonization of the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen. According to Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria, Illinois, Sheen's hometown, Vatican officials have postponed the upcoming beatification of Archbishop Sheen. According to The National Catholic Reporter, Pope Francis, on Nov. 18, approved the beatification ceremony for the popular archbishop, whose television program attracted millions of viewers nationwide and continues to be viewed in reruns in some markets.

Calling the delay "unfortunate," the diocesan release outlined some of the activities for which Sheen was especially known, including "his personal dedication" to a Holy Hour of daily prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and "courage in confronting the challenges in our society."

"Drawing strength from his personal prayer life and deep devotion to Our Lord, Fulton Sheen consistently demonstrated tremendous courage in confronting the challenges in our society," the statement said. "He was well known for his boldness in preaching the Gospel on radio and on television in the face of our secular culture. This same spirit of courage and boldness guided him as a bishop to preach the truth, to defend the faith and to safeguard the church."

The Peoria Diocese also said "there continue to be many miracles reported" through the archbishop's intercession. The diocese said there have been "several" miracles reported since the pope's announcement of the beatification ceremony.

"Since a few members of the bishops' conference have requested a delay, the Diocese of Peoria remains confident that Archbishop Sheen's virtuous conduct will only be further demonstrated," the statement said. "Bishop Jenky has every confidence that any additional examinations will only further prove Fulton Sheen's worthiness of beatification and canonization."

Venerable Fulton John Sheen was a popular radio host of The Catholic Hour on NBC and then Life Is Worth Living and later The Fulton Sheen Program on television. He was born on May 8, 1895, in El Paso, Illinois, to Newton and Della Sheen. His roots trace back to Croghan, County Roscommon, Connacht, in Ireland. He survived infant tuberculosis to become valedictorian of his high school class in Peoria, Illinois, and then went to St. Viator College and St. Paul's Seminary in Minnesota where he was ordained in 1919. He then attended Catholic University of America, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. As a priest, Sheen hoped that Catholics would become more influential in their country through education, which would help attract others to the faith. He believed that Catholics should "integrate" their faith into the rest of their daily life.

Sheen was consecrated a bishop in 1951, becoming Auxiliary Bishop of New York. He then became Bishop of Rochester. He was well known for reaching out to other denominations to seek common ground, advocating for civil rights, and denouncing war. He resigned from his episcopate in Rochester and was then promoted to Archbishop. Fulton Sheen died on December 9, 1979, at the age of 84 in New York City.

The cause for Sheen's canonization was officially opened in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II. In June 2012, Pope Benedict XVI officially recognized a decree from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints stating that Sheen lived a life of "heroic virtues" – a major step toward beatification – and he is now referred to as "Venerable." On July 5, 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle that occurred through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, clearing the way for his beatification.

While the process has been halted, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has stated clearly that it in no way has anything to do with any allegations of sexual misconduct on the part of Sheen and that more investigation was simply needed.

The Hibernians join together with all the faithful in prayer for the beatification and then canonization of Fulton John Sheen, servant of the Church and a man of whom Pope St. John Paul II claimed: "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are a loyal son of the Church."

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Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Welcome to 2020 – a notable year in Irish history. This month's Echoes (at right) explains the Terrible Twenties of a century ago. It was also a time when the British tried to introduce Home Rule, which had been a carrot-on-a-stick in Irish politics since Parnell's time. However, to grant it, they would divide the country, keeping six counties from the rest of Ireland's Home Rule parliament even though a legal national plebiscite had voted for a 32-county union. That was the start of the troubles that plagued Northern Ireland for the rest of the century.

Then in this new century, another anniversary is recalled. After the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which only the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) refused to sign, a date of May 2000 was set for disarming of paramilitary groups. This wasn't achieved and 20 years ago, Britain imposed direct rule under the Northern Ireland Act suspending Stormont. A series of verified decommissioning by the IRA took place (in 2001, 2002 and 2003) and in July 2005, the IRA announced the end of its campaign. Not surprisingly, Loyalist decommissioning did not follow until June 2009 when the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) finally announced that it had completed decommissioning and the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) said it had only started to decommission; that wasn't confirmed until January 2010.

Now, ten years later in 2020, we have a reconstituted Stormont Assembly with DUP's obstinate leader, Arlene Foster, as First Minister, and Sinn Fein leader Michelle O'Neill as Deputy First Minister. One positive note is the inclusion of an Irish Language Commission, which, in effect, is the "century's long-overdue repeal of the remaining 1737 Penal Law," according to Conradh na Gaeilge. In accepting the position, Foster said, "Lessons have been learned," and we hope so; let's see if the ladies can do what the men couldn't and erase that cursed border!

Tribute to the fallen Brits? Ridiculous!

Can you believe that Dail Eireann Minister Charlie Flanagan wanted a ceremony to memorialize the British forces (Tans included) who were killed during the War of Independence? And he wanted it in Cork, of all places! The best thing to come out of the controversy he started with that suggestion was the return to the number-one spot on the Irish Charts of the decades old recording by the Wolfe Tones of "Come Out Ye Black and Tans." Believe it or not, he even criticized others for wearing the Easter Lily in memory of Irish patriots while he wore a poppy in memory of the Brits killed in WWI. In the spirit of unity, he wants to memorialize members of the DMP and RIC because some of them were Irish! We believe that his suggestion should be considered, but only after the United States erects memorials to the Weather Underground, the Manson family and Murder Incorporated – after all, they were all American!

In New York, write your state pols

A voice is needed now in NY State. In July, we wrote of the Irish hero, Hercules Mulligan, and the proposal to name an existing un-named bridge in lower Manhattan for him. The Bowling Green Association, which proposed the legislation, needs letters to elected representatives in Albany to get Governor Cuomo to sign it. We hope our New York members will seek their political leaders support. For more on Mulligan, see:

<http://www.nyaoh.com/2019/08/24/historical-happenings-for-july-2019/>

Congratulations to Congressmen Peter King and Tom Suozzi on being honored by the Nassau County, NY, Brehon Society. These men were always there when a voice was needed in D.C. to promote an Irish issue.

As a great house needs a strong foundation, a great heritage needs one too. For our Irish Heritage that foundation is the history of a people who persevered despite adversity and contributed beyond expectation. During Irish Heritage Month, educate those who should know our history, but don't!

Until next time, God bless, keep well and keep the traditions alive.

How to Change Your Official AOH Name, Address and E-Mail

Now is the time to verify that your name and address are correct in the National Office. This can be done online by your Division Financial Secretary or your Division President. The National Office uses the information provided by your local division for your membership card, your Hibernian Digest address, and your annual return address labels. Also critical is a proper email address.

Currently, we have 10 percent of our members' email addresses. Do we have the correct email for you? If you do not received email from the National Board, please have your Financial Secretary update your email address today!

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

Echoes of Irish History

by Mike McCormack, National Historian

The Terrible Twenties

In January 1919, a post-war election gave 73 of 105 parliamentary seats to Sinn Fein. They chose to meet in Dublin, form their own Parliament, and Dail Eireann was born. That put them beyond British control and, despite being lawfully elected, Britain declared them illegitimate. However, the Irish people supported them since the first Dail meeting restated support for an Irish Republic. Former Irish Volunteers, Hibernian Rifles and Irish Citizen Army combined into an Army of that new Republic and the original IRA was born. The British tried to suppress Dail Eireann with the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) and the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), but fund raising in Ireland and America organized by Michael Collins kept the Dail solvent. The IRA attacked RIC barracks for arms which caused RIC men to resign and recruitment fell off. Those remaining RIC swore to kill the Irish Republic in its infancy, but they were too few.

Then, in 1920, the Crown implemented one of the most brutal policies in modern history. Needing more RIC men, Churchill recruited returning military from WWI. They received 12-weeks training – hardly sufficient to convert a battlefield mentality to policing functions, as their heavy-handed tactics against the civilian population soon showed. They arrived in March and needing uniforms, were given military khaki pants and dark RIC jackets; the Irish called them "Black and Tans" from a similar-colored breed of hounds. It became immediately apparent they were more familiar with annihilating an enemy than protecting civilians. Rather than seeking Republican forces, they treated the entire population as the enemy since they all supported the Dail. The Tans instituted a policy of property destruction, assassinations and indiscriminate shootings to instill fear in the population. Their brutality only amplified support for the IRA.

Despite the fact that some DMP and RIC were Irish themselves, they received no sympathy since they chose to wear the uniform of the oppressor and fight against their homeland and its citizens. In mid-1920, Churchill, seeing that the Tans weren't gaining the upper hand, further militarized the RIC by creating an Auxiliary Division from ex-officers. However, they weren't what Churchill expected as most upper-class officers had returned to successful civilian lives and what he got were mainly lower-class men with battlefield commissions. The Auxies, as they were called, surpassed the Black and Tans in brutality. Drive-by shootings and looting were common, women were head-shaved and raped, and entire towns like Balbriggan were destroyed. They even burned Cork City center to the ground and afterward, wore a piece of burnt cork in their caps to taunt the Irish.

Stories of RIC brutality, as Black and Tans and Auxies, were recorded by those who lived through the Terrible Twenties and have been preserved in Ireland's military archives, and are available online ([militaryarchives.ie/index of witnesses](http://militaryarchives.ie/index-of-witnesses)) and on You Tube; I urge you to check them out because these Irish deserve to be remembered. They are all at rest now, 100 years later, and we pray that they will never be forgotten for they stood tall for Irish freedom despite the brutality imposed on them by Britain's DMP and RIC.



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immigration

By Dan Dennehy, chairman

The AOH National Immigration Committee continues to pursue legislation for the Irish, end visa denials for Irish people, North and South, assist Irish immigrants of all ages through support of the Irish Immigration Centers, and to help Brother Malachy McAllister and his family remain in the U.S. In 2020, the Hibernian Immigration Committee is working with the Irish embassy and consulates, Irish immigration centers, U.S. and Irish political leaders and fellow Irish American organizations on many of these goals, maintaining our position as the Voice of Irish America.

Are you visiting Dublin in 2020? EPIC (the Irish Emigration Museum) is a must-see for everyone. In 2019, a new museum, EPIC, located at Customs House Quay on the Liffey River, was named Europe's leading tourist attraction. During our family visit to Ireland this Christmas, we spent a memorable two hours experiencing this modern, interactive museum. EPIC has appeal to all ages, and it explores all aspects of Ireland, her people, and their impact on America and the rest of the world. You may even learn more about your Irish roots at its Family History Center. I highly recommend all Hibernians place this immersive museum at the top of their Dublin visit Bucket List. Learn more here: <https://epicchq.com>

Hibernians welcome our newest U.S. Citizens

Across America, our Hibernian halls are centers of Irish American culture and hospitality, often the first stop for our Irish immigrants through the years. One Hibernian hall, named for our only Irish American Catholic president, John F Kennedy Division 1, regularly extends its great hospitality to immigrants from across the globe, helping them and their families celebrate a most memorable day. The Schenectady Hibernian Hall has been hosting swearing-in ceremonies for new American citizens for many years. This January, 57 new citizens were sworn in by NYS Supreme Court Judge Christine Clark. The Albany County NY, Schenectady Hibernians gave a post-swearing-in reception for the new citizens and their loved ones. We thank our brothers and sisters in Schenectady for their beautiful patriotic gesture. Visit them at www.aohjfk.org

I hope every Division has named an Immigration chair; we have much work to do this year. Also, as we are in Saint Patrick's season, we ask every Hibernian to express dismay at over 50 years of continued inequity toward the Irish in U.S. immigration law, to their legislators. An example of this: Fewer than 60 Irish applicants received DV Lottery Visas last year! We were founded to defend Irish immigrants, and our work is not finished.



Bipartisan support

At a gathering of the Brehon Law Society in Nassau County, New York, on January 22, U.S. Representatives Tom Suozzi and Peter King were praised for their bipartisan support for Irish Unity and continued support for Malachy McAllister's fight to remain in the United States. National AOH Director Dan Dennehy, left in both photos, and National AOH Treasurer Sean Pender, right in both photos, pose with Democratic Congressman Suozzi and his wife, Helene; and with NJ AOH Immigration Chair Malachy McAllister and Republican Congressman King.



organizer

By Tim McSweeney

And the madness begins. The St. Patrick's Day is primetime to showcase our organization to the public. All divisions will be involved in parades, dinners, concerts and various other cultural events. These events provide us prime opportunities for recruitment. Efforts need to be made to expand your membership. The Organizer resource page on the National AOH.com website provides you with posters, information brochures and applications. The more public exposure we can give our Order, the more new members your division will likely be able to recruit.

An under-utilized selling point is the charitable works that we do. Highlight your division's charitable giving and good deeds. New potential members will be informed by and attracted to posters and handouts of your division's charitable work. This strategy targets young and old potential members and allows you to stand out from your run-of-the-mill Irish American clubs.

Our online application program continues to be a success. On a daily basis, applications from across the country are received. This has resulted in continued growth nationally.

Recruitment tip of the Month:

- Simple and easy- make up buttons worn by division members that say "Irish? Catholic? Let's talk" These buttons act as an ice breaker with potential members. Also could be put on a T-shirt.



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

DON'T LET THEM DOWN!!!
AOH-LAOH FFAI Christmas Appeal
PO Box 904
Jefferson Valley, New York 10535

Christmas Appeal

There is still time to contribute to Freedom for all Ireland and the Christmas Appeal. The Stormont Assembly was restored after three years, but the British government stepped back from its financial pledges putting the north in a new austerity trap. Brexit was pushed through with long term effects on Ireland that will not be fully seen for years.

Legacy mechanisms promised at Stormont House in 2014 will finally be moved forward, but only after the British and DUP have blocked truth and justice for families of victims murdered by the crown or loyalist agents. The British want to remove Human Rights Acts protections formally written into the Good Friday Agreement, giving a legalized immunity for British troopers. The DUP wants to undercut investigations of crown forces by the Historical Investigations Unit.

Those still denied freedom in Ireland count on the AOH and LAOH to stand behind them. Those who participated in last February's AOH-LAOH tour saw and heard firsthand how important our grants are.

We have already received more appeals for help than ever before from justice groups, ex-prisoners, cultural groups, etc.

Register now for Presidential Forum, April 26th

At one time, it was commonplace at Irish events to hear speakers ask why American presidents never addressed Irish issues like they took up the issues of other countries. That ended in 1992, because of the work done by John Dearie and the pledges given by candidate Bill Clinton, which changed politics in Ireland so dramatically.

The 1992 Presidential Forum was historic for Irish America because of pledges given by future President Bill Clinton about a visa for Gerry Adams, a special envoy (who became George Mitchell), and the question about Joe Doherty and political asylum, which led to deferred action for Irish political deportees like Matt Morrison, Gabriel Megahey and Brian Pearson, etc.

The most important step in any Irish political forum is guaranteeing a big enough crowd so that presidential candidates feel it necessary to make time to speak about our Irish issues. Former Assemblyman John Dearie has asked the AOH for help. National President Judge McKay will be one of the panelists. Please register for the event by emailing IrishForum2020@gmail.com and include your name and telephone number. It will be held at 1 p.m., April 26, at Fordham Law School, on West 62nd Street, New York.



John Dearie discussing Presidential Forum at New York State Board FFAI Fundraiser.

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political education

By neil cosgrove, chairman

After a long period of frenzied activity, things have been unintentionally quiet on the political scene; sadly not because we have no challenges, but because continuing controversies and divisiveness in our country and, as of this writing, an upcoming election in Ireland have consumed all the energies of both governments. While yielding to the current pragmatics, we must be prepared to begin engaging with our elected officials with redoubled energy when our opportunity arises.

It is imperative in this upcoming election year that we as Irish Americans and Hibernians make our voices heard. To make clear that despite the divisiveness and emotions gripping our nation, we as Hibernians must remain issue- and not party-focused, and remember that our constitution precludes any endorsement of any candidate or party. That said, we can, when the opportunity presents itself, ask those who are asking for our vote where they stand on the issues that concern us. Do they support the right to life from inception till natural death? Are they aware that 22 years on, that many of the commitments of the U.S.-brokered Good Friday Agreement are yet to be fulfilled and what actions do they feel that the U.S. as a co-guarantor of the agreement should take? Are they aware that for 2020 that Ireland, both the Republic and Northern Ireland, received only 32 visas out of a potential 55,000 Diversity Visas, less than the nation of Djibouti at 59? What is their commitment to addressing this inequity?

Our worthy National President will be a panelist at an upcoming Irish American Presidential candidate's forum; it is vital we support him and this program of engagement. We should take note of the candidates' positions on the issues, and particularly take note of any candidate should they decide that engaging with Irish America is not a priority.

This is the year of the 2020 census. This year, the question of "ethnic origin" will be returning. I know that in speaking to Hibernians there should be no need for encouragement to list "Irish" as your origin, but it is critical to talk to our friends, neighbors and specifically young people to recognize their Irish heritage on their census forms. "The first lesson of politics is learning how to count"; there are particular agendas that would seek to strip us of our ethnic heritage, claiming that "Irish America has melted away," so that they can marginalize the issues that are important to us. Do not let that happen, do not just say "I'm proud to be Irish" on St. Patrick's Day; say it on the census.



veterans affairs

By jim green, chairman

I've been coming across tons of resources, or have been provided information by Veterans Affairs chairmen, to assist our Hibernian and non-Hibernian veterans alike. A great provider of information can be easily at your fingertips by signing up for a weekly "VetResources" newsletter, as provided by the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs, at www.VA.gov/VetResources. The weekly email publication opens the window to many articles and sources on everything from free concert tickets to free flu shots, National Park passes and the "VA Welcome Kit." The kit can be downloaded and is a guide for access to the benefits and services you've earned - whether you're just getting out of the service or have been a civilian for years. Also available through links in the newsletter is access to things like the National Resource Directory at www.nrd.gov. This site offers information on NRD-highlighted programs for our military, veterans and families. Categories include, but are not limited to, Benefits & Compensation, Education & Training, Employment, Homeless Assistance, Health Care and many others.

On a number of occasions in past articles, I've referred to AOH Veterans Affairs chairman Danny Eakins, of Patrick Pearse Division 1 in Columbus, Ohio. Danny is a huge resource to not only his Division brothers, but also to me. Danny's "day job" is as Veterans Affairs Director for the State of Ohio. But I've now been informed by brother Tim McSweeney that the AOH in Albany, New York, has recruited and sworn in New York State Director of Veterans Services - brother (Colonel) Jim McDonough. Brothers like Danny and Jim are a God-send to us because of their experience and access to the latest veteran-support information. We will all benefit from their knowledge and experience as they share information with me that I can share with you. Thank you, brother Danny, for all you continue to do, and welcome brother Jim! I look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to share some of your valuable information with our brother veterans.

As always, there continues to be tremendous interest in the Hibernian Veterans Pin. In case you're still not aware of how to order them, 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. Orders are placed with the National Secretary's office and will be shipped directly to you. Please consider presenting these pins to your veteran brothers, as they have been found to be very meaningful to them and a source of great pride for them and for the Division. I highly recommend it!

As I close the article for this issue, I am mindful that we are entering our St. Patrick's Day season and Lent. My prayer for us all is that we hold our celebrations and observances with pride and humility, remembering who we are and what we stand for in our American communities. May God keep you and your families safe, and may your celebrations reflect our Irish Catholic and Hibernian values and principles. And may God bless all of our active, retired and veteran members of our Armed Forces.

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



hibernian hunger project

By paul gowdy, chairman

The first Annual Hunger Project took place in March 2003 at the direction of then National President Ned McGinley. He was requesting local participation by every Division, County and State Board. His goal was to encourage AOH Boards to get busy and begin "Hunger" projects in their communities.

"This project should reach completion by March 31, 2003. Such a project was an opportunity for the AOH to:

Fight hunger at a time when food banks and kitchens around the United States are at a low ebb as winter ends;

Display the Irish Diaspora's vested interest in hunger; and educate citizens in the United States about An Gorta Mor (Great Hunger) in Ireland;

Demonstrate the natural generosity of the Irish to share with others;

Combat by a positive act the negative displays of the "green beer," "plastic hat" pseudo Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

Please join the total effort with a project in your local area, county and state. Remember that our Hibernian motto reminds us to practice 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.'

March is the Hibernian Hunger Project Month

This was decreed by Brother McGinley in 2003. One of his goals was to make the month of March nationally, the Irish American month. The goal is to educate other Americans about Ireland and the role Irish Americans play in our communities. In recent years, the Hibernian Hunger Project has become a vehicle for displaying our humanity and charity. If you do not currently have a Hunger project, I urge you to commence a project, no matter how big or small, in your community.

Please share with me any existing or new Hunger projects that your AOH board is currently active in. I would like to share your efforts with our Hibernian brothers at the upcoming AOH National Convention in Florida.

Also, if you have a Hunger appointee on your AOH board, please forward their name and contact details to me as soon as possible.

My contact details are on page 2 of the Hibernian Digest. Thank You.



anti defamation

By neil cosgrove, chairman

Rather sadly, I am aware that we will soon be celebrating our pride in our heritage and honoring our Patron Saint Patrick, but also that this is the start of Irish defamation season.

We recently have written several letters to Amazon concerning their sale of an F*ck St. Patrick's Day shirt (note that the expletive is spelled out on the shirt), which they describe as the "Perfect anti St Patrick's Day shirt for those sick of all the wannabe Irish making excuses for getting drunk."

Now let us be clear. This is not a matter of a \$17 shirt; it is about the attitude to our heritage and culture. Does anyone think for a moment that Amazon would sell an "F*ck Cinco de Mayo" shirt for "all the wannabe Mexicans making excuses for getting drunk"? Of course not. We all realize that "political correctness" has gone to extremes, but we are not being "snowflakes" getting on our ear over something that is only worthy of an eye-roll or a groan; there is a big difference between a Leprechaun with a beer mug and "F*ck St. Patrick's." When Amazon continuously virtue signals on tolerance and diversity and goes to extremes not to offend other heritages while still selling an item this blatantly offensive to the Irish, they are indeed sending a clear message that there is no heritage or culture here. Before anyone says, "we know better," a declining "we" is not enough; "we" have to show that "we" still have pride and care enough to defend our heritage.

Allowing yourself to be insulted is not a sign of "broad shoulders" or "we can take it"; it is a sign of apathy and indifference. What message is being sent to our young people when the accomplishments of other heritages are extolled and "diversity and inclusion" curricula tells them they should be rightfully respectful, and yet our heritage is something that can be defamed with impunity? Rather than proving "we are bigger than this," it shows that some have been covered by hypocrites who would create a tier system of respect in the name of "diversity."

Brothers, there is a reason that our indoctrination Oath to the Hibernians includes a long section on "not countenance.... anything that may reasonably be interpreted as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people." Our forebears were not humorless people, and yes, they indeed could laugh at themselves, but they had seen first hand how stereotypes and caricatures could be deployed to justify the need for foreign rule in Ireland and the locking of doors to employment and political access in America. They still have the power to marginalize and dismiss Irish concerns. "It's only a shirt"? Then why is the handing out of T-shirts among the prime tools in any marketing managers campaign?

Brothers, as we approach Irish American Heritage Month (not "green season") I wish you a joyful celebration of our Heritage, honoring the memory of our forebears, their accomplishments and how far we have come. The Hibernians are not a temperance society; there is nothing wrong in celebration to a responsible adult enjoying an adult beverage responsibly. Let us remember that to be Irish is a blessing, to be a Hibernian an honor, and be good ambassadors for our heritage while fighting those who would promote in the 21st century the bigoted clichés of the 18th or see St. Patrick's day reduced to the words of another Amazon product "Let's Get Drunk and Blame the Irish."



RITUALS & DEGREES

By Jack Schneider, Chairman

As we enter that most wonderful season of our Patron Saint, I thought I would share my personal recollections of achieving the status of a Degreed Hibernian in the hope of inspiring other Brothers to take their Major Degree and be welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernian Brotherhood.

The year was 2003. I had recently participated in the induction ceremony of a new AOH division in the northern Philadelphia suburbs and had taken the Oath. It was very exciting to be part of a new enterprise and a charter member. We had some Brothers with experience and longevity in the Order transfer into the new division. They encouraged us newbies to take something called the "Major Degree" as soon as we could. Okay. Why not! Might as well go all in. We were advised one needed to do so if one wanted to be an Officer in the Order. We of course asked, well, "What is it?" The only answer given with a smirk was "Wear clean underwear and comfortable shoes." Typical Irish response.

A few weeks passed. We were advised that there was an upcoming Major Degree ceremony at the Fireman's Union Hall in Philadelphia, about 40 miles away from our home base. I marked the date on my calendar. Some outfit by the name of the "Isle of Erin Major Degree Team" would be in charge of the proceedings.

Sunday, April 27, 2003, was a beautiful, sunny spring day in the Delaware Valley. I awoke with considerable excitement and some trepidation given the unknown, and made the hour or so drive down to Center City Philly not knowing what lay ahead.

Upon arrival, I recall running into some men in kilts in the parking lot. "Fine day for a Degree!" one said. I heard the sounds of a bagpipe warming up in the distance. This looks like some serious stuff.

Our large class of over 100 candidates was initially greeted by the imposing visages of Brothers I would later come to know by name as Marty Giblin and Verne T. Leedom. They made quite an impression. Later, we were led before the erudite elders of the team, Brothers Jim Murphy, Frank Mahoney, Ed Wallace and Jim Cunnion, who, with soaring oration, imparted great tales of Ireland's glorious past and inspiring visions of its future. Sadly, Verne, Frank and Jim Cunnion passed in recent years.

Finally, the ceremony concluded, and we were heartily welcomed into full brotherhood within the Order. It was a whirlwind of much information, imagery and thoughts to ponder. I recall being most impressed and somewhat awestruck by the skill and passion exhibited by the Degree Team in the conduct of the ceremony, little realizing that one day I myself would become a member.

Afterwards, we were treated to the usual Post-Degree craic session. Although somewhat tired as it was a long day, I felt very content and glad I had participated as suggested. It is always my favorite part of any Degree Day when the newly conferred candidates, veteran observers and the exemplifying Degree Team join as one in sharing that special camaraderie of the Order.

It would be another two and half years until I actually "answered the calling" and joined the Isle of Erin Team, quite by accident. I now count among my best and closest friends on the planet my fellow Degree Team Brothers.

Another 13 years hence, in August 2018, I received a phone call from our National President asking if I'd be interested in leading all the National Degree Teams as National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees. One never knows the path one will be called to follow within the Order. And it all started in my case with the taking of my Major Degree.

I invite you to join us on the Path of Knowledge that is our Major Degree Ceremony. You never know where that Path might lead you.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order:

Virginia. Sat., March 28. Virginia State Board Meeting. Brian Boru MDT (VA) exemplifying.

Philadelphia, PA. Sat., April 4; Noon – Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Center, 6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA. Isle of Erin MDT (PA) exemplifying. www.theirishcenter.com; www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm

Orlando, FL. Sat., April 18. – Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. Florida State Board Meeting. Innisfail MDT (FL) exemplifying.

Youngstown, OH. Sat., April 25 – Hibernian Hall, 5110 Southern Blvd., Youngstown, OH. Tri Abhainn MDT (PA) exemplifying.

For additional details, please see the Rituals and Degrees subpage on the National Website at www.aoh.com.

May he rest in peace



Joseph Anthony Roche, Past National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award recipient, passed away on December 28, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland.

He was born in 1935 in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, and attended Central Catholic High School, Duquesne University and Johns Hopkins University. He was honorably discharged from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

He began his career in Pittsburgh, with a stop in Detroit, before landing his family in the Maryland countryside. It was there that where he and his wife, Lucille, raised their six children, many dogs and an assortment of horses.

Joe had a successful 43-year career with Monumental Life Insurance Company in Baltimore.

He was proud of his children, and their children, and their children. He enjoyed traveling, listening to Irish music and devoting his time to the AOH in various appointed and elected positions, including National President. He was proud of his work for the Order, including creating the first division in Alaska. He spent much time testifying before Congress on behalf of many Irish causes. He was the recipient of the prestigious Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille Margaret O'Neill; his daughter, Susan Roche Peters (Stephen); and his brother, John Thomas (Jack) Roche.

He is survived by his children, Colleen Roche Gizinski (Bob) of Joppa, Maryland; Kim Ann Roche (Steve) of Baltimore; Mary Pat Roark, of Plano, Texas; Luanne Roche (Mark), of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania; and Joseph Roche (Stephanie) of Baldwin; grandchildren Brian, Katie, Michael, Patrick, Stephen, Kelly and Connor; great grandchildren Lizzy, Jack and Michael. He is also survived by many cousins and friends across the U.S. and Ireland.

(This is an edited version of an obituary that was published in the Baltimore Sun.)

The Passing of a Great Hibernian

By National President James McKay

Recently, we were all saddened by the passing of Brother Joe Roche, a two-term Past National President. Joe was no ordinary guy. When he entered a room, his presence was immediately felt. I remember Joe visiting New Orleans in 1977, as National Organizer, to address some members from Louisiana who had stopped communicating with our National Board. I was a young Hibernian and marveled at the way that Joe handled these "old guard" Hibernians who did not appreciate being told that they were not doing their job. By the time Joe had left, these men were all smiling with one another and whether they realized it or not, Joe had started a new era in the long history of the Hibernians in Louisiana. There are countless stories about Joe, but not enough Digest space, and his love of all things Irish.

Joe had a successful 43-year career with an insurance company out of Baltimore, Maryland, and it was there that he spent the majority of his life with his late wife, Lucille, and their six children. Joe and Lucille were very proud of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was also very proud of his "other career," the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He held a variety of positions within our organization, including National Organizer and Chairman of FFAI, and finally wound up serving as National President for two terms.

Joe is survived by his children, Colleen, Kim Ann, Mary Pat, Luanne and Joseph Roche. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. During Joe's funeral, our Hibernian Brothers in the Baltimore area were able to mobilize and have a proper prayer service at his Bier, which would have made him proud.

Rest in peace my good friend, until we meet again on the other side.

Thomas D. McNabb Memorial Convention Scholarship

Tom McNabb was known as the Hibernian's Hibernian. If you looked up the word Hibernian in a dictionary you would most likely see his photo. Tom served the Order as National President and then National Secretary for 30 years. Most importantly, Tom understood the importance of the AOH National Convention. In honor of Tom's service, the AOH National Board is sponsoring Convention Package Scholarships for young upcoming members who will be in attendance for the 2020 National Convention in Orlando.

Division, County, State and National Presidents may nominate any member under 40 years of age who is planning to attend the National Convention in Orlando. Members and their division must be in good standing as of February 15, 2020 to be

eligible.

Each nomination should be sent to National Vice President Danny O'Connell, at djoconnell@ysu.edu. Place McNabb Scholarship in the subject line. Nominations should not exceed 500 words and should explain why this member deserves a scholarship. Please include number of years of membership, offices held, national conventions attended, state conventions attended and any additional information that makes this member worthy.

Scholarship winners will be expected to attend all convention functions, including the meetings and functions, and will be recognized during the general session.

Colorado



Hibernians serve as coaches in inner-city Denver. The Father Joseph P. Carrigan Division, in Colorado, got involved in the basketball coaching business this fall at Annunciation Catholic School. Carrigan Division members, back row, from left, Tom Tearney and Joe Wolters, have coached these 6th-grade boys deep into the season with the final results still pending. Go Cardinals!



Colorado's Carrigan Division rededicates charter. The Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division rededicated its charter on December 17. The charter, which had been stored away for many years, was installed in the room where the division conducts its monthly meeting at The Celtic on Market in downtown Denver. The charter was dated February 24, 2001. Celebrating the rededication and administering the blessing was Carrigan Chaplain Fr. Charles Polifka, OFM, Cap, left. Unveiling the charter were, from left, Patrick Maguire, presently a Colorado/ Carrigan member and serving as the division's treasurer, and his wife, Angela, a longtime LAOH member. The Maguires, who recently relocated to Denver, are known for their service to the AOH and LAOH across the nation—mostly in Michigan and New Jersey, with both of them holding numerous titles in both states. Assisting them is John Aylward, former Carrigan division president and a re-founding member of the Carrigan Division. John is also a Colorado paramedic and responder/firefighter.



Carrigan Division serves Transitional Housing Women at the Samaritan House. On the fourth Thursday of each month, brothers of the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division serve the evening meal to 150 of the transitional women's homeless population in downtown Denver at Samaritan House. Scooping up the grub for the women are, from left, Brothers John Queen, Jim Chappell, Mike Sheridan, Dr. Mike Boyd and longtime Hibernian friend and diaconate candidate George Lenihan.

Alabama

For the last few years, the Father Treacy Division has had two charity events in January, usually at the beginning and end of the month. In 2020, due to timing, both events were held on the same night and both were successful. The first event was hosted by the Maggie McGuinness Pub and was a concert featuring Marc Gunn — a fun and entertaining artist who regularly performs at renaissance festivals and sci-fi conventions, bringing traditional Irish and Scottish songs mixed with science fiction and fantasy themes. This concert kicks off the year as the division gears up for their annual Live Bald charity event raising funds for St. Baldrick's Childhood Cancer Research. This year, the concert was well attended to include some brothers and many more bringing awareness to the division's Live Bald event at the end of March.

In addition, the division normally teams with the Maggie McGuinness Pub to offer a live auction item for "An Irish Evening" to include a private whiskey tasting for 10 at the large fundraiser put on by parents of Holy Spirit Catholic School for their school. This year, some brothers were at the fundraiser and the live auction item brought in \$2,000 with all of it going to support Holy Spirit School. We are humbled by the graciousness of our community and look forward to continuing to support these two worthy causes.



At the Father Treacy Division, Whiskey Auction, from left, Michael Bollinger, Marc Gunn and Lisa Bollinger.

South Carolina

The Harp & Shamrock Division 1 in Greenville, South Carolina, continues to reach out and support the local community as well as people overseas.

AOH Greenville's donation committee recently selected four worthy charitable organizations to support through donations and publicity to inform citizens of organizations improving the life for people everywhere, spiritually and physically.



The Monastery of St. Clare provides a quiet, powerful and prayerful presence in South Carolina offering spiritual direction and space for solitude and prayer. Although each monastery is autonomous in governance, all are united with over 17,000 Poor Clares in 900 monasteries in more than 70 countries throughout the world, including 33 monasteries in the United States.



A very quiet but needed service is provided by Safe Harbor of Greenville through its continuum of services for victims of domestic violence and their children, and to eliminate cultural acceptance of domestic violence through a coordinated community response, prevention and education.

Virginia

Irish Cultural Center established

Immediate Past State President Bill Halpin established The Irish Culture Center of Virginia, Inc., a 501c(3) charitable organization, to support Virginia AOH and LAOH projects with tax free donations. Our first Irish Heritage project is The Colonel John Fitzgerald Monument.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, in collaboration with the Basilica of St. Mary, plan to place a life-size bronze statue of Colonel John Fitzgerald (1740-1799) on Basilica of St. Mary property in Alexandria, Virginia. This initiative directly supports the National AOH objective of "raising monuments of famed Irish or Irish-Americans" as indelible reminders of our Irish Heritage. Fitzgerald, an 18th century immigrant from Wicklow, Ireland, made enduring contributions to the fabric of our Irish-American heritage. Fitzgerald's accomplishments and contributions:

- Revolutionary War hero, wounded at Monmouth
- George Washington's aide de camp and lifelong confidant
- Founding Father of the first Catholic Church in Virginia, today's Basilica of St. Mary. George Washington was the first donor
- Prominent Alexandria business and civic leader
- Alexandria City Mayor and City Council member
- Port of Alexandria customs collector (origin of U.S Customs Service)
- President of the Potomac Company - accomplished major engineering breakthroughs to link the Potomac River to the Ohio River.
- Founder of the Bank of Alexandria
- Founder of Alexandria's first library
- Financial supporter of the Alexandria Academy for Orphans
- Prominent Catholic when Catholicism was illegal in the Virginia colony

Irish Culture Center of Virginia Vice President Terry Riley presented this plan and project to National AOH President, Judge Jim McKay who endorsed the effort and encourages all Hibernians across the nation to support the project.

The estimated cost of the statue is \$80,000. To achieve our goal we need your donations — your participation is essential. The Irish Culture Center of Virginia, Inc. is a 501c(3) charitable organization. All donations – monetary or real estate – are tax deductible. To donate, please visit our website: <https://irishcultureva.org>

If you are 70½ or older and unable to itemize deductions, you can reduce taxable income with the Tax Free IRA Rollover. This is the perfect charitable gift. To do this it is extremely important that the donation is handled by the custodian/manager of your IRA prior to taking your RMD!

The Irish Cultural Center of Virginia, Inc. encourages the advancement of Irish heritage, culture, history, language, music, dance, visual arts and Gaelic games. The organization's Board of Directors are AOH/LAOH members and receive no compensation. Our by-laws require the incumbent AOH and LAOH state presidents be invited to join the Board of Directors.



National AOH President McKay, second from left, congratulated Virginia Hibernians on establishment of The Irish Culture Center of Virginia, Inc., a 501c(3) charitable organization, and their initiative to erect a monument honoring Irish American hero Colonel John Fitzgerald, Founding Father of the first Catholic Church in Virginia, the Basilica of St. Mary, in Alexandria. From left, Terry Riley, Judge McKay, Jay McCarthy and Jim Courtney. Photo ©johnconnell@mac.com

California



News from Ventura County. John McNally was elected president of Ventura California's Easter Rising Division 1, and is pictured here at the installation meeting. In 2019, the division added three new members, and mourned the passing of one member. In March, the division will lead Ventura's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

I begin this Connecticut report by eating crow, but I must say that I am happy to do so. In the last issue of the Digest, I stated that the John Downey Division of New Britain had become defunct and was no longer holding annual, November ceremonies at our nation's oldest monument dedicated to the memory of President John F. Kennedy. I was mistaken! I wish to correct the record by quoting Brother Thomas Higgins, Past Financial Secretary and Historian of the AOH in New Britain: ... "the John Downey Div. 1 from New Britain, while in transition and being smaller in numbers since the closure of our club room, are still meeting as a group. While uncertain of our long-term future we are certain of one thing — the statements you made about the annual JFK recognition are in error. Not only have we never missed this day, but we also had a banner turn out on Friday, the 22nd. The event began with a brief benediction and wreath-laying at the oldest public monument to JFK, erected and dedicated in New Britain in 1964. Local political leaders and members of the community attended this 55th consecutive recognition ceremony, and both the AOH and LAOH shared a post ceremony repast at BPO Elk's 957 in New Britain..... perhaps you might clarify this small error and let our brothers and sisters know the New Britain AOH and the city's Irish have no plans to discontinue this integral piece of our history."

It is heartening to learn that the Hibernians of New Britain are still looking to the future. In that vein, they are honoring John T. Downey, the man their Division is named after. John T. Downey is an American hero who spent 20 years in a Chinese Communist prison as punishment for helping to defend his country during the Korean War. After his release he returned to Connecticut and became a judge. Long live his memory and the John T. Downey Division 1 of New Britain!

Past State President & AOH Retreat Coordinator Dave Howe announces: "our annual pilgrimage to the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center will take place during the weekend of March 27-29, 2020. The Retreat Theme: "Our Deepest Longing." Explore that deep longing for peace planted in our hearts by God. The Retreat Center can be reached by calling (860) 521-0440 or info@hollyfamilyretreat.org to register."

The John F. Kennedy Division of Bridgeport will hold their 70th annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 1. The keynote speaker from New York is John Dearie. Ryan Mahoney will give an update on the status of the Great Hunger Museum.

Congratulations and good wishes to Joe Keeley of Waterbury and Fran DePeter of New London on being newly installed as new Division Presidents.

In November, Danbury Hibernians received a thorough update on the Brexit situation from Brother Michael K Needham of Crossmaglen, County Armagh, and New Fairfield.

Stamford and Connecticut Hibernians were saddened by the recent death of Joe Butler at age 91. Joe was a great Hibernian who devoted much of his life to the AOH. One Brother Hibernian at his wake said, "he was a character with character." I first became friendly with Joe at the 1972 AOH National Convention that was held in his native city of Dublin. He was a man of principle who always spoke his mind. Just four years ago, when in declining health himself, Joe travelled from Stamford to Bethel on a cold winter night to attend the wake of my late wife Kitty. May God Rest His soul. We will miss him!

For news or info: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Stamford AOH volunteer chef Vinnie Coakley served a meal fit for kings at the January 19 State Board meeting in Stamford. He is here surrounded by the hungry and appreciative members of the Connecticut State Board.



Danbury Officers gather before their banner on January 4 at the Danbury Irish Center as President David Albright, front row, center, was installed for a third term by State President Brenden Walsh front row, right.

District of Columbia

Each year District of Columbia Hibernians travel to the north of Baltimore, to help the Maryland Hibernians with their outreach efforts at the Maryland Irish Festival. D.C. JFK Division 5 conducts an annual raffle to raise money for their charitable works. This year's raffle winner, from Little Rock, Arkansas, sent the Jack O'Brien and the division a note:

"Just wanted to thank you for the \$300 cash prize. It came at a time of great need and I am so thankful. When I put my name in the raffle, I wondered if you honor an out-of-state winner. I think most would have chosen a home town person. You have renewed my faith in humanity. The money raised by the raffle will be used for various needs out of state and inside Maryland. It's hard to believe that my \$5 raffle could be part of something bigger. I am grateful, and I hope that your organization can reach the hearts of many."

— Submitted by Don Connolly.

Maryland



St. Kevin's Division 1 co-hosts Wreaths Across America event.

On December 14, 2019 members of St. Kevin's Division 1 Harford County had the honor of co-hosting the laying of wreaths for Wreaths Across America at Aberdeen Proving Ground South-Edgewood along with the U. S. Army. St. Kevin's has been participating in this event for a number of years but was given the honor of co-host this year due to the fact a number of our members are Veterans of the Military and work on post. Members pictured include, from left, Pres. Jim Cosgrove, Deacon Chuck Hoppe, Marshal John Wilson, Colonel Denis Descarreaux Commander USAMRICD, Secretary Tom O'Hara, Jose DeLarosa and Jimmy Cosgrove. The AOH was joined by AOH wives, as well as current and former members of the military and their families.

Iowa



Three of AOH Dubuque Division 2's founding members, Iowa AOH Board member and AOH 2 Historian "General Bob" Felderman, Iowa Treasurer Mike Martin and Bob Feeney presented Dubuque Rescue Mission Executive Director Rick Mihm, second from right, with a contribution as part of the Division's annual program of giving.

Doing great good in Dubuque

As members of the Dubuque County Division 2, located in the City of Dubuque, Iowa, we annually distribute donations to worthy groups and causes that reflect our mission of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

This year we included the Dubuque Rescue Mission for its outreach offering food, shelter, clothing and job assistance to men in need, with a donation of \$1,000.

Formed in 2013, Dubuque Division 2 has donated more than \$34,000 to schools, charities and other worthy causes. These include Mary's Inn Maternity Home, the American Cancer Society, Anamosa State Penitentiary Chapel, Dubuque Wahlert High School and Research for the Kids, with donations ranging from \$500 to more than \$9,000.

Dubuque Division 2 raises funds from member donations, St. Patrick's Day Events, and the Dubuque Irish Hooley Music Festival (held each year on the fourth Saturday of August).

For more information, please contact Bob Felderman, robertfelderman@gmail.com, or 563-213-0398.

Indiana

Barry Division holds Christmas party

On December 20, Indiana's oldest and largest Irish organization celebrated Christmas and the culmination of the year's social and charitable activities. Several years ago, Division President Jim McGinley sought to reward members for their efforts and the dinner tradition has grown into an event with plentiful and free food, beverages and light-hearted conversations.

The Golden Ace Inn provides a unique venue for Barry social events. Owned by the McGinley family, a clan steeped in Hibernian involvement, it is the oldest Irish tavern in Indiana owned by one family.

In 1934, as Prohibition ended, young Irish immigrants, John and Ann McGinley, opened their tavern. After 86 years, it remains an Irish fixture. The tavern continues in McGinley hands, having been visited by locals, the famous and the infamous. Luminaries include Carmel Quinn, The Wolfe Tones and Paddy Reilly. It remains a meeting place for business and political leaders, including Ireland's Ambassador to the United States. It is more prominent as a gathering place for families, friends or local reunions.

The Golden Ace is not fancy but is a tradition-rich tavern where customers find the heart and soul of the United States and Ireland. The excellent menu is headed by hamburgers recognized locally as the best buy in Indianapolis. Often renowned Irish musical talent perform to sold-out performances. Knowledgeable patrons will make reservations quickly and early.

Besides hosting the annual Christmas Party, the McGinleys have actively supported the AOH with dedication, time and talent. McGinleys carrying the past president distinction include Chuck, John F. (deceased), four-time president James, James' son Jimmy (three times president). McGinley cousin Tom Branson was elected 2020 president. Previous recipients of Hibernian of the Year awards are Jimmy, Jack, Kevin, James M. and Tom Branson. — Jim Lynch



Some of the participants in Kevin Barry Division's annual Christmas party, from left, Lucy Cahill, Joe Cahill, Bob McCurdy, Ed Cahill, Jimmy McGinley and Victor Doucleff.

Michigan



AOH Fr. Solanus Casey and LAOH Ethel Kennedy divisions presented a check for \$25,500 to the Capuchin Monastery.

SouperBowl benefits Capuchin Soup Kitchens

An annual SouperBowl event is run by the Fr. Solanus Casey and Ethel Kennedy divisions in Macomb County, Michigan, to support the Detroit-area soup kitchens run by the Capuchin Fathers.

The Capuchin soup kitchens serve more than 2,000 meals a day and brother and sister Hibernians have been supporting them for 28 years, resulting in donations in excess of \$350,000. SouperBowl is a day-long event offering unlimited bowls of soup, in a wide variety, and breads donated by more than 50 local restaurants and bakeries amid entertainment by the best Irish bands and dancers. This year was the most successful of all with more than 800 guests. Everyone is looking forward to their 29th year.

In Memoriam

Joseph A. Butler

Joseph A. Butler passed away peacefully on January 15, 2020. He was born on January 11, 1929, in Dublin, Ireland, son of the late Joseph and Anne Butler.

While growing up in Ireland, Joe excelled at Gaelic football and hurling. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1956 but never lost his love and pride of Ireland. Joe was active in, and a past president of, the Stamford Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a parishioner at St. Gabriel Parish.

Joe was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Catherine (Kay); his beloved granddaughter, Meghan; brothers Peter, James, Noel, Richard and sister, Nell (Feeley). He is survived by his son Joseph (Sandy), North Branford, CT; son Kieron (Trish), Stamford, CT; and daughter, Oona, Ashland, MA. "Pops" will be deeply missed by his grandchildren: Tommy, Molly, Christopher, Kaitlin and Carly Butler.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation for the care given to Joe by the staff of Stamford Hospital, The Nathaniel Witherell and Constellation Hospice.



James Saunton

James "Jimmy" Saunton of Niantic, Connecticut, formerly of West Hartford, passed away peacefully Christmas Day surrounded by his family. Jimmy was born in Dunmore, Co. Galway, Feb. 6, 1935, and immigrated to the USA July 9, 1954.

He was predeceased by his parents, Patrick and Bridget (Mullarkey) Saunton; sister Mary; and brothers, Francis, Patrick and Thomas.

Jimmy was a member of Local 43 Connecticut Carpenter's Union. He worked for First National Stores before starting his own business, Saunton Home Improvements, in West Hartford, until his retirement in 1998. Jimmy served on the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Council and Home School Association in West Hartford, President and Life Member of the Irish American Home Society in Glastonbury, Chairman of the Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, and member of the Hartford Gaelic Football Club, the Bogtrotters Golf Club, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

Jimmy played Gaelic football in Hartford and in New York for the Sligo and Galway teams. One of his greatest honors was receiving his 1952 All Ireland football medal in Ireland in 2007 with his wife, family and former teammates all there for the ceremony. Jimmy was a man who could fix or build anything and was always eager to help his family or a neighbor at a moment's notice. His home was always open with a "Cead Mile Failte" to everyone, he loved to share a drink and smile.

He is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 61 years, Kathleen; children, Eileen, New York, Kathleen, West Hartford, Brigid (Frank) Niantic, James (Catherine), Clinton and John (Molly), Bloomfield; and his adoring grandchildren, Mary Kate, Seamus, Aidan, Nora, John (Boomer), Maeve, Victoria, Caitlin and Gavin; sisters Bridget Moran, Mary Saunton, Bernie Reilly-Duffy, West Hartford, Kitty Gorman, Killarney, Ireland and Anne Saunton-Rahi Brussels, Belgium; brother Vincent (Susan) Saunton, West Hartford; sister-in-law Maureen Saunton, Windsor; and many adored nieces and nephews.



Minnesota



Shamrock Division members congratulate new Deacon. From left, Bill Doheny, Mike Daly and John Pische.

Shamrock Division supports Deacon member

The Shamrock Division of the Minnesota AOH can now boast of the honor of having three priests and also now a deacon counted among its members. Longtime member Mike Daly has recently been ordained as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of St Paul. His ordination was the culmination of more than five years of study and training. This training involved both Mike and his wife, Maureen, since this is a commitment that significantly involves both of their lives. Mike is a CPA in his own firm in Belle Plaine, MN.

In recognition of Mike's commitment and dedication to become a Deacon to serve our local Catholic community, the Shamrock Division has donated \$500 to help Mike purchase the vestments he will need to assist at celebrating mass.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh! *Happy New Year, y'all!* Seo tús nua dúinn arís. *This is a new start for us again.* Cosúil le gach lá, i ndáiríre. *Like every day, really.* Nuair a dhúisíonn tú beo, bíonn deis nua agat chun rud fiúntach a dhéanamh. *When you wake up alive, you have a chance to do something worthwhile.* Uaireanta, ní bhíonn sé éasca fiú éirí i do sheasamh. *Sometimes, it's not easy even to get up.* Bíonn droch-laethanta ag an uile dhuine ó am go ham. *Everybody has bad days from time to time.* Bíonn tréimhsí deacra againn go léir. *We all have tough spells.* Ach is féidir linn, go háirithe mar bhráithre san ord seo, cabhrú le daoine eile agus lena chéile, agus cabhair a ghlacadh nuair is gá dúinn é – gan náire. *But we can, especially as brothers in this order, help others and help each other, and accept help when we need it – without shame.* Tá seanfhocal ann, ní huasal ná híseal ach thuas seal agus thíos seal. *There's a proverb, not noble nor lowly but up for a while and down for a while.*

Níl amhras ach go ndearnamar botúin i rith na bliana. *No doubt we've made mistakes during the year.* Ach is cinnte go ndearnamar rudaí maithe, freisin. *But we surely did good things, too.* Le cúnamh Dé, d'fhoghlaimíomar as na botúin. *God willing, we've learned from the mistakes.* Ar a laghad, beimid ábalta cinn nua a dhéanamh! *At least we'll be able to make new ones!* Ní bhíonn an saol chomh dáiríre sin i gcónaí! *Life is not always so serious!* Tús maith, leath na hoibre, a deirtear. *A good start is half the work, they say.* Tús ar bith, sin an rud is tábhachtaí. *Any start, that's the most important thing.* Tosaímis! *Let's start!*

Chailleamar a lán daoine maithe i rith 2019. *We lost a lot of good people during 2019.* Tarlaíonn sin i gcónaí, agus ní bhíonn sé éasca riamh. *That always happens, and it's never easy.* Ach rugadh a lán daoine maithe freisin. *But a lot of good people were born, too.* Fuair eamar aitheantas ar dhaoine nua. *We got to know new people.* Fuair eamar baill nua san ord seo. *We got new members in this order.* Bhí spraoi againn! *We had fun!*

Bímis buíoch de Dhia as bliain úr, agus as gach lá nua. *Let's be grateful to God for a new year, and every new day.* Cuirimis an cath go cróga – le chéile! *Let's fight the good fight – together!* Agus bímis ábalta a rá lá éigin, mar Naomh Pól, "Tá an comhrac maith tugtha agam, tá mo rás rite, tá an creideamh coinnithe agam". *And let us be able to someday say, like St. Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7). Idir an dá linn, go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís! *In the meantime, may we live to see this time again!*

Missouri

Hibernians help 'Youth In Need'

The Saint Charles County Hibernian Division 1 visited the Youth In Need safe house, in Saint Charles, Missouri. The Hibernians prepared a holiday meal for 12 children in residence and the house masters. After dinner, gifts for the children were presented. Each child received needed clothing and personal-care items. The Hibernians were helped by members of the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Templars.

Members of the Missouri Hibernian State board have begun event planning for our Spring 2020 board meeting. Site selection, preliminary agenda item reviews and coordination with our Missouri divisions presidents have begun. — John Callahan



The team after the meal and during set up of the gifts. Brian Burgoyne, member Division 1; Chris Burgoyne, Missouri State Historian; Bill De Clue, Templar; John O'Connor, Knights of Columbus; Lisa De Clue, Templar; Steve Ballwin, Templar; John Callahan, AOH State President; and John 'Rocky' Reitmeyer, Division president.

New York

Oneida Hibernians raise funds for food pantry

The Hibernian Christmas party at the new Utica Irish Cultural Center on December 1 generated \$3,300 for the Utica Food Pantry. The dinner, dancing and Andy Cooney's lively music warmed the blizzard-like night.



Shown at the Utica Irish Cultural Center with the donation check are Utica Food Pantry representatives, from left, Sage Tuttle, the youngest Utica Food Bank volunteer, board member Mary Reska, Food Pantry Treasurer Kim Mattia, past Hibernian President Russell Brooks, Event Chairman Charlie Thomas, Nick Durr and incoming AOH president Patrick Roach. — By Bro. Tom Loughlin Jr.



Irish American Heritage Month continued from page 1

American Heritage Month to thousands on social media and the web. This year we wish to better that. We ask each of you not only to watch it but to share it on Facebook, Twitter, etc. and encourage others to do the same. It takes less than 2 minutes, yet if every Hibernian took the opportunity to share this video, then we should have no less than tens of thousands of shares. Tens of thousands of shares will be noticed promoting not only IAHM but the Hibernians.

We will also be doing our "Irish American Profiles" series where the Order will highlight a famous Irish American each Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout March, and again we ask you to do the same: "Read, Like, Share"; again, it takes minutes but the impact cannot be underestimated.

We ask that each of you help promote Irish American Heritage Month by doing the following:

- Simplest. Anyone who does marketing will tell you that words matter.
- First and most straightforward, let us as ambassadors be careful when we describe our month and celebrations. It may seem snooty, but let us get rid of using "Green Season" and focus on honoring a people, not a color. Same with "Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day." Was everyone Irish when the "No Irish Need Apply" was the closing of employment ads? We are not advocating boorishly correcting others; but we as Hibernians should know better and get it right.
- In a similar vein, it is IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE Month, not IRISH HISTORY Month. History is the study of the past, Heritage is something alive today and something to pass on to the future.
- Have your local State, County and Town proclaim Irish American Heritage Month. Try and ensure that this receives media coverage.
- Contact your local news media and ask them how they plan to cover the contributions of the Irish during Irish American Heritage Month (beyond parade coverage, if your locality has one) with an offer to help (again excellent publicity opportunity for your Division and the Order).
- Plan some event under the title of "Irish American Heritage Month." Our worthy Veterans chair has produced a beautiful pin for Hibernians who are Veterans, what a great time to publicly honor them and the contribution of the Irish than to have a pinning ceremony. What about a discussion at your hall or public library of the roll of the Irish in your community? Or what about laying a wreath on the grave of a prominent Irish American figure in your community? Creativity and commitment can be more effective than dollars.

If we say we are proud to be Irish, then we should match our words with deeds while remembering the warning of Edmund Burke: "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."



Another new Hibernian

Nassau County's Division 20 welcomed new member Rich Nicoletto center, on Nov.19, 2019. Nicoletto is the presiding officer of the Nassau County Legislature. From left, Mike Flemming, Tom Scanlon, Rich Nicoletto, Division President Joe McDonald and Kevin Donovan.

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence

This year Division 8 will celebrate its 149th Anniversary and plans are now being considered on ways to celebrate the Division's 150 Anniversary in 2021.

Division 8's Irish Heritage Month 2020 will kick off on March 1 and continue right up to March 31. Featured will be an exhibit on the Irish of Massachusetts; the raising of the Irish Flag on March 1 that will fly on the North Common across from Lawrence City Hall for the entire month of March; a Saint Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance; a Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon; an author and lecture series; a film festival; a concert and a canned food drive that is being coordinated by the Division's Catholic Action Chairman, Mark Alaimo. Plans are also in the works for delegates from Division 8 to attend our National Convention in Orlando in July.

Division 14 Watertown

President Joe McCusker would like to personally thank Bob McLaughlin, Jim Daly, Leo Falter, Bob Casey and Rick Stacy in joining me for taking the time to visit legacy members that are in recovery and/ or constant care and cannot venture out. We were able to visit a total of seven members of the LAOH and AOH Division 14 on the Saturday after Christmas. The division is looking forward to celebrating its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner March 15th.

James C. Campbell AOH Division 19 Lowell

Members of Division 19 remembered the reason for the season with the Annual Salvation Army bell ringing was on December 14th. Looking forward to Irish heritage month in the city starting March 8th the division will participate in the annual opening of cultural week with the Mass and parade to city hall raising the Irish flag and host its annual St. Patrick's dinner dance March 14th.

Division 36 Worcester

The Elvis Presley event, Fellowship of the King, was a great success. We had over 200 people in attendance and everyone had a great time. The group is excited about coming back. The St. Patrick's Parade Mass will be held on March 14th at 4 p.m. at Christ the King Church. This year's AOH recipient of the St. Patrick Award will be Steve Woods. Congratulations!

Division 1 Holyoke

Congratulations to the AOH Hibernian of the Year, Matt O'Connor! Matt, easily recognized in his kilt, is always available to play the pipes at club functions. The division also will host the event of the season - Irish Night in Holyoke in memory of Daniel P. Curran is on Saturday, February 22, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. The event benefits the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship. Usher in the St. Patrick's season and enjoy a delicious traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and ribs. Listen to the music of the Noel Henry Irish Show Band with additional entertainment by Piper Matt O'Connor and the Cassin Academy of Irish Dance.

Father John Murphy Division Plymouth

Plymouth Hibernians honor Fr. Mulvehill, ÚiChéide, Faheys. Father John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth, held our annual Christmas dinner at the East Bay Grille in Plymouth, where a Brother Hibernian, Charlie Bletzer, is a manager.

We were honored to host Father John Mulvehill, who had recently celebrated the Brig St. John Mass, as well as Máirín ÚiChéide, who has been the soloist at our annual Brig St. John Mass for the past two decades, along with Patrick Fahey, the most recent recipient of the Dr. Bill and Rita O'Connell Scholarship, with his parents, Mark and Ann Marie Fahey.

All told we had nearly 50 Hibernians and their families in attendance, and capped off the day singing Happy Birthday to our esteemed President, John Travers.

Marching and Commemorating

Father John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth, will have a very busy March. We will be in the Saint Patrick's Parades on Cape Cod on March 7, Scituate on March 15, and Weymouth on March 29. Also, on Saint Patrick's Day we will be ushers at the Annual Saint Patrick's Day Mass at The Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Later in the day, we will have a table set up at East Bay Grille in Plymouth Harbor.

We will have our Annual Easter Rising Commemoration at the Bandstand at Scituate Harbor on Sunday, April 26 at Noon. This year will be special, as we will be dedicating the 6 ft. by 4 ft. granite monument, with the words of the Easter Proclamation engraved upon it. Scituate will then become one of the only cities or towns in America to so honor this pivotal day in Irish History. — **With every good wish, John L. Sullivan.**

Louisiana

Eckholdt named Hibernian of the Year

The Louisiana State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Archbishop Philip Hannan Division, James Cardinal Gibbons Division, Acadian Division, Republic of West Florida Division, St. Bernard Division, and Fr. Thomas "Mossy" Gallagher Division announce Mr. Bernard J. Eckholdt Jr. as Hibernian of the Year for the Year 2020.

B.J. was born May 16, 1936, the only child of Bernard J. Eckholdt Sr. and Florence Nolan Eckholdt. Eckholdt is a third-generation native of New Orleans whose ancestors came from County Cork.



Bernard J. Eckholdt Jr. as Hibernian of the Year

Eckholdt attended and graduated from St. Theresa of Avila Parochial School, Holy Cross High School and Loyola University. Eckholdt follows the Irish tradition of honoring his heritage and possessing a strong civic spirit. His father served in the New Orleans Fire Department for 29 years, and his grandfather James A. Nolan was a member of the Hibernians. Eckholdt served as treasurer for the Hibernians for 12 years and continues to serve as treasurer for the Louisiana Hibernian Charity and the Friends of St. Alphonsus. He is a retired Staff Sergeant for the Louisiana National Guard.

Eckholdt worked for Marine Shale Processing and Louisiana Cement as controller, chief information officer and plant accountant. He is now retired and a full-time grandfather and celebrator of his Irish heritage. He was among several who helped reorganize the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1988, served as an officer for the James Cardinal Gibbons Division of the Order when it was founded in 1992, and as treasurer for the State Board.

B.J. is married to the former Joan Lynn Hankins and is the father of B.J. III, Gwen Elizabeth and James. He is also the proud grandfather of Stephen, Taylor, Scott, Daniel, James Jr., and the great-grandfather of Henry. He will be honored with a Proclamation at the Mass celebrating St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, on Tuesday, March 17, at noon at St. Patrick's Church, 724 Camp Street in New Orleans. The Irish-born priests of the Archdiocese will con-celebrate Mass with Archbishop Gregory Aymond and offer blessings to the Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and to all the Irish and Irish-American Catholics of New Orleans. In the evening, the Hibernians will hold their 145th Annual Banquet at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside, featuring the United States Marine Corps Band, and the Muggivan Irish School of Dance. For ticket information, please contact louisianaaoah@aohla.com or call 504-444-6401.

Sculptures dedicated at Hibernian Memorial Park

A beautiful morning on January 17, saw the dedication by the Hibernian Celtic Cross Committee of a series of sculptures at the Hibernian Memorial Park in the West End of New Orleans. These sculptures were added to the already existing Celtic Cross Memorial. For more than 30 years the Celtic Cross has stood on the site of the New Basin Canal, between West End and Pontchartrain Boulevards, as a memorial to the Irish Laborers who dug the canal in the 1830s. Beginning at the lake, the New Basin Canal wound its way into the New Orleans, stopping at a turning basin near where the Mercedes-Benz Superdome now stands.

The Irish Laborers and the New Basin Canal

In 1830, American businessmen in New Orleans decided to build a shipping channel from Lake Pontchartrain to the American sector of the city to compete with the established Carondelet Canal in the French section. Construction of the New Basin Canal began in 1832 with a work force consisting almost entirely of Irish immigrants. Newly arrived and desperate for jobs, these were the men who would work for the least amount of pay.

The work was back-breaking, the hours long, the pay (\$1 per day) was minimal, and — because of the canal's path through the swamp — yellow fever, cholera, malaria, and other diseases ran rampant among the laborers. The men worked when they were sick, fearing the loss of the job if they missed a day, which led to many deaths at the work site. By the time the canal was completed in 1838, it is believed that between 8,000 and 20,000 Irish immigrants died in the effort, perhaps as high as 30,000.

The canal was a success for the business interests who invested in it, and it remained open to traffic until the 1940s when shipping methods had changed, and it was no longer needed. The city then filled in the canal, and the space now serves as the median ("neutral ground" in New Orleans) between Pontchartrain and West End Boulevards.

The Hibernian Memorial Park's roots begin with the Celtic Cross Memorial, laid down in 1990 by the Irish American Cultural Society in a ceremony at which the Irish Ambassador to the United States attended. The Cross' inscription reads: "In memory of the Irish immigrants who dug the New Basin Canal, 1832-1838, this Celtic Cross carved in Ireland has been erected by the Irish Cultural Society of New Orleans." In addition, the Cross also commemorates the Irish who perished during An Gorta Mor or "The Great Hunger." As the Cultural Society faded and care for the Cross lagged, the Ancient Order of Hibernians took over trusteeship of the memorial, kept the grounds around it, and began the process of developing a park to compliment it.

Now, with the foundations of the park laid and the sculptures placed in it, the Hibernian Memorial Park has taken the next step in becoming the one of the many lovely green spaces throughout the city and a place for the public to relax and reflect on those Irish who helped build the city.

The AOH in Louisiana are especially grateful to the members of the Louisiana

Hibernian Charity Committee: President R. James "Jim" Moriarty, Vice-President Richard F. "Dick" Burke Jr., Treasurer Bernard J. Eckholdt Jr., AOH National President and Interim Secretary James F. McKay III, Judge Dennis Waldron, Former State Senator Edwin Murray, and Hibernians Mike Kerrigan, Joseph Casler, Daniel Foley, Patrick Sens and Dennis Roubion. — Submitted by Don Jennings and Dennis A. Roubion

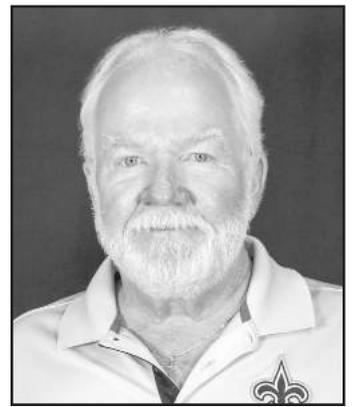
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Standing at one of the sculptures that now decorate Hibernian Memorial Park, (from left) Park Committee President Jim Moriarty, Project Manager Terri Landry, Irish Consul Claire McCarthy, and AOH National President Jim McKay.

Moriarty named Commodore Barry Award recipient

The AOH Louisiana State Board are proud to announce Brother R. James "Jim" Moriarty as the 2020 Recipient of the Commodore Barry. Brother Moriarty was instrumental in obtaining a donation of \$250,000 from the Ireland National Organization, which will go toward the Hibernian Memorial Park. Moriarty serves as President of the Memorial Park Committee and assists with numerous charities such as St. Michael's Special School, Mercy Seniors' Center Charity, and the Friends of St. Alphonsus Church. Moriarty is head producer for WYES-TV, a public station in New Orleans, where he produces a number of educational programs and sporting documentaries.



Jim Moriarty

John Barry was an officer in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War and later in the United States Navy. Credited as "The Father of the American Navy," Barry was appointed Captain in the Continental Navy on December 7, 1775, and later became Chief of U.S. Naval Operations.

West Virginia



Praying for priests, abuse victims.

Wheeling Division 1 joined members of the public in front of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in downtown Wheeling on Sunday, December 8, to pray the rosary. The purpose of the event was to pray for the victims that have suffered sexual abuse at the hands of clergy and have failed to receive justice. The group also prayed for the priests and other religious, who are the overwhelming majority, who continue to do the great work of the Catholic Church. Approximately 50 people attended the event. — Tom Murphy

New Jersey



Father and son Hibernians
President Ed Spillane, center, presented 25-Year pins to Thomas, right, and Kevin Young, father and son, at the January 6 meeting of the Commodore John Barry Division 1, Gloucester County, New Jersey.



Hibernians take the plunge

On January 26, the Vol. Patrick Torphy Division, of Middletown, hosted its 14th annual Polar Plunge for Catholic Education at Sea Bright beach. Total raised exceeded \$210,000 for the day and over \$1.6 million since inception. Brothers from Bergen, Fair Haven, Freehold, Middlesex and Middletown divisions joined one thousand plungers in true Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

Division elections since 1876!

The Newport, RI, Dennis E. Collin's Division 1 had a great month immediately following the busy holiday season. The Division held their annual election and initiation of officers with all current officers running for re-election and a number of others vying for a spot on the executive board. The meeting was packed full of our brothers, showing the true passion to continue on the history of this great division, as they have held annual elections since 1876. The division has been in their current location in Newport for over 110 years helping to become a focal point of the city and community.

The Rhode Island State Board would like to congratulate the following for their election to Newport's Dennis E. Collin's Division 1 executive board: Kevin Doyle as President, Charlie Burns as Vice President, Austin Behan as Recording Secretary, Michael Saunders as Treasurer, Pat McGrath as Financial Secretary, Tim Wein as Sentinel, Conor O'Neil as Marshal and Dave Kane as Standing Committee Chairman.

Thanks to AOH Brother Father Bernie Healy who officiated the annual AOH Christmas Mass.



State President Tim Burns with help from State Director Charlie Masterson performed the initiation ceremony. State President Burns is seen handing the gavel to Division President Kevin Doyle.

New Hampshire

By Brian Cronin, VP, Division 1, Manchester

25th Annual Adopt-A-Family brings cheer to children

New Hampshire AOH Division 1 brothers, along with their LAOH sisters, proudly completed the Division's 25th annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family effort in December. Founded by esteemed brother and two-time Division President Richard Walsh, this year's Adopt-A-Family effort brought Christmas presents and Christmas dinner to nine underprivileged families, reaching a total of 25 children. The funds for the Christmas program are raised through a spring golf tournament jointly sponsored by the Division and a local Irish restaurant. Our 2019 Golf Tournament raised over \$4,600.

This year's effort was led by brother Jason Retherford, who worked with local nonprofit Families In Transition – New Horizons to identify underprivileged families who were not otherwise served by other Christmas relief programs. Brother Retherford coordinated outreach to the families to identify their specific needs, and also coordinated toy-buying teams and delivery teams. Wrapping teams were coordinated by Fran Colby of the LAOH.

We are grateful to Mary Silva and Jackie Stone at New Horizons for helping us with this effort. And we especially want to thank all of the AOH and LAOH volunteers who made this year's effort a resounding success. We look forward to another successful season this year, as we begin a second quarter century of giving to needy children.

Hibernian Holiday Hooley well attended

The Fourth Annual Division 1 Hibernian Holiday Hooley was held in historic downtown Manchester on December 14. With over 50 Hibernian brothers, family members and friends in attendance, the event was a resounding success. The Division 1 Christmas Party has become a major component of our month-long Celtic Christmas celebration.

The celebration was held once again at the Riverside Room in Manchester's historic Waumbec Mill, overlooking the banks of the Merrimack River. The buffet dinner was catered in fine style for the fourth year in a row by Tidewater Catering.

New brother Tom O'Keefe was there, and he was presented with his individually lettered Ancient Order of Hibernians membership scroll. Thanks to Brother Jim Walsh for once again printing and lettering the beautiful large format scrolls for our new brothers.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of Brother James Murphy as 2019 Hibernian of the Year. The numerous ways in which Jim exemplifies the tenets of our motto – Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity – were recounted for those in attendance, and all agreed Jim is most worthy of the title. During the coming year, Brother Murphy will be afforded by all Division 1 brothers the respect, honor and deference his lofty title and position deserve. We are honored to have him as a brother.

Plans are already in the works for next year's event, and it is hoped the fifth annual dinner will exceed all expectations.

Illinois

By Sean O'Dowd, State Board President

Division 32 Chicago has had a very productive end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. We sponsored two of our four annual soup kitchens, Thanksgiving and Christmas, for those in need with donated gifts for all who attended. In November, the Division presented 11 of our members who are Veterans with an AOH Veteran's pin in appreciation for their service. Also in November, our executive board was invited by Irish Senator Billy Lawless to a luncheon honoring Stephen Travers, Miami Showband massacre survivor.

Ireland's Consul General Brian O'Brien partnered with DePaul University to host a lecture and Q&A by Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S., Dan Mulhall. The AOH asked Ambassador Mulhall to comment on Ireland's position on collusion and legacy issues in the North of Ireland, specifically regarding the Strasbourg decision. It was noted that the British State violated the rights of its own citizens per the decision of the EU's Human Rights Court. Ambassador Mulhall was familiar with the Strasbourg decision and gave a very educated and political response to legacy and collusion.

Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, was in Chicago to kick off his FFAI fall 2019 speaking tour with two meetings. The first was an open discussion with Ireland's Consul General Brian O'Brien of Tryone, N. Ireland, and Chicago Irish business leaders. His 2nd event, was held at the Irish American Heritage Center. Division 32 was honored to host Mark (with special thanks to John and Barbara Malloy) and to give him an opportunity to share his message.

In January, the Division elected its new Board with Kevin O'Malley as President. We also welcomed three new members to the Board and thank those members who have served the last two years. The month was capped off with a successful FFAI fundraiser hosted by Kevin, Brendon and Jim O'Malley. Our guest was Officer Jim Mullen, CPD, who was shot and paralyzed in the line of duty.



Consul General Brian O'Brien, left, Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, and State President Sean O'Dowd.

New York



Rockville Centre Hibernians install new officers
Nassau County President Jack O'Brien, center, installed new officers in Division 14 on December 19. After the ceremony, Division Marshal Kevin Kennedy, left, and Sentinel Ted McTigue pose with NY State Assembly Citations from Assemblywoman Judy Griffin for their charitable works in the community. The entire 2019-20 board received such citations for all their good work.



Division's annual toy drive
Orange County (NY) Division 2 members, from left, Kevin Moore, Bill Kirnan, Kevin Allen, Kevin Cummings and Sean Cummings delivering cartons containing over 150 toys to the Pediatric wing of St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh. Accepting on behalf of St. Luke's Hospital was Kathy Sheehan, RN, BSN, center, Director of Emergency Services, Trauma & Respiratory and Joan Cusack-McGuirk, President and CEO of Montefiore/St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh.



Hibernians bring joy at Christmas.
Division 7, Suffolk County, hosted its annual Community Children's Christmas Party on December 15, at their East Islip Hibernian Hall. Pictured are the many volunteers who generously donate their time each year to make this event an outstanding success. The Christmas Party was attended by more than 120 students and family members who enjoyed brunch (donated by DangBBQ), arts and crafts, and dancing to music provided by a DJ. The highlight of the day, to the cheers of the children, was a visit from Santa Claus, who gave each of the children a Christmas present and a grab-bag gift. The enjoyment and excitement of the children is the reason so many Hibernians volunteer each year.



Hibernian named Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal
The Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Committee announced that Orange County AOH Division 2's Kevin R. Cummings has been named the 2020 Grand Marshal of the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade, to be held on March 15, in Goshen, NY. Kevin is the Past New York State Board Organizer and currently serves as New York State Board Co-Webmaster. Kevin will be the parade's 44th Grand Marshal, the latest in a line of grand marshals that have included Jack McCarthy, Paul O'Dwyer, John J. Finucane, Denis P. Mulcahy, Mary Holt Moore and Martin Galvin.



Installation of Division 7 officers.
Division 7, in East Islip, Suffolk County, held their Installation of Officers Ceremony on January 11. The ritual was conducted by Suffolk County President Chris Thompson. Medallions of Office were presented by New York State Immediate Past President Vic Vogel. The Presentation of Officers was led by Suffolk County V.P. Bill Gorham and Suffolk County Marshal Frank Nappe. At the conclusion of the ceremony, President Thompson presented the newly elected Division 7 President Tom McHugh with his gavel for the purpose of presiding over the meeting. The packed house gave President McHugh and his Officers a well-deserved standing ovation." Seated, from left, NYS Immediate Past President Vic Vogel, Rec. Sec. John Owen, President Tom McHugh, Suffolk County President Chris Thompson, Immediate Past President Tom Davis and Treasurer Kevin Smith. Standing, from left, Suffolk County V.P. Bill Gorham, Fin. Sec. John Hanley, V.P. Shawn O'Neill, Sentinel Jason Holm, Marshal Jim Doherty, Standing Committees Chairman Vinny Smith and Suffolk County Marshal Frank Nappe.



North Shore installation.
AOH Michael Moran Division 8 (Nassau, NY) officers were installed on January 9 by county officers led by county president Jack O'Brien, seated third from left. Also pictured are Joe McDonald, John Hanley, Robert Lynch, Dennis O'Neil, Division president Eric Hill, Vic Sackett, John Nolan, Andy Stafford, Bob Panzenbeck, Jack O'Brien, Patrick Furlong, Gerry Herbert and Mike Gentile. Photo by John O'Connell, Digest Editor.

Pennsylvania



Lycoming Division holds awards dinner

Division 1, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, held its annual Hibernian of the Year awards dinner on December 4. This gala event was held at the Monsignor William J. Fleming Center at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport.

The recipient of this year's award, Christopher Norris – Past PA State President and Past National Director, received the award for his service, contributions and dedication to the Order and for his service to the community at large. As Division President John Comerford stated, "He is the very exemplification of our motto of 'Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity'. His selfless work, his contributions and his love of the Order are a credit to his family, his faith and his Irish heritage."

Norris is the field director of the Loss Control Department of the Cincinnati Insurance Company. He gave a heartfelt thanks in both the English and Irish languages to all present for his selection as the recipient of this coveted award.

Speakers for the evening were: Past National President Ned McGinley, Past Pa. State President Joe Hosie, National Veterans Affairs Chairman Jim Green, Division Chaplain Father Brian Van Fossen, and Division Treasurer Brian McQuillen. Each spoke highly of Norris' contributions to the Order as the State Organizer and the National Organizer and for his chairing of the Molly Maguire Committee that had the Mollies' guilty verdicts set aside.

This was the 21st annual event since the re-establishment of the Order in Williamsport, PA. The event was crowded to the doors with AOH dignitaries, division members, family and guests. A grand time was had by all.

At the Division 1 annual dinner were, from left, John Comerford, Division President; Christopher Norris, Hibernian of the Year; and Father Brian Van Fossen, Division Chaplain. (Photo by Hugh McGee.)

Successful benefit held for Matt Burnett

My Division hosted a Fund Raiser Dinner for Matt Burnett, son of Frank, who passed away in May. Matt has a hereditary disease called Huntington's Chorea. His mother and grandfather both passed away from this terrible disease. Matt is now manifesting all of the symptoms, which takes away a person's functional abilities. As a Hibernian, I was so proud as this day went by watching all the neighborhoods come in to greet Matt. We were able to sell more than 475 dinners and there was also a basket raffle. This Benefit was very successful, and it will help Matt immensely as he fights this battle.

Only in a small town such as ours, Carbondale and surrounding communities, do people from all walks of life show their spiritual and financial support for someone as deserving as Matt Burnett. The response to our fundraising efforts was far beyond our expectations. We were able to provide over 470 dinners, sell over 200 T-shirts, conduct two separate 50/50 drawings and auction off more than 60 novelty baskets. Our sincerest thanks to patrons and workers alike for not only their generosity and support, but most importantly, their gift of time. — Joe Hosie, Past PA AOH State President



Front Row: Colton Burnett, Daisy Burnett; 2nd Row: Debbie Burnett, Kathleen McCullough, Jeff Burnett; 3rd Row: Alyssa Lane, Avery Fierman, Peggy Smedley, Matt Burnett, Tommy Doherty, Marietta Doherty, Margaret Scholl, Ricky Burnett Jr.; 4th Row: Rick Burnett Sr., Matt McCullough and Pat Scholl.



Brothers from Dennis Kelly Division 1 Havertown, PA, donated hats, gloves and scarfs to the Delaware County Child Advocacy Center. Jodi Kaplan, second from left, DCCAC Program Director, with, from left, Tom Meakim, Kyle Meakim, Jim McCusker, Chip Cavanagh and John Cavanagh.

Havertown Hibernians show Christmas charity

As part of their annual Christmas projects, the Denis Kelly Division 1, in Havertown, PA, collected and donated winter hats, scarfs and coats to the Delaware County Children's Advocacy Center. The DCCAC is a welcoming space where children who may be victims of child abuse come to talk with a specially trained forensic interviewer about their experiences. It's also a place where their families can get the support and information they need about the investigative process and community resources. Denis Kelly AOH Christmas projects also include Secret Santa for families in need and socks for homeless in Philadelphia.



Ohio

Four generations of McGlynn Hibernians

Brothers Will and Joey McGlynn, of Marietta, Ohio, continue a long and honorable tradition that has been part of the McGlynn family for the last four generations. They possess and curate their great-grand father's Hibernian artifacts. Neil McGlynn, the boys' great-grandfather, was born in Ireland about 1872; the family later moved to Renfrewshire, Port Glasgow, Scotland.

It was in Scotland that Great-Grandpa Neil joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians Benefit Society of Scotland. There is little doubt that he did so to keep his Irish connection and identity. He was a member of the St. Patrick's Division 17, Greenock, Scotland.

In addition to their great-grandfather's unique AOH Sash they have his twice monthly dues record book. In 1934, McGlynn was paying "One shilling threepence" every two weeks. He had been a dues-paying member of Division 17 since 1913.

Neil's son, Willi (William), Will and Joey's grandfather, for whom Will is named, continued the family's Hibernian tradition into the second generation. Willi's son, Neil (Cornelius), Will and Joey's father, came to the United States and, after marrying, moved to Marietta, Ohio. Neil later brought his grandfather's AOH artifacts from Scotland. Neil was initiated into the Washington County (Ohio) Division 1 of the AOH in 1978 and was a Charter Member. Will and Joey have followed in their dad's footsteps to make four generations of Hibernians.

Thomas Binegar, President of the Washington County (Ohio) Division 1, noted, "We are proud to have Will and Joey as fourth generation Hibernians. They are indeed keeping the McGlynn tradition green!"



Brothers Joey, left, and Will McGlynn, members of the Washington County (Ohio) Division 1, and their late father, Neil McGlynn, who was a Charter Member of the Washington County Division.

Ladies hibernian news

Michigan

The Sarah Regan Division of Livingston County served dinner to the poor at God's Kitchen in Howell, Michigan. We collected packaged diapers and cash for Pregnancy Helpline in Brighton, MI.

Mary of the Gael Division, Monroe enjoyed pizza, salad and homemade dessert at a member's home in December. We made a donation to Operation Silent Night, which assists active service men and women, veterans and their families. We also contributed to the new free Health Clinic that will be opening in this area.

The Wayne, Rose Kennedy Division 1 celebrated their second annual "Little Christmas" on Sunday, January 5th at Mama Mia's Restaurant. With a wonderful crowd of 56 ladies, we sang and acted out Christmas carols, played games and enjoyed a delicious meal, relaxing and socializing after the holidays. It was so nice see all the moms, grandmas, aunts, sisters, cousins (and a few babies) gather together to celebrate family and friends!

Our Lady of Knock Division in Adrian met over the holidays to have dinner at Red Lobster and share stories of the past year and send off the snowbirds who winter in warmer climates...you know those lucky birds! In January, we met to discuss plans and organize events for 2020. We are excited to serve our mission of Friendship, Unity and Christian charity in the coming year.

Freedom For All Ireland

The Michigan LAOH State presented their check of \$1275.33 to Agnes Gowdy, LAOH National FFAI Chairperson at the January meeting. Following the meeting the AOH joined the LAOH for their annual St. Brigid's Mass and Potluck dinner.

We are coming close to the deadline date for the FFAI donations to be received, which is February 15th, 2020. Please try to get your donations in to Agnes before the deadline and remember to make your check out to "LAOH Inc." and mail to Agnes Gowdy, LAOH National FFAI Chairperson, 13201 Rosselo Ave., Warren, Michigan, 48088

Ladies AOH National Board

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Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
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President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer

Today as I write this article, the 47th annual March for Life has taken place a few days ago. I want to thank all the LAOH members who took time out of their busy lives to go to Washington, DC and also want to thank the many LAOH members who participated in the marches in their own home towns.



By the time you are reading this, we have already celebrated St. Brigid Feast Day. It is important to celebrate our patron saint's feast day. I hope the joy, kindness and love St Brigid showed and gave to others will be an example to all of us.

With March fast approaching, we will be going into a very busy season with all the St. Patrick's Feast Day Celebrations. Be aware there is some offensive material that is once again being sold at this time of year. This is definitely not the way we want to be portrayed. Please stand up against these people who are trying to make money at our expense.

At the 2018 National Convention, there was a motion made and approved by the delegation to begin an Appeals for Aid Assessment. Currently some Divisions still owe for 2019 assessment. Shortly, the National Missions and Charities Officer will be sending out the 2020 Appeals for Aid Assessment Bill to the State Presidents and State Treasurers based on the 2019 Membership Reports.

Before long, we will be heading to Florida for the 2020 National Convention. Our LAOH Convention Liaison and Past National President Kathie Linton and AOH National Vice President Danny O'Connell, along with the Florida Convention Committee, have been working to make this an outstanding convention. The rooms are beginning to fill up fast so I suggest if you have not reserved your room to make your reservation as soon as possible. You are now able to purchase your Convention Package. The link to purchase your Convention Package online is <https://aoh.com/orlando2020> and the Convention hotel link is <http://orlandoirish2020.com/hotels>.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and I hope the magical colors of spring fill your life with happiness and fun. Happy spring!

LAOH National Convention

The AOH/LAOH National Convention will be held at the beautiful Rosen Centre Orlando, located at 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida from July 22 through July 26, 2020. Although the hotel is resort-like, it has is ranked among top hotels for meetings. The guest rooms are non-smoking, with complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, a 32- inch flat screen television, and a mini refrigerator. The hotel also has a large swimming pool with two hot tubs, a fitness center, and a spa. There are eight restaurants on site including a deli that is open 24 hours a day.

All information regarding the National Convention can be found at www.orlandoirish2020.com.

In a nutshell, the room cost is \$115 plus tax per night. The package price is \$210, which will include the Icebreaker, Irish Night, and the Closing Banquet. Registration is \$25 if you are not purchasing the package. The hotel is located approximately 20 miles from the airport. Transportation from the airport to the hotel by taxi is \$51 or you can contact Mears Transportation for a cost of \$33.00. Parking is \$8.00 per day for self-parking or \$23 for valet. Scooters can be reserved by contacting K&M Rentals at 855-643-6107 or www.km-rentals.com. Arrangements can be made for free delivery and pick-up at the hotel.

Per the request of the delegates at the 2018 National Convention, the Major Degrees of the Order will be exemplified prior to the opening of the LAOH general business session on Thursday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m. Audit, Credentials, Constitution, and Rules of Order are scheduled to take place on Wednesday, July 22. Once the agenda for the Convention schedule is firm, it will be sent to the State Presidents.

For those wishing to extend your vacation, the discounted hotel rate is good two days prior to and two days after the convention. Please see the concierge for information regarding the number of things you can do in Orlando. You can always visit the magic of Walt Disney World, where you can make all your dreams come true! Hope to see you all in Orlando. After all, it is the most magical place on earth!

For any questions or concerns, please contact Kathie Linton, LAOH Convention Chair, kathielin10@gmail.com.

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

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Winners will be posted on our LAOH National website:
<https://www.ladiesaoh.com>

New York

Hibernians To Be Honored at the 259th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Grand Marshal of the 2020 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, JAMES T. CALLAHAN, is the General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), a union that represents over 400,000 men and women in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Callahan will have 16 aides, including four LAOH Members: Queens County LAOH - Margaret M. Costello, Kings County LAOH - Mary E. O'Hara, Richmond County LAOH - Noreen P. Hansen, and Rockland County LAOH - Lillian C. Murphy. All of the Aides will be honored at grand reception in February and will proudly represent the LAOH in the 259th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan. This year's parade will honor the contributions the Irish made to the Labor Movement in the USA.



New York County: Thomas A. Beirne; Bronx County: John P. O'Malley; Queens County LAOH: Margaret M. Costello; Richmond County LAOH: Noreen P. Hansen; Kings County LAOH: Mary E. O'Hara; Rockland County LAOH: Lillian C. Murphy; Nassau County: Thomas P. Costello, Orange County: James D. O'Malley; Suffolk County: Stephen D. Lemansk; Westchester County AOH: Ann Guerin Haugh; United Irish Counties: Ann M. Hearn; United Irish Counties: Thomas G. Tuffy; Grand Council of Emeralds: Eddie P. Boles, Pauline A. Turley; Archdiocese of New York: Michael J. Deegan.

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



Members of the Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, were privileged to meet and visit with Consul General Claire McCarthy during her first trip to New Orleans since her appointment to the Irish Consulate in Austin, Texas, last fall. Consul General McCarthy was the guest of honor on January 17, 2020, at the opening of the Sculpture Garden at the Hibernian Memorial Park in New Orleans.

The Sculpture Garden is the newest addition to the Hibernian Memorial Park and provides artistic representation of the immigration experience and supports the mission of the Park to honor the contributions of the Irish in the Crescent City. At the heart of the Hibernian Memorial Park is the Celtic Cross Monument dedicated to honor the Irish laborers who built the New Basin Canal connecting the Mississippi River with Lake Pontchartrain. The Canal has been completely filled in, but the hard work of the Irish laborers and lives lost while digging the Canal will never be forgotten. The Louisiana Ancient Order of Hibernians has been granted a long term permit by the Orleans Parish Levee Board for four acres of ground surrounding the Celtic Cross Monument to develop the historic site into a memorial park.

It was a pleasure meeting Consul General McCarthy and we look forward to her visiting our fair City in the future.

L to R: Joni Muggivan, Shannon Carmello, Ione Power, Patti Johnston, Blanche Comiskey, Consul General Claire McCarthy, Shelly Power, Elizabeth Rafferty, Patricia Carreca, Helen Roubion, Eileen Comiskey

Ohio



Past Hibernians of the Year were celebrated with the current Hibernian of the Year during Cleveland's St. Brigid's Day festival.



Hibernians, family and friends gathered for mass and dinner in honor of St. Brigid's Day at the Division 6 hall in Youngstown, Ohio on February 1. Pictured are Jim Sharp, Mary Kay Sharp and Linda Lambert.

**Deadline for the April-May issue
is NO LATER than April 1**

Pennsylvania

The National LAOH 125th Anniversary Celebrations Continue Throughout Pennsylvania

In the Irish spirit of not wasting a reason to celebrate, Divisions and Counties throughout Pennsylvania have been coming together to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the National LAOH. The Montgomery County Board hosted a beautiful Irish tea to celebrate complete with fine china, elegant tea sandwiches, and fascinators and fancy hats! The seven Divisions of Philadelphia County started their commemoration with a beautiful Eucharist celebration at the chapel for the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity Sisters, in NE Philadelphia, offered by Father Jack Kolodziej. The Division Presidents representing all seven Philadelphia County Divisions carried a long stem yellow rose to the altar. After Mass, a luncheon was held at a beautifully decorated hall for a delicious luncheon, filled with poster boards of fundraisers and events from past and present functions from the Divisions.

Pennsylvania LAOH Chaplain Co-Authors a Book, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

Pennsylvania's Division 11, Oakland, Allegheny County's Chaplain Sister Louise Grundish, and co-author archivist Casey Bowser recently published their book, *Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill* for the Arcadia Publishing's Images of America Series.

The book tells the story of The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill with over 200 historical images. Known for their work in education on both the university and parochial level, the Sisters also work in social services, including orphaned children at the Roselia Foundling and Maternity Hospital and deaf and hard-of-hearing students at DePaul Institute in Pittsburgh. Additionally, they focus their expertise in healthcare, and pastoral ministries in Arizona, Korea, western Pennsylvania, and other locations.

Sister Louise hopes that this book will inspire readers "to go out to the world and do whatever is needed to bring life, healing, and comfort to others."

PA LAOH Hibernians at 2020 March for Life

On January 24, 2020, a contingency of Pennsylvania members of the LAOH and AOH joined in on the historic March for Life in Washington, DC. The opportunity to be at the first march that a current United States President, Donald J. Trump, spoke at was not only inspiring, but also encouraging. Colleen Bowers, past Pennsylvania State President and current National Mission and Charities Officer, stated, "I have attended and marched for years. However, as time moves on to see the growth in the number of youth attending and openly supporting is refreshing to my eyes. Hopefully, more Sisters will be able to attend next year."



Sisters of Mahoning County Division 6 assisting with the St. Christine's Christmas Caritas were: Donna Marsolo, Michelle Neal, Melissa Kelly, Maureen Coughlin and Shannon Lehn.

Sisters of Division 6, Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland, volunteered for the Christmas Caritas at St. Christine's Church December 7, 2019.

Hibernians assisted with preparing gifts, assisting children in shopping for parents and parents in shopping for their children, gift wrapping, making bows, preparing for the event and helping in any other ways needed.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the LAOH to give back to community and get into the Christmas spirit.

MARCH FOR LIFE
continued from page 1

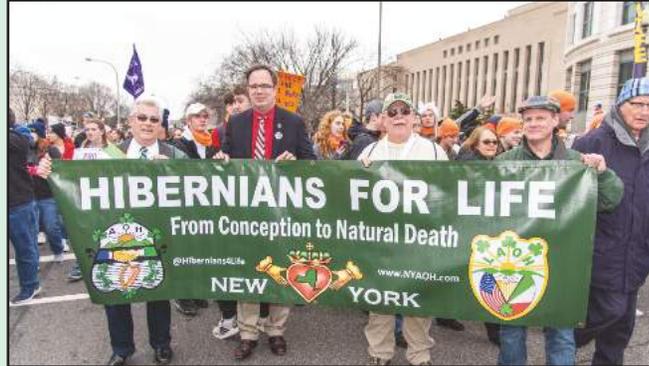
Congressman Chris Smith's (NJ-4) remarks to the March for Life rally, delivered by Policy Advisor Abigail Balmert from the Congressman's office. He could not attend in person due to security requirements surrounding the President's appearance, but hopes to address Hibernians directly in the future. Chris has long been a great friend to the AOH, and we have no better model of consistency in the defense of life, from womb to tomb, than Congressman Smith. Putting

into action the belief that "pro-life" doesn't end at birth, he has continually sponsored and passed legislation to increase medical research for Lyme disease, stop human trafficking, and prevent age discrimination.

Special thanks are due to our National Board for their continued support of all connected events, and the D.C. State Board for hosting the pro-life breakfast. I would also like to express my gratitude to Fr. Henry Reid (NY), Fr. John Hurley (DC), Fr. Kevin Fields (DC), and Deacon Stephen Mitchell (DC) for their celebration of the Hibernian Mass. Deacon Stephen Mitchell (DC) for their celebration of the Hibernian Mass. *Photos @johnconnell@mac.com*



The National Board and state, county and division boards and members of the AOH and LAOH joined the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 24.



Holding the New York Hibernians for Life banner were, from left, Nassau County AOH President Jack O'Brien, Warren Scullin, Owen Cole and Nassau VP Ken Ferguson.



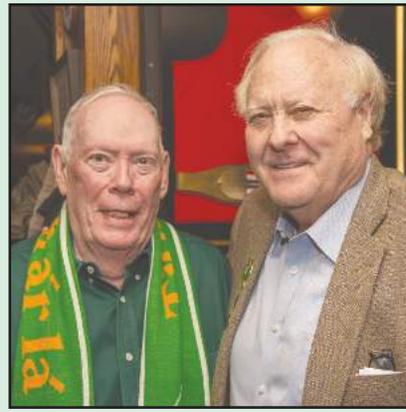
Congressman Chris Smith's (NJ-4) policy advisor, Abigail Balmert, joined the national executive board at the pre-march breakfast at the Irish Channel.



Pennsylvania Pipers Mark Ryan, Left and Mike Brown



Colleen Bowers (PA) and Mary Hogan (NY) joined other Hibernians at the March for Life



Washington Hibernians Jack O'Brien and Dan Layden at the pre-march breakfast.



And the award for farthest distance traveled by Hibernians to the March for Life goes to Richard and Kathy Warren, from Minnesota!

Ohio

Bishop Brennan joins inaugural St. Brigid's Day Hooley

On Saturday, February 1, the men and women of the Franklin County Ancient Order of Hibernians gathered to host the Inaugural St. Brigid's Day celebration in Central Ohio. Recently appointed Bishop for the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Robert Brennan, a fellow Hibernian from Long Island, NY, joined them to celebrate Mass at St. Mary's Church in German Village. This was his first official mass and event with the Central Ohio Irish Community. After Mass, Bishop Brennan joined the Hibernians at Tara Hall for the Inaugural St. Brigid's Day

Hooley, where Bishop Brennan was presented with an official AOH Baldric from Patrick Pearse Division President Scott Partika. The LAOH Countess de Markievicz Division President Katie Somers provided a keynote speech on the history of St. Brigid and how her legacy inspires the work of Hibernians to this day. The Hooley featured traditional Irish music from the renowned General Guinness Band. Funds were also raised throughout the evening to support Hibernian Charities in Central Ohio. The inaugural event will soon become an annual event next year.





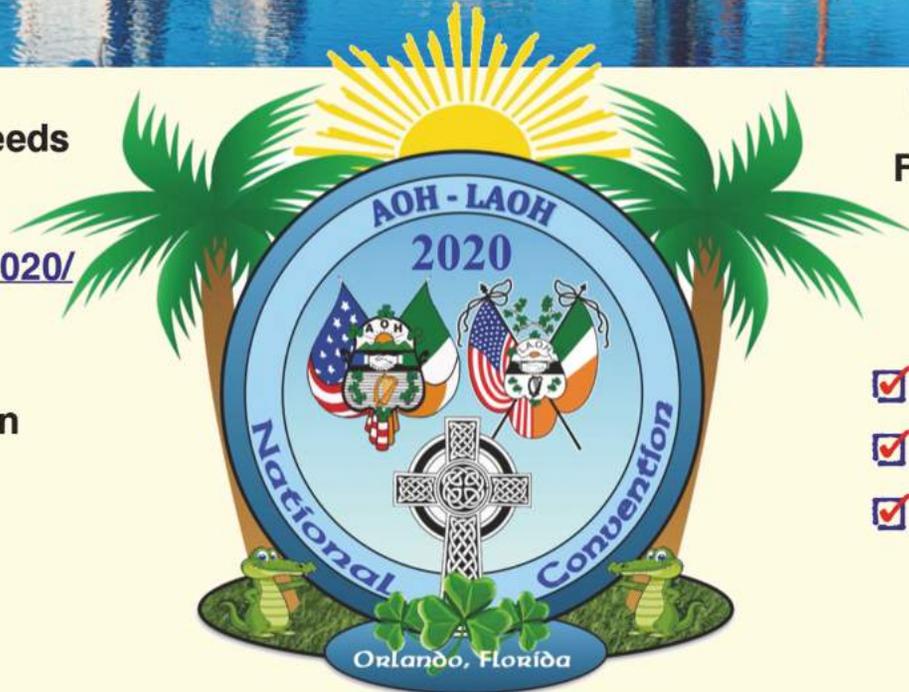
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Complete Package: \$210 if reserved by June 1, 2020.
Reservations made after June 1, 2020 and thereafter: \$230.

Full Package includes the following plus the \$25 Registration Fee:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Icebreaker Reception | "Welcome to Florida" | Casual Attire |
| Irish Night | A Combo of Chicken and Sliced Pork Loin | Business Casual |
| Installation Banquet (circle one) | Pan Seared Salmon or Sliced Sirloin of Beef | Black Tie Optional |

Ala Carte Options:

- () Icebreaker (Wednesday, July 22): \$70
- () Irish Night (Friday, July 24): \$95
- () Installation Banquet (Saturday, July 25): \$100
- () Registration Only: \$25

Credit Card and PayPal payments accepted
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2020 2020

Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
2020 National Convention in Orlando, FL
Wednesday, July 22nd — Sunday, 26th 2020

Souvenir Journal

The Souvenir Journal's size will be 8 1/2" x 5 1/2 inches wide and is available for your messages and advertisements. Purchase your advertisement in the Souvenir Journal which will be published exclusively for the 2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention to be held in the Rosen Hotel on International Drive (next to the Orlando Convention Complex) in Orlando, Florida.

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Ads and payment must be received by **Friday, June 19th, 2020**

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