

U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle elected 2020 John F. Kennedy Medal recipient

U.S. Representative Brendan Boyle is the eldest son of an Irish immigrant, Francis, a janitor for SEPTA, and Eileen, the child of Irish immigrants, a school crossing guard. Both Brendan and his father, who arrived in the U.S. in 1970, are active members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Brendan is known for his open-door policy when the AOH comes calling in Washington, D.C.



U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle

AOH President Jim McKay spoke of Boyle's work for the Irish, specifically on Brexit, securing funding for the international Fund for Ireland, addressing legacy issues in the North of Ireland, honoring the 1916 Easter Rising and with the many commemorations related to it, and his dedication to Irish immigration. "Brendan is a true leader who recognizes the role Irish America played in building our country and the importance of the special relationship shared by the U.S. and Ireland."

From humble beginnings, Brendan Boyle developed a work ethic second to none. He attended Cardinal Dougherty High School, where he earned an academic scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. There he earned a degree in Government and completed the Hesburgh Program in Public Service. He later earned his master's degree in Public Policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Brendan Boyle's leadership on protecting the Good Friday Agreement and preventing a Hard Boarder in Ireland was the motivation for his nomination.

In 2008, Brendan was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives where he served until his 2015 election to the United State House of Representatives where, embracing his Irish heritage, he immediately became an impact player for all issues Irish.

As Brexit was heating up more than a year ago, Brendan initiated action that triggered the Irish Times to ask, "Who is Brendan Boyle, the U.S. congressman intervening on Brexit?" when Boyle introduced a resolution in Congress opposing a hard boarder in Ireland. His resolution "reflected growing concern among the Irish-Americans on Capitol Hill about the direction Brexit [was] taking and how it might threaten the Good Friday Agreement." The bottom line is, our AOH Brother Brendan Boyle was leading the charge to protect the Good Friday agreement in the face of Brexit.

Boyle also led the successful effort to increase funding for Northern Ireland Peace Programs by \$2 million as part of the 2020

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Hibernian Answers the Call

by Neil Cosgrove
Light your candle today!

New York State AOH Vice President John Manning is no stranger to the grim realities of being a first responder with the FDNY. For the past 14 years, as a coordinator with the FDNY's Special Projects and Events Office, John has often been called upon to organize the department's last farewell for many of his brother responders who have succumbed to 9/11 related illnesses. On that day, John had himself responded to Ground Zero as an FDNY EMT.

Yet in many ways the fight against COVID-19 is showing itself to be an equally deadly battle. When the virus hit New York City, and its magnitude became clear, John volunteered to return to active service as an EMT with the department's Emergency Medical Service. Since his return, the FDNY EMS has set new records for 911 call responses on an almost daily basis; the EMS is currently responding to 6,800 calls a day. John is presently working 16-hour tours. In his most recent tour, John was called on to deal with six back-to-back cases of cardiac arrest. Other EMT's have reported that the batteries on their defibrillators are not making it till the end of their tours.

John has reported the terrible psychological toll that the COVID-19 response is taking on first responders, in addition to many themselves contracting the disease. As John noted, "We are fighting something we cannot see, and it is never-ending. Unlike 9/11, I can not even go to a church and light a candle."



John Manning

While, like John, we too cannot go to church, we can offer him a prayer and light a candle for him and all first responders and medical personnel nationwide, worldwide, who are fighting this disease on the front lines. The candle in the window is an old Irish custom at Christmas time as a sign of hope. If we can, let's get one of the electric ones out of the closet and put it in a window as a sign that we are thinking and praying of all those battling this disease.

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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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president's message

By Jim McKay III

By the time you read this, I would think the pandemic is on the decline throughout this country. Who would have thought on March 1st what was in store for us for the following three months? St. Patrick's Day cancelled, Sunday Mass cancelled, Holy Week rituals closed to the public and maybe even our National Convention. As Americans, we are asked to stand tall and confront the virus not head on, but in insolation. It seems to be working at this time, but who knows by the time you read this article. Someone recently told me that every storm will eventually run out of rain. I certainly hope that is correct.

With the majority of public gatherings cancelled for the next two months, there is very little to report on. At the beginning of the pandemic, the White House appointed Mick Mulvaney as Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. We as Hibernians welcomed the appointment, albeit rather late, to handle the aftermath of BREXIT as it pertains to the Good Friday Agreement.

Our FFAI Campaign has been concluded and we raised more money for distribution this year than ever. A great thanks to Martin Galvin for his efforts to this very worthy Hibernian cause. Unfortunately, Martin was unable to travel to Ireland to distribute the checks to the recipients because of the pandemic travel ban to Europe. Martin is already talking about some ideas for next year's campaign. You should all be aware that the National Hibernian Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal is well underway and being headed by very competent Brother Vic Vogel, who is doing an exemplary job, especially considering that this country has literally shut down for the past two weeks. The Project raises funds for Seminary and Religious scholarships throughout the country. These funds will be distributed through the many Dioceses and Archdiocese throughout the United States.

The National Convention, which is scheduled for July 22nd to 25th at this time, is still a go. Plans are being made to have one of the largest gatherings ever this summer in Orlando. We have already reached our maximum room block as of March 1st. We are in communication with the hotel and negotiating the pandemic effect on conventions and we will keep you posted on any changes or cancellations. As of this writing, I am looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando Florida in July.

There is an old Irish expression, "what doesn't kill us makes us stronger," which is even more appropriate when taken in context with the pandemic. Hopefully next year we can look back at this time and laugh and tell quarantine stories at our next St. Patrick's Day festivities. I hope you had a healthy, safe and Holy Easter, and even though you could not be in church, used Holy Week to meditate on Christ's Passion and prayed for his help in these troubled times. See you in Orlando.

God Bless.

The National
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national secretary

By Jere Cole

Fabulous Participation

I want to start off by thanking all of you for the unprecedented participation in our new roster system, resulting in just over 85 percent of all divisions paying their per capita on time by the Feb. 15, 2020 deadline. This is a remarkable step as last year we were probably at half of that number. Still, of course, there are some outliers and they will now need to pay the full new per capita of \$16 per brother. It is important to note that you may not participate in our convention if you have not paid your per capita. All divisions that are not up to date will be excluded from voting.

We understand that this year presents some very special challenges with the on-going pandemic, but now while we are all presented with "free time" it would be an ideal moment to begin to further clean up your roster using the on line tool.

I cannot stress enough that most divisions seem to have adapted, but there are those that need to catch up. This is the perfect time for each division to designate a deputy Financial Secretary in order to be assured they are up to date. Once you have chosen a deputy please advise and we will send them an invite to the new system. Why not just let everyone have access you may ask? We are limiting the access to a maximum of only two from each division because there is just too much potential for inaccuracy if several individuals are making changes.

We will be adding even more improvements during this year to make your job even easier.

Two final reminders, please continue to access all forms from our website. The forms are fillable PDF but should always be saved to your computer before you attempt to fill them in, otherwise you will not be able to save and send to us.

Lastly, when communicating to us either by phone or email please be sure to indicate not just your name, but your division NUMBER, like 28 ES 09. Do not assume that we know that the Father Hannity division is in New Jersey. We do not use division names in the database, although many are captured there, we do not index on them. This will make things go a lot quicker.

Thank you and please be careful and stay safe.



vice president's report

By Danny O'Connell

"It is the best of times, it is the worst of times," the famous opening of Charles Dickens' novel, A Tale of Two Cities. I for one remember this from the early days of high school as we wondered if anything we were learning would be relevant to our life. Now, some 43 years later, we find ourselves in the best of times, in the worst of times. Without question, the pandemic has brought some of the worst of times on all of us. The world in crisis presents some of our most difficult challenges in life. Today, I will focus on the best of times as crisis brings the best out of Irish Americans, most especially Hibernians, throughout America.

I spoke with New York Vice President John Manning yesterday, a long time first responder from the FDNY. John's career has seen him rise through the ranks, landing in the Commissioner's office donning the coat and tie, a Hibernian Success Story. As preparation for the pandemic began, John volunteered to go back to the front line, return to the uniform, to serve and protect the people of America. This is just one of the many Hibernian Success Stories we will be promoting throughout the year. Hibernian Heroes represents the core beliefs of the AOH. We are asking every member to share the stories of your local Hibernian Heroes by forwarding them to me. Please include a photo. djoconnell@ysu.edu

By the time you read this Hibernian relief efforts will be well under way. These efforts will go far beyond fundraising; they will include everything we can do in our local communities as Irish, Catholic Americans serving our family, our friends and our neighbors. With members in every state and D.C. we can have a positive impact throughout the country. Our effort will include communication with those of us in isolation, especially the elderly. As I move ever closer to the age of 60, I realize even more how important family, friends and neighbors are to success in life. Our initial programs are going to include a phone tree, initiating weekly contact with every Hibernian throughout the country. Your voice may be the only voice your brother hears on any given day. The bottom line is, we are recommending a national effort of local efforts. Support each other, support our food banks, support our first responders, support our front-line workers who provide us with the basics of life, groceries, beverages and, yes, even toilet paper. Hibernians supporting Hibernians, Hibernians supporting America.

Beyond the pandemic, life continues and we all prepare to the future, the day after the stay-at-home order. As a National Board, this means preparation for our National Convention. The only thing we are sure of, is that this will not be the normal AOH-LAOH convention. Our hope and prayers are that we will be together in Orlando as scheduled. The reality is that we will not do anything to put a brother or sister in harm's way. That being said, the local and national convention committees are working diligently to provide the best possible convention to our members. At the same time, both the AOH and the LAOH are looking for alternate methods to convene in order to continue the work of the Hibernians. I salute President Jim McKay, LAOH President Carol Sheyer, Florida State President Ray Lynch, and Florida State LAOH President Louise Sullivan for their positive leadership in the face of adversity. I know LAOH Chair Kathie Linton shares my appreciation for the many Hibernians who have provided positive support for our efforts during these uncertain times.

Today, and every day, communication is critical. The AOH email blast continues to grow. If you are not yet receiving the blast, you can easily correct that. Contact your financial secretary, he can immediately update your contact information to include your email. At the same time, be sure everything on your file is up to date. If you need an address change, a spelling correction or anything else, your financial secretary is the brother who can get it done. Be more than just a member, be part of the team.

I hope you know that I will be running to serve as your national president during the upcoming convention. Jere Cole, as national secretary, has been gathering information about members who wish to serve the national board. If you believe you have something to offer, take the time to notify Jere. One of my goals for the future is to have an active working committee for each chairmanship. Brothers work with brothers to help us succeed in every chairmanship at every level of the Order. Please take a moment to send Jere a letter of interest and possible a short resume to Jere Cole at jcole4838@gmail.com. Thank you and God Bless.

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.



Treasurer's Report

By Sean Pender

Brothers, as I write this our country is at a time when we desperately need unity to overcome this tremendous challenge. We are living in an uncharted landscape, but look forward to the day that we can join together to celebrate life, remember those whom we lost, and honor the heroes who are working so hard to get us through this challenge. We will march again. God bless and stay safe.

IRS status update: We currently have on record 361 separate boards and divisions; 225 of which have valid 501c8 classifications and are attached to the National as subordinates and file taxes within the required guidelines; and 48 are engaged in or have completed the process of reinstatement, are working toward such or are engaged with the IRS to clarify their status. That's a total of 273 or 76 percent of the 361 who are compliant or working toward compliance.

That leaves 88 entities non-compliant, of which 57 have been unable to complete the reinstatement process since 2016, and an incomprehensible 31 who allowed themselves to become non-compliant by not filing taxes for 2016, 2017 and 2018 and lost their 501c8 status in 2019.

Letters will be or have been sent to all the 88 non-compliant entities with further instructions.

As stated in my last article, moving forward the responsibility for compliance rests solely on the shoulders of the boards and divisions. It should be noted that for the 2018 per capita submission the national board updated the constitution to reward payment on time with a discount and penalize payment after February 15th with an additional fee. This year, 89 percent of per capita was received by February 15, a dramatic increase from the mid-50 per cent levels we had been receiving. As a discussion item at our next convention we will consider a non-compliance fee to be charged to all non-compliant divisions.



Director's Report

By Bill Sullivan

It seems hard to believe that two years have nearly passed since we met in Louisville. As we look forward to our National Convention in Orlando, I would like to share with you an overview of some of the information that I will communicate to the delegates this July as the AOH National Board Liaison to New England and National Chairman of our Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships.

Over the past two years the National Board has worked as a cohesive team for the good of the Order. This team spirit has been carried over to the New England State Boards and their County Boards and Divisions. Naturally the best ways to foster a united effort is through good communication, not just from the National Board to the State, County and Divisions, but also from the Divisions, County and State Boards to the National Board. This communication has been carried on through conference calls, emails, phone calls, Digest articles and Web Blasts.

Since our time in Louisville, I have had the opportunity to attend state conventions, state board meetings, social events and other Irish and Hibernian activities. Attendance at these events has developed a comradery among Hibernians in New England and elsewhere.

Without doubt, we have had our challenges, but our accomplishments by far outweigh any obstacles. New England over the years has played a major and vital role in our Order's history and without doubt will continue to do so in the future, long after we leave Orlando.

On our scholarship initiatives for study in Ireland, the Hibernian Charity Board has increased the funding for both our high school and college scholarships, which has resulted in more inquiries on our scholarships. These inquiries have also been driven by communication, which plays a vital role in getting this information out to our membership. We have accomplished this objective through the Hibernian Digest, our National Web Page, emails and Web Blasts, just to note a few.

This past year we have included in our Digest articles the personal experiences from some of our scholarship recipients. Recently, we received an email from one of our Study Abroad Scholarship recipients, Celia Murphy, who studied this spring at Maynooth University. Celia wrote:

"I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful or welcoming country to study in. I have explored Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Killarney, and so much more! One of my favorite spots was the Howth Cliff Walk, the view was gorgeous and there was even a rainbow over the Atlantic! I am so grateful for this opportunity and I am thankful to the Hibernians for the role they played in helping me achieve this goal."

Unfortunately, Celia's once in a lifetime Study Abroad experience was cut short in late March due to the Covid-19 virus. Fortunately, she arrived home safe and well.

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 the \$1,000 Semester Abroad Scholarships in Ireland, is available on our AOH National Board Website. We realize due to Covid-19, getting all materials due by the deadline date (May 1) might not be possible. For assistance on this or other areas, please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or questions. My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net

Hopefully, our national challenge on the virus will soon be behind us and life will return to normal. In the meantime, stay strong, safe and well!



Director's Report

By Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation....

Our National Convention Brings Us Together

National Conventions bring Sister and Brother Hibernians from near and far to conduct the business of the Order, pray together and socialize. Being together presents an opportunity to meet Hibernian Leaders and Brothers to share your Division experiences and learn about operations and traditions in other areas.

Our National Board is comprised of very talented and dedicated leaders from throughout the country. We have "subject matter experts" in many areas that lead committees or efforts related to a specific topic or issue. The business conducted at the National Convention includes the General Meeting and numerous Committee Meetings, which are led by the respective Chairmen. These Committee Meetings are a chance to learn more about a topic from a subject matter expert and to be engaged in a basic or nuanced discussion with Brothers also interested in the topic. To be "up close and personal" with experts that include Historian Mike McCormack, FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and PEC Chair Neil Cosgrove, among others, at the Convention is priceless.

Quite often, members start a dialogue with Committee Chairs and other members at the convention that continues for years, in which resources and information are exchanged and, perhaps more importantly, friendships are developed.

Committee reports at the convention are always an opportunity to hear directly from the Chair and learn something new along with asking follow-up questions. Though our Committee Chairs can be contacted anytime throughout the year, the convention is the optimal time to meet and hear directly from the experts.

Below are a few examples of Committee topics that will be presented at our upcoming National Convention:

- Catholic Action
- Charities & Missions
- Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI)
- Hibernian Hunger
- History
- Immigration
- Organizing
- Political Education Committee (PEC)
- Pro-Life
- Veterans' Affairs

We hope to see you in Orlando in July.

ELECT
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Liaison report

By Mike Joyce, southwest liaison

Greetings from the Southwest!

I'm looking forward to being with each of you this July in Orlando. Honestly, I'm looking forward to being anywhere with anybody this July given that at the time of this writing, my wife, 2-year-old son and I are in week two of "shelter in place" here in Texas. Be safe everyone - wash your hands, don't touch your face and practice social distancing. Make it your duty to stay healthy so that our healthcare professionals, grocery clerks, law enforcement and other essential personnel can hold the line. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my PSA.

At convention I plan to report on the success of the southwest over the last two years by introducing the states and divisions who make up the territory. Further, I plan to talk about how we're changing the world in our respective corners, and how we celebrate our Irish heritage, southwest style.

Our divisions are relatively new to the AOH scene, so I pledge to you a short report as we continue to solidify our foundation in our communities and states. So, until we meet again in Orlando, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Brother Rob Healy, TX State VP, and Michael Collins, Dallas Co. Div. 1 President, with family, including Brother Dominick Chionchio, manning the AOH booth at the North Texas Irish Festival 2020.

How to become a member of a National Board Committee

All Chairmen of the national board have a committee they work with. Success of the AOH is dependent of the success of our committees. If you have something to offer, take a minute to send an email to National Secretary Jere Cole at: jcole4838@gmail.com detailing your interest and a brief resume with your background on the committee topic.

Constitutionally appointed officers and committees include: Historian/Archivist, Organizer, Editor of 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 Veteran's Affairs and Chairman of Immigration Committee.

Additional officers traditionally appointed include: Notre Dame Scholarship Fund, Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger, Webmaster, Rituals & Degree Chairman, and Marketing and Promotions committee.

A committee critical to our marketing and promotion is the *Hibernian Digest* committee, a group of incredible Hibernians who work together to edit the articles submitted to the Hibernian Digest. Our success as an organization depends on you. Please consider helping us succeed.

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

Deadline for June-July issue

NO LATER than June 1



Director's report

By John Wilson

I have had the honor of being the National Director for Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Montana. I look forward to sharing with you some of the good work of our Order at our National Convention in Orlando this July.

I have had the distinct pleasure of attending the dedication of the Father McCabe Memorial in Waseca, Minnesota, during my tenure. Thanks to the efforts of Rhode Island Hibernian George McLaughlin and the Fenian Memorial Committee of America there are markers and tombstones at the graves of the Catalpa Six. This is where Father McCabe fled from Australia, with the help of Archbishop John Ireland, of Minnesota. It is here Father McCabe served as the parish priest for mainly Irish immigrant farmers. At this dedication ceremony and a reception at the Waseca County Historical Society, I met the members of two Minnesota Divisions, the Shamrock Division in LeSueur and the Archbishop Ireland Division in St. Paul, that helped fund the monument and reception.

The flooding in Nebraska this past spring showed me the quick response of those involved with our Hibernian Charity and divisions from around the country ready to support those in need. I am humbled by the many people that live our motto.

It has been great working with members in the states that I have been the Liaison and watching them grow their Divisions in their states. It is especially rewarding to see these great leaders wanting to advance to a National Office. These men include Sean O'Dowd from Chicago, Patrick Ryan from Louisville and Robert Mehrens from Montana. Each one of these men will work hard for the Order and give a 110 percent to the AOH.

I am excited that Kansas City wants to host the 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention and present their credentials to our National Convention in Orlando. Both the AOH/LAOH of Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, are ready to show you why Kansas City would be an ideal spot for our convention. The Irish who immigrated to America often did so to join friends and family already in the United States. Many of those settlements were in Boston, New York and Chicago. But those without ties to an established Irish-American community, those who could be considered a little more rough and tumble, often continued to roam, explore and eventually settled in Missouri.

The Irish are the second largest immigrant group to settle in Missouri, second only to Germans. Kansas City is burgeoning with cultural centers, colleges, museums, major corporations, manufacturing, sports complexes, convention centers and performing arts centers. Kansas City has found its way into the 21st century with a large Irish population that helped settle the Midwest and nurtured the city to grow. Kansas City is now one of the top most livable cities in the U.S. and has some of the best BBQ around.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando, July 22-26 and to thanking Ray Lynch personally for his hard work putting this convention together.



Director's report

By Dan Dennehy

The season of Lent usually heralds Saint Patrick's season for Hibernians.

This year's season began as standard, with a flurry of events including the Irish Echo 40 Under 40, where nine young Hibernians were among the honorees. Also, plans were mounting for the installation of two headstones on the graves of Catalpa Escape Rescuers at Calvary Cemetery. Ironically, opened in the grassy plains of Queens in the 1880s, the Catholic Archdiocese of New York had planned Calvary Cemetery to serve for hundreds of years due to its vast size. The Spanish Flu nearly filled the cemetery with its victims 100 years ago. Suddenly, in March 2020, the clock on our busiest Hibernian season was stopped by a global pandemic. We now know what our predecessors felt a century ago.

This is a sad time. Every day we learn of Hibernians, first responders, family, friends and neighbors struck down by COVID 19. We cannot mourn or pray together, but we are not helpless. We pray every day with our Cardinal and our Chaplains on Facebook. Safe isolation does not mean we are powerless.

I know we will learn of efforts across America that, in these trying times, Hibernians are involved in many initiatives. I am confident they are all doing good work and all deserve our attention. One group near to my heart includes many people who worked together in Superstorm Sandy, one of the AOH's finest hours. The Meitheal, at the time I write, is one week old. It is open for all to participate by sharing resources and has already begun providing many much-needed supplies to the frontline workers fighting COVID 19.

Brian McCabe, a decorated retired NYPD detective, Irish Echo columnist, and president of our newest Orange County (NY) Martin McGuinness - Stephen McDonald Division, chairs the effort. Also on the committee are Dr. James Laughlin, MD, medical advisor and treasurer of AOH Orange County McGuinness McDonald Division; Brian J. Sharkey, president of the Grand Council of Emerald Societies, from AOH Nassau County Division 17; and leaders from the United Irish Counties, GAA, Irish Immigration Centers, and Irish Business and Trades organizations. Irish Americans in Support of Health Care Workers and First Responders, during COVID 19 in the NY Metro area, acquire PPE through our Irish connections in labor, service industry, and construction.

We will get through this together, even if we are physically separated. What a great reunion our AOH LAOH National Convention will be!



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Ed Halligan

As I sit here composing my report, I would like to look beyond our current situation and report on my role at our National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Just thinking about Orlando and being with Hibernians from around the country, is a nice thought.

I will be reporting on areas of my responsibility, i.e., the states of Delaware, New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. With the help of State and Division Presidents, Secretaries and Directors, I would like to do as follows.

Give reports on the two Divisions in Delaware, reporting on how they are doing with membership and some of their more successful events such as scholarships, Black Friday at Boscov's, and other events that bring their Division into the public arena. With New Jersey and Pennsylvania, I would do the same with recruitment success stories, membership numbers and major events like the North Wildwood, NJ, Irish Festival in September, the Philadelphia, PA, Hunger Projects, the different FFAI events and any other events that can be used by other Hibernians to enhance our Order. During this lockdown, I will be contacting the officers I mentioned earlier.

I hope to be able to join with the Corporal Bernard McCareen Division 2 in Newark, Delaware, for their Division meeting on March 31. They did a test meeting on Sunday with connections from desktops, laptops, smart phones and landlines. They have put out invites and I am looking forward to being a part of their meeting.

Before all the cancellations, I received a very nice e-mail from Mike Brown, president of Division 6, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He and a few Division Brothers did a recruitment drive with the permission of the Pastor at all the Masses on February 29 and March 1. They received five applications and gave out five more. One of the prospects, Dennis, who took an application, stands out as to the power of recruiting the right way. The Pastor allowed Mike to speak to the congregation. In doing so he got the attention of Dennis who was aware of the AOH, but as he put it "no depth of knowledge as why I should seek them out." He was in search for the atmosphere of a real Irish Pub in that there is an interest in the past, the folklore and story-telling, and said differently: Friendship, Unity and Charity.

Dennis goes on to say that when Mike began to speak Dennis realized that there was a deeper meaning and that God was answering a prayer. Dennis went home, looked at the video on the AOH history of our origins and inception. Dennis touched on his Catholic faith, the Church today and ended his e-mail to Mike stating that there is no greater mission - Defend the Faith. He thanked Mike for considering his entrance into the Division. I look forward to meeting Dennis, and great job Mike.

Hope to see many of you in Orlando. I would appreciate your help in getting re-elected as National Director. Thank you, and I hope you had a nice Easter.



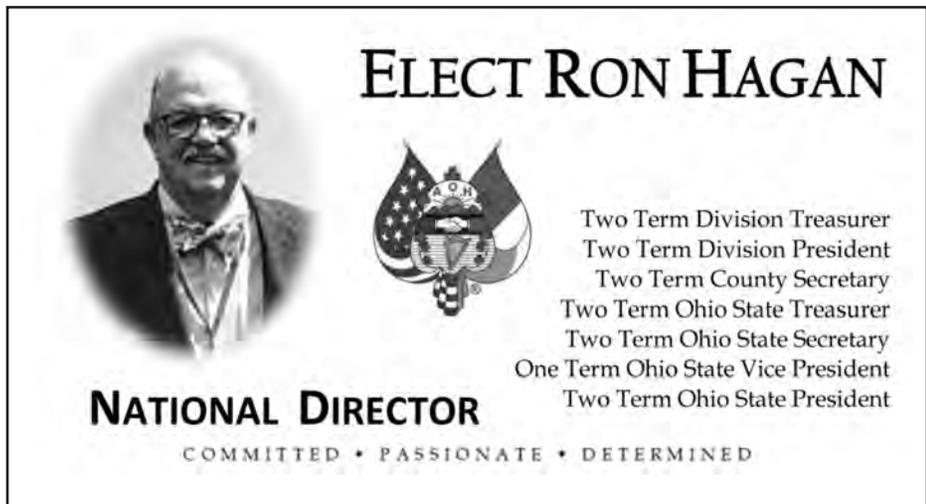
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you safe and well. It has been an extremely hard two months. I would like to give my thanks to all the AOH brothers and their family members who are first-line responders to this COVID-19 crisis. Please know you have been in my prayers. I know when this crisis is over, we will be able to look at the Order as a whole and know we did our Irish American heritage proud.

While almost all our St. Patrick's Day festivities were cancelled, we can all look forward to attending our National Convention in Orlando this July. Hopefully, this will allow us to celebrate our patron saint a little later in the year. During the Convention, I plan on sharing what has been going on in my area of the country. We've formed new Divisions, donated countless service hours to charity and promoted our ancestry in many ways. I look forward to seeing all of you and hope you can attend.

Brothers, please stay safe and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at dparks121@yahoo.com



ELECT RON HAGAN

NATIONAL DIRECTOR
COMMITTED • PASSIONATE • DETERMINED

- Two Term Division Treasurer
- Two Term Division President
- Two Term County Secretary
- Two Term Ohio State Treasurer
- Two Term Ohio State Secretary
- One Term Ohio State Vice President
- Two Term Ohio State President

Hibernian Reflections

by Jerry Lonergan
Padraig Pearse Div. 1 KCMO

Tom Crean, Isolation, the Arctic and Orlando

As we all contemplate the uniqueness of St. Patrick's 2020; we should celebrate the Irish character and adaptability to what the world throws at us. We maybe isolated from each other and the revelry that usually accompanies March 17th; I have a sense that the brotherhood we all belong to prevents us from feeling alone or unconnected.

Alone brings to mind the story of County Kerry native Tom Crean a great, and unrecognized, Irishman who was a true hero of 20th Century polar exploration. Crean had a 27-year Royal Navy career including three multi-year exploratory and scientific expeditions to the South Pole. Each were dangerous excursions in perilous terrain and hazardous outdoor conditions.

Two of the expeditions required unparalleled courage on Crean's part. One a 30-mile/18-hour solo "walk" to save two comrades unable to continue to a critical rendezvous supply station. A second high-sea adventure involved abandoning an ice-logged sinking ship and Crean's selection to a rescue crew that would row over 800-miles of open sea and then without maps or compasses traverse an uncrossed mountain to get to the island harbor.

Polar expeditions ran anywhere from three to six years; Crean experienced isolation and with no modern technology was limited to the same crew members throughout the excursions and included five-full months without daylight. An expedition leader would write "Crean is an Irishman with an incorrigible sense of humor ... There should be an Irishman in every expedition."

As we wallow in warm, comfortable homes with access to entertainment of all varieties we should stop and realize how important being Irish is to us and what we can learn from those that came before us. The brave and undaunted Crean's Irishness is captured by this quote, "he always sang when he was steering, and nobody ever discovered what the song was ... but somehow it was cheerful".

We have an important responsibility this summer in Orlando to come together - throw-off our collective spring disappointment, grandly celebrate people like Crean and our Irish brotherhood, with incomprehensible songs in our hearts and a Hibernian membership-card in our pockets, we may be in isolation, but we are never alone.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

At the Convention, we will discuss the need for us to be active in speaking up on causes that touch us as Irish Americans. It is imperative that we let our voice be heard for nowhere is it more true that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" than in politics. We have to disabuse some of our members of the apathy inherent in a "You'll never change anything attitude"; if you don't try, you will be 100 percent right. We also need to discuss replacing partisanship with a focus on the issues that unite us as Hibernians. In any given office, you may not care for the person holding that office, that is for election day. For the other 364 days of the year, that person is your elected official and should work as hard for you as any other constituent. When I hear people saying, "I wouldn't work with that guy," I shake my head; it is cutting your nose off to spite your face. Frankly, we can not put the issues of the Order on a two-, four- or six-year hiatus while we wait for another occupant of the office, if indeed that happens. As a people, the Irish have too often been the victims of Test Acts; we should guard against us adopting that behavior. We need to work with others in common cause when we can while reserving the right to disagree on other issues respectfully.

Recent PEC activity is, needless to say, impacted by the rightful need for COVID-19 to be occupying our leaders' full attention. We did write to Special Envoy Mulvaney (who we would not be distracting from COVID-19 response duties) concerning the despicable proposal by the British Government to redefine the pursuit of justice for victims of "the Troubles" by having Britain unilaterally decide which cases they would prosecute. That this is being proposed (not I believe uncoincidentally) while the world is focusing on a pandemic is despicable; it is callously using the victims of a health crisis as a shield to deny justice to the victims of atrocities. As a key player and guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, the United States can not permit this to happen.

Finally, on more mundane, but no less important matters, we have issued a call to action that it is imperative that all Irish Americans indicate their Irish ancestry on their 2020 census forms (question 9 for the Head of household, question 7 for all remaining household members). I certainly hope that I am preaching to the choir when it comes to Hibernians. However, we must make sure our extended family members all say "I am proud to be Irish" on the Census forms. Specifically, do not forget to fill out question 7 when recording youngsters in the household!

Finally, it is my hope and prayer that when you read this that you and yours are well and that our communities and nation will be on the road to recovery from this crisis; channeling that same spirit that has historically enabled America to come back from other hardships stronger than ever.



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

The adage that history repeats itself has verification in the Covid-19 pandemic, which mirrors the influenza pandemic of 1918-19 that took the lives of 650,000 Americans and more than 40 million world-wide little more than a century ago. The difference is that in 1918, President Wilson's government ignored the crisis, concentrating more on recruitment for WWI.

Today we have national, state and local governments uniting behind better medical resources to defeat the virus. We pray all will take their advice seriously to self-isolate and spend more time reading about Irish history on our AOH.com website's Historical Happenings link. It reminds us of Ireland in 1919 where such government assistance and resources were not available and 800,000 were infected in one year. The courage and selfless determination of Irish ladies at the time was the only deterrent to a much greater catastrophe and is recalled in this month's Echoes of Irish History.

Speaking of history repeating itself, the historic annual tradition of celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on Fifth Avenue was saved as, for the second time its history, the parade was threatened with cancellation. The observation of that high holy day of our heritage is older than the nation itself, having been initiated in 1762 when a dinner, hosted in NY City, saw local Irish regiments march to the banquet in military manner. The History Channel credits that march as the first St. Patrick's Day parade; however, the first organized march in 1766 gave birth to a tradition. The parade grew in size until 1904 when the longest march was 8 miles. The parade continued that historic annual tradition, but in 1917 it was threatened with cancellation for the first time. A tremendous rainstorm inundated the city that day and, though many marchers had assembled, the parade committee called it off. However, Grand Marshal Paddy Collins and 50 of his Aides, all on horseback, refused to let the tradition die and galloped up the Avenue from 42nd Street to 50th where they were reviewed by Cardinal Farley from his window. It was the shortest and smallest parade ever, but a parade it was, and the tradition was unbroken.

This year, it was decreed that the parade created too much a danger, and the city cancelled it. Yet, members of the Parade Committee, led by 30 members of the 69th Regiment following their piper, took off from the 69th Regiment Armory at 6 a.m. and marched to St. Patrick's Cathedral; later in the day, NY State Treasurer Tommy Beirne and members of AOH Div. 1 carried their banner up Fifth Ave to the Cathedral insuring that the tradition was unbroken and again, history was repeated! St. Patrick was not only well; he was well enough to march twice! Isn't it great to be Irish?

We'll meet again in convention in Orlando in July and this historian is looking to meet with other historians and history-minded members on a new project. We want to identify the monuments and memorials in each state relating to Irish and Irish-American contributions to our nation and the world for our archives and a possible national publication. Photos and stories are needed, and donors will be acknowledged. Let's chat in Orlando!

Echoes from Irish history

by Mike McCormack, National Historian

In June 1918, as a post-1916 Irish population endured British harassment, a new disease appeared in Limerick City. No one gave it much thought at the time, yet this invisible enemy would kill more than 23,000 Irish in the next two years. Called the Grippe, it was an influenza virus brought to Ireland by soldiers on leave from WWI. Dr. Kathleen Lynn of the Irish Citizen Army called for visiting soldiers to be quarantined and their uniforms disinfected, describing the front as "a factory of fever."

That fever spread quickly by the close proximity of people in crowds and Protestants even rejoiced that Catholics were more susceptible since they were better church-goers and spread the disease at Mass. In October, Dublin's Adelaide Hospital admitted 497 with flu and 32 deaths were reported. By November, Dublin was experiencing 250 deaths a week! Republican prisoners suffered most as many died of the disease in prison. In Usk Prison, in Wales, an escape was planned by 30 men, but when the time came, only six were able to manage it. Ernest Blythe, in Belfast prison, recalled that: "Out of the two hundred men in the prison barely thirty were on their feet by early 1919."

Author P.J. Casey recorded in **Irish Doctors in the First World War** that 3,336 Irish doctors were sent to the front creating a shortage in Dublin and Republican women jumped in to fill the vacuum. The medical training they'd received prior to the Easter Rising was valuable, and they set up depots to care for victims of the epidemic. Dr. Lynn, in hiding from police at the time, courageously appeared. In a Bureau of Military History statement, she recorded: "As doctors were so very badly wanted, I just decided that I would go home, and I did. I was arrested and brought to Oriel House (Police HQ). I was told that I would be deported. Miss French Mullen (local activist) and the Lord Mayor and everybody kicked up an awful 'shine'. Doctors were terribly wanted at that time. I was permitted to remain in practice if I did not leave the city."

Lynn organized other Republican women to start a hospital in an old building as she also noted: "The flu epidemic broke out and the women of the Citizen Army, on a Sunday, came to that derelict house and cleaned it up. The pigeons got into one of the top rooms and it was filthy. The women cleaned it and made it presentable. They were mostly Republicans that helped; Countess Markievicz helped and Countess Plunkett brought bedding. We got things from friends around; it was a scratch affair. We admitted patients suffering from flu and not one patient admitted to the hospital died!"

Republican Aine Ceannt's witness statement noted, "Cumann na mBan members helped to nurse the sick, gratis, as nurses were impossible, to obtain." According to activist Eilís Bean Uí Chonaill: "Cumann na mBan volunteered to nurse patients during this awful calamity. Members who were qualified in home-nursing were asked to help and responded magnificently to the call. Two depots opened and a notice put in the press announcing the hours at which members would be available. We visited patients at their homes in response to messages received at the depots."

By mid-1919 the flu died out in Ireland leaving no more trace of its coming than 23,000 fresh graves, yet its toll and the courageous actions of Irish Republican women remain a largely forgotten part of our history!



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Sa Bhablóin i Nua-Eabhrac, tá comhartha chun áit stairiúil a chomóradh. In *Babylon NY*, there's a sign commemorating an historic place. Bhíodh stáisiún "gan sreang" (raidió) ansin, an chéad cheann a rinne Guglielmo Marconi sna Stáit, a bhí ábalta caint a dhéanamh don chéad uair le longa tríd an aer. *The first Marconi wireless station in the States had been there. Tógadh i 1901 é. It was built in... Tá sé imithe anois. It's gone now.*

An bhliain dár gcionn, tógadh stáisiún dá leithéid in Éirinn, sa Chruachán, i gContae Corcaigh. *The following year, a similar station was built in Ireland, in Crookhaven. I 1907, tógadh ceann sa Chochán, Contae na Gaillimhe, a bhí in ann caint gan sreang le hAlbain Nua – rud réabhlóideach ar fad ag an am. In...one was built in Clifden, which could talk to Nova Scotia – a very revolutionary thing at the time. Tá iarsmaí den cheann seo fós ann. Remnants of this one still exist. Bhí stáisiún Marconi eile cúpla bliain níos déanaí i Leitir Fraic i gConamara, Contae na Gaillimhe, freisin, le tamall. There was another a few years later in Letterfrack, too, for a while. Bhí ceann eile i mBaile an Bhuinneánaigh, Contae Chiarraí, ar le Marconi é ar ball, ach níor thóg seisean an ceann sin. There was another one in Ballybunion which eventually belonged to him, but he hadn't built it.*

Bhuel, is suimiúil sin go léir, cinnte, ach níos suimiúla fós, ba de shliocht na hÉireann é Marconi! *Well, all of that is interesting, surely, but even more interesting, Marconi was of Irish descent! Annie Jameson ba ainm dá mháthair, agus is as Inis Córthaidh, Contae Loch Garman, ab ea í. His mother was...from Enniscorthy... Agus sea, ba dhuine de na Jamesons siúd í! And yes, she was one of those Jamesons! Beatrice O'Brien ab ainm dá chéad bhean chéile, freisin. His first wife was...too. Ba as Contae an Chláir ise. She was from Clare. Bhí suim i gcónaí ag Marconi in Éirinn. Marconi was always interested in Ireland. Ba Éireannaigh iad go léir stiúrthóirí a chomhlachtaí. The directors of his companies were all Irish.*

Bhí an chumarsáid gan sreang an-tábhachtach, dar ndóigh. *Wireless communication was very important, of course. Ní bheadh aon duine ón Titanic beo i ndiaidh an tubaiste gan í, mar shampla. Nobody would have survived the Titanic*

without it, for example. Agus ba é Marconi an duine ba thábhachtaí chun a í a chur i bhfeidhm. And Marconi was the most important person to put it into effect. Ba eisean an chéad duine chun gnólacht "gan sreang" a bhunú agus d'éirigh leis thar aon duine eile sa réimse seo. He was the first person to found a wireless company and succeeded more than anyone else in this field.

Tá leabhar dar teideal *Marconi, The Irish Connection* le Michael Sexton ar an ábhar seo, más mian le héinne níos mó a léamh. *There is a book entitled...on this subject, if anyone would like to read more.*

New York



Guitars for Heroes

In Rochester, Hibernians presented a 2019 Guitars for Heroes check to the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. The Veteran's Day event raised over \$14,000. From left, Jason Gorton, Laura Stradley (VOC Executive Director), Patrick Miller, Matt Fregoe, Ellen Adams (VOC Chair) and Tim Barry.



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

I had planned to be in Ireland in early April, delivering grants and going over ideas for our convention. The health crisis blocked my plans but did not get in the way of British injustice. The British have been promising new legacy investigations, which were supposed to open the door to truth on killings by British crown forces. Instead, they are trying to nail that door shut, creating legacy bodies designed to cut off investigations. As we lose opportunities like St. Patrick's Day parades, the Presidential Forum and a summer speaking tour, etc. to highlight the latest injustices, what we do following the convention takes on added urgency.

National speaking tours

To fight Boris Johnson's Britain's legacy cover-up, the FFAI committee will propose at least one more national speaking tour. Speakers like Mark Thompson, Carmel Quinn and Mark McGovern have brought issues like the Ballymurphy Massacre, or crown complicity and cover-up in murders home in a compelling way that builds a personal connection with our members.

Tours have a political dimension as speakers visit Washington, D.C., and meet members of Congress. The success of these meetings and the Congressional letters or hearings that follow, depend upon our members around the country telling their representatives they should attend.

These speaking tour events give a major boost to our Christmas Appeal.

States, city resolutions to honor Irish hunger strikers

In recent years we have had state and city resolutions commemorating the centennial of key events in Irish history, like the 1916 Rising and Ireland's Declaration of Independence. Next year, the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike, another watershed event. Bobby Sands, MP, was an elected Irish representative and, along with nine other patriots, gave his life in a British prison rather than be treated as a criminal by the crown. We can use state and city resolutions to highlight the political meaning as well as make a subtle political point about the nature of Britain's Orange state that imprisoned them and is being celebrated by Unionists.

Christmas Appeal

Our donations to carefully chosen charities through monies raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative. This year a record amount of grants will be distributed to 19 approved charities, with breakthroughs in states like Virginia, Florida, California, North Carolina and New Hampshire joining New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Louisiana, Illinois and New Jersey. We will be proposing new local initiatives to get more states involved.

February's fact-finding tour

Two years ago Hibernians completed a highly publicized 9-day fact-finding mission last February led by President Jim McKay and LAOH President Carol Sheyer and including leading Hibernians from 13 states. In February of 2021, we are proposing a tour that would include meeting the families of all of the hunger strikers as well as the continuing legacy and political meaning of the 1981 Hunger Strike today.

FFAI monthly bulletins

In response to requests for information we established a monthly FFAI Bulletin. All issues are now part of the monthly email blast. The aim is to give you monthly updates on a few key events in the north with short analysis and explanations. We will have proposals to circulate these bulletins through local FFAI Chairs in Divisions across the country.



immigration

By Dan Dennehy, chairman

After this wise period of separation for the global health emergency, we all look forward to seeing each other at the AOH/ LAOH National Convention in Orlando. I want to share an outlook on our Immigration Committee presentation. Our committee recognized the lack of recent Irish immigrants in our communities; it is up to the AOH to educate and inspire others in our communities. Hibernians can help politicians to understand that in 1965 Congress acted on Immigration Reform and caused Irish Immigrants to lose 17,000 visas a year, that equal one million fewer visas for Ireland, therefore millions fewer Irish Americans. We need to turn that around!

At the Convention, we will describe how the AOH Immigration Committee works on Legislative Reform, AOH Interface with Irish, U.S. and Local Governments, Irish Immigration Center Support, Dual Citizenship and Living/ Retiring in Ireland, Support for Irish Conflict Deportees, Understanding the Emigrant Support Program, Irish Emigrant Vote Campaign, Lobbying, Committee Goals and Achievements. Suggestions for State County and Division Immigration Chairs will focus on communication with members about local action, and immigrant support, also Historical relevance of the AOH and Immigration.

We took time to thank Ireland's Senator Billy Lawless at the end of his term of office, for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Diaspora, particularly Irish immigrants in America. Billy and his family came here as immigrants and built the Lawless Restaurant Group, a business empire in Chicago, their adopted home. Billy began working immediately for Irish Immigrants' rights and immigration reform. I met Billy in 2004 as he founded the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. Thank you, Senator Lawless, for your friendship, our continued work together and your unique generosity of spirit.



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Schenectady Major Degree Team celebrates 100th Year Anniversary

Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of my appointment as National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees is the opportunity to travel throughout the land to observe our Major Degree Teams (MDT) perform our Major Degree of the Order ceremony and meet with and enjoy the fellowship of our Brothers in their various locales.

On one such junket in late February, I was able, along with my "wingman," fellow Isle of Erin MDT Teammate Tom O'Hagan, to travel to Albany, NY, to observe the Schenectady MDT at the CDIAA Hibernian Hall in a Major Degree hosted by Father Henry Tansey Division 5. We greatly appreciated the warm hospitality afforded to us by our upstate New York Brothers during our weekend visit.

A major purpose for this trip was to join in celebrating and honoring the Schenectady MDT on the 100th Anniversary of the team's founding. The Schenectady MDT is the longest tenured Degree Team in continuous operation in our Order. The Team is currently led by Team Chairman Jim Gavin and Team Vice Chairman Owen Cole. A significant force in the Team's history was AOH Life Member Mike Glenn, who was with the Team for 42 years prior to his retirement as Team Chairman in 2018.

The team's founding dates back to yet another time of pandemic in our nation's history following the end of World War I and the ravages of the Spanish Flu epidemic. At that time there were three AOH Divisions in Schenectady County along with a Company of Hibernian Rifles, a sub-unit the Capital District's Hibernian Rifles Regiment. The three Divisions merged and, along with the Hibernian Rifles Company, saw an opportunity and a need for a Major Degree Team to service the upstate New York Area within the Order.

Since that time, the Schenectady MDT has successfully continued in bringing the Lessons of the Order to our Brotherhood in the upper NY state region. Since 1993, they have exemplified the Major Degree at three New York State Conventions. They also had the honor of performing the Major Degree ceremony at the most recent AOH National Convention in Louisville, KY in 2018.

The Schenectady MDT is perhaps most noted for its precision marching routines, which are among the most intricate and complex of all our MDTs and are most impressive in their execution. This facet is likely borne out of the team's historical roots and influence of its Hibernian Rifles past. Schenectady is one of the larger teams membership-wise among our MDTs and includes an eight-man choir.

We salute the Schenectady MDT on the achievement of this momentous milestone and wish them continued luck and success in their endeavors. Slainte, Brothers! Well done!

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Due to the current pandemic situation affecting our nation, there are no Major Degree ceremonies scheduled at this time. Please check on the Rituals and Degrees subpage of the National website at aoh.com for possible re-scheduling of recently postponed Major Degrees.



Schenectady Major Degree Team, New York, founded 1920.



organizer

By Tim McSweeney

Organizer Tim McSweeney

In less than four months we will meet in sunny Orlando, Florida, for our biennial national convention. During the Organizer report, I will report on the activities of the Organizer's office. I report on overall growth, new divisions, our online application program progress and our expanding at-large membership program. Other key points I intend to present:

- Recruitment is the lifeblood of the Order,
- Targeting Recruitment Strategy and tactics,
- The importance of and the expanding role of the division Organizer,
- Developing a Division Recruitment Plan,
- Retention,
- Best practices Roundtable.

Although, the current health crisis cancelled the majority of our St. Patrick's events at which we typically recruit, use this time to plan for summer and fall recruitment events.



hibernian hunger project

By Paul Gowdy, chairman

Currently, we are faced with a multitude of our neighbors who are out of work, staying at home and running out of money to purchase food for their families. This is the time when we as Hibernians need to take up the challenge and come up with donations or projects within our AOH boards at Division, County, State and National levels and come to the aid of the needy. I know that holding board meetings are currently difficult, so use your computers, home phones and cell phones to communicate and plan to raise cash for the needy in your neighborhood.

Hopefully, our AOH/LAOH National Convention in Florida will be well attended by a multitude of State, County and Division Boards. Presently, the Coronavirus plague leaves us unsure of the outcome. So keep saying those prayers and hopefully all will turn out in our favor.

As your Hunger Chairman, I am appealing to all those AOH Board leaders who plan to attend the convention to assist me by providing me with details of any and all local hunger fund raising projects in their neighborhoods. I would hope they can share the scope and details of the charitable efforts in their territory.

Also, if I am returned as your National Hunger Chairman, I will be searching for some National AOH Hunger project assistants who are active and experienced in those projects and would like to assist me at the National level to improve and expand AOH charitable projects in every Hibernian state.

Those AOH boards who have regular scheduled hunger fund raisers will be unsure of the success of their efforts this year, especially if they are unable to have regular monthly planning meetings due to the virus situation. I have been keeping in touch with the recipient of our annual fund-raising project, for the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Presently their soup kitchen is fully staffed with a bevy of in-house volunteers who cook and feed between 1700 to 1800 hungry Detroit bodies every day. They have a steady supply of donated food from many sources in the City of Detroit.

My division hosts an annual fund raiser for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. I will be sharing the work plan and scope of this effort at the upcoming National convention.



anti defamation

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

At the convention, we will discuss the continuing struggle to seek fair and equitable respect for the heritage of Irish Americans that is so rightly accorded other heritages. We are not seeking to be treated better than any group, but our ancestors have struggled far too hard and accomplished far too much for our heritage to have the dubious distinction of being the only one where bigoted stereotypes and clichés are still deemed acceptable. It is my hope that we can educate some members who think that antidefamation is being “overly sensitive” or “no big deal”; those who think we are objecting to a \$20 shirt are missing the point. The issue is not a cheap and tawdry shirt, but the attitude of acceptance because it targets Irish Americans and not some other group.

No better example of this can be found than in Amazon’s sale of an “F(full expletive) St. Patrick’s Day” shirt described as “the perfect Anti-St. Patrick’s Day Shirt.” Can one imagine the reaction if anyone was to market “the perfect Anti-Cinco de Mayo Shirt”? This isn’t about being able to take a joke; this is about self-respect. There is no benign interpretation of this shirt or ambiguity on the “F St. Patrick’s Day” message. The hypocrisy that this comes from an organization that continually virtue-signals on diversity should anger us all as the message is clear: they do not recognize us as a heritage.

We created an on-line petition that has received more than 5,600 signatures. That is the good news. A petition with 5,600 signatures protecting an item sold by one of our nation’s largest retailers, a retailer that had previously pulled merchandise and issued apologies when other groups were defamed, should have been a major news story. The bad news, and a topic that needs to be addressed elsewhere, is that while this was happening, the National was involved in fire fighting an issue regarding a local St. Patrick’s day parade. To be frank, it was more than disappointing to see the news media fixated on a parade line of march and that issue drawing all the oxygen out of the room and not the fact that a major retailer was fostering “anti-attitudes” toward a specific ethnic celebration.

In parallel, it was also disappointing to hear reports that divisions were themselves ordering other defaming merchandise for members to wear as part of their St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. Brothers, what of our oath? “That I will not countenance by my presence or support any performance that may reasonably be interpreted as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people.” Was any thought given to the undermining effect that one cell phone picture of this behavior could have in undermining our national efforts?

Brothers, we pride ourselves as a national organization; we need to think nationally and take accountability for our local actions. We are the Ancient Order of Hibernians, not the “Irish Club of Anytown, USA.” We have to start paying attention to reports that our younger generations are slipping away from our heritage; we have evidence of that in our membership. We need to reinstall pride in our heritage, showing that it is worthy of defending, making it something people want to embrace through joining the Hibernians. If we don’t act to express our heritage, take pride in our heritage, then we will join a long litany of other heritages that only exist as entries on DNA tests.



veterans affairs

By Jim Green, chairman

As we progress through this glorious, but very odd, season of spring, I hope and pray that you and your families are safely making it through all of the restrictions and precautions due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We have never seen anything like this before, but our parents, grandparents and great grandparents have seen much worse in their lifetimes – WWI, WWII, the Great Depression, the Irish Starvation, 9/11 and more. With God’s help, and the help of our heroic medical caregivers, we will survive this, and I pray that we will all be able to joyfully be together at the upcoming National Convention in July, or we’ll at least be together spiritually as one brotherhood. We have also been deprived of our beloved St. Patrick’s Day season, which I hope will lead to an even more glorious celebration next spring. Most of all, of course, we continued with our Lenten observances as best we could but were denied participating in the Eucharist during our holy season of Easter. I pray that you were able to at least participate in the Mass via one or more of the many high technology tools we are fortunate to have available to us. I “attended” Mass that way myself, and though it not as rewarding as being there in person, it was still possible to be in the presence of God through those tools.

To spend a moment speaking of the upcoming Convention, I plan to make my report to our Board and to our brothers in attendance, and here are a few of the items I plan to cover:

- I will restate the definition of the National Veterans Chairman as outlined in our National Constitution. I think it is important to begin my report that way to clarify the objectives, goals and duties of all of our Veterans Chairs – Division, County, State and National.
- I will review my major accomplishments over the past two years. If you’ve followed my reports in the Digest, all of my accomplishments in the past have been well documented. But I think it’s important to know where we’ve been and where we are to understand more clearly where I hope we’re going in the next term. Examples of my accomplishments, certainly with help from my brothers, are the Veterans Pin and the historical recording of Hibernian veterans in our national database.
- Plans or ideas for my next term or recommendations for my successor. There have been a number of Veterans Affairs Chairmen who have contributed ideas and information to me over my past two terms, and I’ve been able to share a lot of that with you via these articles and the occasional email blast. Improved communications among all Veterans Chairmen is my number one priority for the upcoming years. There are so many brothers with so many ideas or projects that they can share with us, it has been a source of frustration to me that more of that does not get out to all Hibernian Veterans. So that will be a focus of what I hope to improve on in the coming term, whether that be me or if I am replaced by a brother with the knowledge, experience and drive to take this position to a higher level.
- That said, my greatest hope is that when I have finished serving my time in this position, a brother will be chosen to serve you in a greater and more effective way than I have. I know of brothers that are up to that challenge, and I look forward to helping them, but of course that decision is primarily up to our Hibernian leadership to decide. In any case, I look forward to seeing you at the convention, God willing.

It’s hard for anyone anymore to talk about anything that doesn’t have to do with the Coronavirus. Information for veterans on that subject – and so much more – can be found by signing up for the “VetResources” weekly email newsletter. Please go to <https://www.va.gov/VetResources/> to check it out. I believe that you’ll be glad that you did.

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



project st. patrick

By Vic Vogel, chairman

Each year, March, April and May are designated Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal months. A \$500 donation to the Easter Appeal is the equivalent of a Grant that would be awarded to a Seminarian or a Novitiate. A Certificate of Recognition will be awarded as a Thank You from the Project St. Patrick Committee for anyone making a generous donation of \$500 or more. Your Division, County or State may consider offering such a donation in recognition of a Chaplain, a Hibernian of the Year, an Officer or any deserving Honoree. Easter Appeal donations are also appropriate for remembering a deceased member. Our Easter Appeal Grant Program is grateful for any donation, large or small. In addition, please don’t hesitate to contact me [victorjvogel@yahoo.com] for Project St. Patrick Memorial Cards. Thank you.

Project Saint Patrick Prayer Cards

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Vic Vogel

victorjvogel@yahoo.com



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

What strange days these have been, right? It will be almost mid-May by the time you read this, and I pray the horror of this virus will be on the decline here and in the rest of the world by then.

I have always looked forward to state and national conventions, but never more so than the one scheduled for Orlando in July. In my view, the Digest represents a six-times-a-year national convention of sorts, to which every Hibernian in good standing gets to "attend." It's the Order's way of enabling national officers and AOH leaders throughout the states, counties and divisions to let Hibernians know about our organization, its history and goals, what's going on, what needs to be done, priorities and accomplishments.

My report at the convention will include the following information:

- what the duties of the Editor are;
- what the purpose of the Hibernian Digest is;
- how to submit content to the Digest;
- how to submit better content;
- Tips for writing reports and articles for the Digest and local media;
- importance of brevity and action-oriented, instructional, motivational articles;
- Tips for taking better photos for the Digest and local media;
- importance of submitting quality photographs, action-oriented, bright, focused; sharp and informative pictures;
- Digest deadlines;
- Info on the Digest editing process;
- and I will request the names and email addresses of all state publicity officers.

See you in Orlando!

charities & missions

By Joseph J. Norton, Ph.D., Chairman

As we all do our best to stay healthy, pray for those brothers and sisters impacted by the Covid-19 virus, we are looking forward to our convention in July. The Charities and Missions report at the convention will focus on a summary of the good works of The Order, the timelines and requirements for submissions of local, county and state reports. We will also highlight potential changes in regard to a common reporting template, hourly rates for volunteer time and who we can count in our submissions for volunteer time. I would also encourage anyone who has questions or suggestions regarding our Charities and Missions efforts to email me at docsnorton2@gmail.com.

The Covid-19 virus has, like any other crisis, brought out the best of our Hibernian Sisters and Brothers. Efforts to coordinate deliveries to those in need have been established by Hibernians in localities across our nation. Some through parishes, in coordination with Catholic Charities, and other Irish American organizations. We are always there for those in need, whether it be financial assistance, prayerful support, restocking of food pantries, or basic household needs, our brothers and sisters are delivering what is needed, with their own hands and vehicles to those in need. I'd like to thank any and all those offerings of a little and a lot in this time of great need. I am looking forward to sharing a report of our activities and hearing your ideas for more at our biennial convention in July at the beautiful Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida.

Please make use of our Hibernian Charities for your financial donations by sending checks made out to Hibernian Charities using the memo line for direction to Project St. Patrick, Disaster Relief, Hibernian Hunger, Study Abroad Scholarships, Irish History, Medal of Honor Grove or leave blank for distribution to be decided by the Hibernian Charities Board of Trustees.

Send to:

Hibernian Charity
PO Box 19325
New Orleans, LA 70179

Or through PayPal, by sending money to HibernianCharities@gmail.com. Also, if you use Amazon for your online shopping needs, please sign into and use <https://smile.amazon.com> for your purchases and choose Hibernian Charity as the charity you would like a percentage of your purchase amount to benefit.

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



pro-life

By John Patrick Walsh, Chairman

Mary, our source of inspiration

During my Pro-Life report at our July National Convention, I plan to share the latest legislative achievements (and backtracks), provide state and local best practices, and present ideas on how to use our Pro-Life activities to further membership retention and recruitment. With the assistance and blessing of our National Board, we are hoping to have a surprise pro-life speaker. Our tireless commitment to life, from womb to tomb, must continue unabated as we head into summer.

Let Mary be our guide

For those lucky enough to join us for the March for Life in January, you may have noticed five beautiful murals behind the altar of St. Mary Mother of God Church. The murals are a recent addition and great source of pride to the parish, having recently been completed to replace original paintings that were damaged beyond repair. They depict the five Joyful Mysteries: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity of our Lord, the Presentation and Finding Jesus in the Temple.

As we prepared for Easter, we revisited the readings of Our Lord's sorrow and suffering; but it was only as I prayed before these murals that I began thinking about how Mary suffered as well, and what reservoirs of inner strength she must have possessed in order to continue trusting in God's plan for her Son.

As I gazed from the Annunciation to the Nativity to Finding Jesus in the Temple, I meditated on a mother's intuition, a strong and supernatural phenomenon that often transcends the normal limit of human knowledge or perception. Mary was young, and probably a little naive, when first visited by Gabriel, but not so inexperienced in the world not to know that massive shifts in religious belief or fate, as foreshadowed by the Archangel's message, are often accompanied by pain and strife. Yet for all the unknowns, she humbly accepted the will of God.

Viewing the Visitation, I cannot help but question the trust shown by Mary and Elizabeth in God's plan for their children and themselves. Both are so open and joyous regarding their pregnancies. The rational side of my mind instantly checks off the challenges both face and why modern society would recommend a visit to their local "clinic": Elizabeth (by some accounts 60-years-old) is at extreme risk due to her geriatric pregnancy, while Mary was possibly as young as 13 and unmarried when she conceived. Even in the face of an arduous journey during her third trimester and giving birth in a stable, Mary has faith, trusting in the prophecies her child is destined to fulfill.

I am inspired by the example set by Our Mother, wondering how much harder it must be to live with firm knowledge of God but being powerless to stop or alter His plan. From the Gospel of Luke we know that Mary had greater insight than most into the mysteries of the Presentation (Lk 2:35) and Finding Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:51), being warned by Simeon of the pain she would experience at the crucifixion and keeping in her heart the words and knowledge of Jesus' destiny. Yet despite these warnings, and the worldly knowledge that the change her Son represented would be resented and challenged by many, Mary persevered.

How would you have reacted? Would knowing that a future son or daughter was destined for extreme pain and sorrow change your pro-life opinions? If a loved one's path led to their death or persecution, could you stand by them and trust in God's plan? We do not have the benefit of an angel announcing the existence of God and an afterlife; but neither do we have the burden of prophetic knowledge we are powerless to change. Therefore we should look to the Blessed Virgin Mother as a role model and ask for her intercession when burdens of doubt and insecurity leave us despondent. The next time you or a loved one find yourselves struggling to maintain a pro-life position, meditate on the woman who consistently supported those same beliefs, even to the point of sacrificing her Son for the world.

Remember the AOH in your will

Please consider the Order when writing or rewriting your will, and add a paragraph along the lines of: "I leave to The Ancient Order Of Hibernians in America [X percent of my estate or a specific dollar amount] for its charitable works."

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Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

As I write this, Brothers, we have just put behind us a March that we will all remember, and not for the best of reasons, as COVID-19 sweeps our country. It is my sincere hope that this article finds you and yours well and that we all pray for those impacted by this insidious disease. If we truly embrace our Heritage, which is the core meaning of Irish American Heritage Month, we know that we as a community will get through this and meet the challenge of coming back stronger than ever.

At the convention, I will present the results of the past two years IAHM efforts and convince those Divisions who currently are not participating in this effort to get on board with this important national program. We as an Irish American Organization can not continue if there is not increased recognition and pride in being Irish American; we can not afford continued lethargy on this issue.

As an Order, I think we can take some pride in living up to our sworn commitment in promoting our Heritage and the role of the Irish in America through this year's Irish American Heritage Month program. Our Irish American Heritage Month video reached nearly 70,000 people, was liked 7,500 times, and shared 1,500 times. Our Irish American Heritage Month profiles continued to draw attention to the many — and often neglected — accomplishments that Irish American men and women have made to our nation, one post alone being read by 2,000 people. Given that this was at a time when the seriousness of the current pandemic was becoming apparent, these are remarkable numbers; I believe that in any other year we could easily have doubled these numbers. This should guide us when we get to the other side of this crisis; there is a hunger for our heritage and culture; if we at the Division level are not seeking to fill that need, then we are doing ourselves a disservice.

On the other side, with the cancellation of our parades, it became clear how little our public institutions and officials do as regards recognizing Irish American Heritage Month. The sanguine attitude, and in one notable case buffoonery, as regards the cancellation of St. Patrick's Day activities was unconscionable. Let me be clear: canceling these activities was 100 percent the correct call in the current crisis. However, there was a palpable lack of empathy and understanding of the significance of these cancellations to the Irish American community and particularly Irish-American-run businesses. A simple statement of acknowledgment of these facts and an appropriate expression of understanding would have taken no more than a sentence or two and would not have distracted from the emergency response. Now is not the time to fight this fight, but next year, please God, when this crisis is nothing but a memory, we need to remind our leaders of the impact that the COVID-19 response had on the Irish American community and challenge them to do better.

During these trying times, when many of us cannot engage in our normal activities, let us take it as an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves and our families with our heritage. We can find hope that we will beat this crisis in the stories of the resilience of our ancestors in the face of countless adversities.

We started March off right!

The Consul General of Ireland, Ciarán Madden, held a St. Patrick's Season Reception on March 4th at the Consulate in New York City. Dozens of invited guests — including members of the AOH National Board and NY State Board — attended the warm and welcoming event and enjoyed the Consul General's and consulate staff's hospitality. Some of the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians attending the Consulate Reception were, from left, Andy Healey, Fr. Gormley, Dan Dennehy, Malachy McAllister, John Tully, Jim Burke, Consul General Ciarán Madden, Martin Galvin, Michael O'Reilly, Thomas P. Costello (Deacon and Nassau County Aide to the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade), John O'Connell and Dermot Kelly. What a wonderful way to begin Irish American Heritage Month!



Federal agencies and Irish American Heritage Month

By John Schell, Chairman IAHM Committee, Maryland State Board

The White House placed the U.S. Presidential Proclamation for Irish American Heritage Month, March 2020, on the White House website at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-irish-american-heritage-month-2020/.

U. S. Presidents have now proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month for 30 consecutive years. Three federal cultural institutions again provided wonderful online resources on the homepage of their website during March 2020.

The Smithsonian Institution, for a third consecutive year, established a banner on its website to provide resources at www.si.edu/spotlight/irish-american. The Library of Congress, also for a third consecutive year, established a banner on its website to provide resources at www.loc.gov/rr/main/irishamerican/. The National Archives and Records Administration, for a second consecutive year, established a banner on its website to provide resources at www.archives.gov/news/topics/irish-american-heritage.

All of these many and varied resources offered excellent visibility to our Irish American heritage, history and culture. Brothers can contact these federal cultural institutions by sending them an email to thank them and to ask that they continue providing the resources in future years.

Five Hibernians receive Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Award

By Brother Denis P. McGowan

Five brother AOH men received the prestigious 40 Under 40 Award from the Irish Echo, America's oldest Irish-American newspaper at a gala dinner held on February 21, at Rosie O'Grady's restaurant in New York City. The following Hibernians were recognized for their contributions to the Irish-American community.

Brother Sean ("Seanai") Kiely, of Hoboken, NJ, a member of NY County Thomas Cardinal O'Fiaich Division 7. Born in Waterford, Sean came to the United States in 2017 to join the law firm of Raoul, Felder and Partners. Brother Kiely holds a degree from Trinity College in Law and German. Called to the Honourable Society of Kings Inns, Dublin, where he trained as a Barrister-at-Law, he was called to the Bar of Ireland in July 2016 by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ireland. He is a member of the New York Bar as a practicing attorney. An avid hurler, he currently plays for the Hoboken Guards which won the NY State Hurling Championship last summer in Gaelic Park against Tipperary NY. Passionate about all Irish sports, Brother Kiely also served as Fianna Fail's Waterford Representative on the National Executive of the Party from 2013 to 2017.

Brother Andrew Sharp, of New Orleans and New York, is a member of Suffolk County Saint Patrick's Division 2. Born in Bayonne, NJ, brother Sharp has a lifetime immersed in Irish music and culture. He began playing the Uilleann pipes professionally at the age of 15 performing with such legends as Black 47 and touring with Irish music icons Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones. He is a dedicated teacher of the various types of bagpipes and is an instructor with the Saffron United Pipe Band in Babylon, NY which was just awarded "Champion Supreme" in the eastern United States and will travel to Glasgow, Scotland to compete at the World Pipe Band Championship. Besides being an Irish musician, he is a political campaign consultant and is married to his lovely wife, Alexandra, who is expecting their first child.

Brother Sean McCann, of Putnam Valley, NY, is a member of Westchester County Peekskill Division 18. A past recipient of the Building America Award, he and his father, Frank McCann, are active supporters of the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural center in East Durham, NY. Sean is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local

30, and graduated from the union's three-year apprenticeship program in 2014. He obtained a New York State diploma in Stationary Engineering in 2014 and a Refrigeration Operators license from the FDNY. He currently serves as a High-Pressure Plant Tender for the City College of NY and is the shop steward assisting the Vice President of Local 983 representing High-Pressure Plant Tenders at multiple CUNY locations. He is married to his lovely wife Jackie.

Brother Tim Weklar, of Averill Park, NY, is a member of Albany County Father Henry Tansey Division 5 and graduated the University of Albany in 2002 with a BA, majoring in history and minoring in political science. He then earned a master's degree from the College of Saint Rose in Adolescent Education. He teaches at City School District of Albany as a special education teacher at the Tony Clement Center for Education. Tim has served as an officer of his Division since 2009 and is its President. He also serves on Schenectady Major Degree Team and is a Past County President. He is married to his lovely wife Amanda and they have two children, Simon and Theodore.

Brother Tomas McLaughlin, of Baltimore, MD, is an active member of the Order and is Director of the AFL-CIO Community Services of Central Maryland. Since college, he has been helping organize, train and support workers in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He focused his undergraduate studies thesis on the Irish Hunger Strikes. Although born in Brooklyn, NY, Brother McLaughlin was baptized in Belfast, County Antrim, by the great champion of West Belfast, Father Des Wilson. Thomas spent his first 18 summers living and working on a farm outside Ardara, County Donegal. He is the youngest member of the Fenian Memorial Committee of America's Board of Directors, and actively supports Irish festivals and parades.

The 40 Under 40 awards were presented by the NY AOH State Board Vice President John J. Manning. Kudos to all five brother AOH members on bringing honor to the good name and reputation of our Ancient Order, aiding and advancing our Irish-American community and honoring our Irish heritage and Roman Catholic faith. There is an old saying in the Irish-American community – To be Irish is a blessing, to be a Hibernian is an honor; these five esteemed brothers bring both honor and blessings to our Order by their good works and service to our Irish-American community.

U.S. REP. BRENDAN BOYLE ELECTED JOHN F. KENNEDY MEDAL RECIPIENT
continued from page 1

spending package recently approved. As political turmoil continues in the wake of Brexit, Boyle knows increased funding for peace programs in the North is critical. Brendan explained, "I have long advocated for increased funding for the International Fund for Ireland. As the United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union, the on-the-ground work of the IFI is critically important. Brexit will have significant consequences for the island of Ireland. I am glad that my colleagues have recognized this threat and committed to increase U.S. support for peace throughout the island. For decades, the United States has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to help create a strong and peaceful society on the island of Ireland, and our continued involvement is important for maintaining that peace."

Brendan Boyle was part of the White House official welcoming ceremony when Pope Francis visited in 2015. When the Pope addressed the joint meeting of Congress, Boyle honored his Catholic background by inviting his former principal from Cardinal Daugherty High School, Father Paul Kennedy to be his guest.

Brendan and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of a lovely daughter. Brother Boyle is truly a Hibernian in action working for peace and justice in the North of Ireland every day!



Brendan and Jennifer Doyle with daughter Abigail.

Alabama

Father Treacy Division Parade Court Coronation Escorts

The Father Treacy Division has served as the Huntsville St. Patrick's Day parade honor guard for many years, carrying the flags that are blessed by the Father during the parade route. Huntsville, as with most cities that did not have early St. Patrick's Day parades, cancelled their parade, which we fully supported then and truly support now as all of the community focuses on minimizing the spread of the corona virus.

In February, the parade held their court coronation ceremony in the Maggie McGuinness Pub and our Division was called upon to be the official coronation ceremony escorts. Our division was humbled and honored to be part of this great ceremony not knowing at the time the tough call would be made in less than a month to cancel the parade. One brother who has participated in the past in this ceremony, Brother Dave Gray, was absent because he was (and continues to be) in the hospital with severe breathing issues not necessarily related to the virus. Our division continues to pray for Brother Dave Gray, all of our brothers and families, and the world during these troubled and uncertain times. May Christ be with us! May Christ be before us! May Christ be in us, Christ be over all! May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours, This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen. St. Patrick, Pray for Us!



Father Treacy Division Parade Court 2020. Photo courtesy of Shinebright Photography.

Florida



President Todd McDonald, left, and Record Secretary Greg Neuhaus.

Life goes on

Although Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Div. 2 of Melbourne was enjoined from having its annual St. Patrick's parade, a few officers decided to carry on the tradition. Division President Todd McDonald, Recording Secretary Greg Neuhaus, Standing Committee Chairman John Fox and two members of the Brevard LAOH staged their own "Outlaw Parade." This amounted to four vehicles that were decorated and "paraded" up and down in historic downtown Melbourne. Earlier in March the Division had received Irish Heritage Proclamations from Brevard County and the cities of Melbourne, Palm Bay, West Melbourne and Satellite Beach.



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in memoriam

Brother **Tom Collins** passed away on Palm Sunday, April 5, on Long Island, after a brief illness. He was 77. Tom was originally from Medford, MA, and in the mid 1950s his family moved to Long Island. For 54 years Tom was married to his high school sweetheart Pat. Together, they raised three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Tom was a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip, NY, and during that time was very involved with the Diocese's Bishop's Annual Appeal/ Catholic Ministries Appeal for 25 years. Tom joined AOH St. Patrick's Division 2 in 1980, where he and his wife were quite involved. Earlier this year, Tom was named Hibernian of the Year at Division 2. President Jim Killen said, "Tom was a devout Catholic and a humble and generous man; he lived by our Hibernian motto. Tom will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

Ronald Raymond Gento, of Palm Bay, FL, born in 1948, passed in peace January 25, 2020. He was born in Chicago, IL, moved to Brockton, MA, as a young man until moving to Palm Bay in 2015.

Ronald was a member of the Fulton J. Sheen Division 2 in Brevard Co. and a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church in Palm Bay.

Ronald leaves behind his wife Beverly (Rapoza) Gento of Palm Bay, his son Kevin Carman of Bangor ME, and his grandson Dylan Murphy of Palm Bay. Ronald also leaves his brother John Gento and sisters Jean MacFaun, Marie Woods and Michaelene Panock.

Ronald was preceded in death by his daughter Dawn Murphy, his mother Helen McNally and his sisters Robin Noyes and Wendy Elicky.

Edward Patrick Reilly, of Melbourne, FL., born in 1929, in the Bronx, NY, passed in peace February 19, 2020. He was the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Bridget (McArdle) Reilly, both from Ireland.

Ed was a Lifetime member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He founded the Fulton J. Sheen Division 2 in Brevard County in 1983 and has been its Recording Secretary for 37 years until his passing. Ed was awarded National Lifetime Membership and the Commodore Barry award.

Ed retired from the USAF as a First Sergeant after 30 years of service. He served in the Berlin Airlift after WWII and during the Korean War in the communications squadron.

He founded and was Chairman of the Melbourne St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1990. Ed was proud of his Irish heritage and lived a life of service to his community, friends and family. He was an active member of the Toastmasters, Boy Scouts and a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus 3746.

Ed is survived by his sons Patrick, Michael and John and his daughter Kathleen. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Barbara Ruth (Moulton) in 2006. He is also survived by his brothers Thomas and Barney and his sister Peggy.

Phillip F. Sherman. After a short but devastating illness, Phil passed away on March 28th, 2020, at age 78. A long-time resident of Pearl River, an active member of the AOH in Pearl River and Treasurer of the Hibernian House, he enjoyed cooking for many outings with friends at his club events, particularly pig roasts. Phil was unique in that there was nothing too big or small for him to build and nothing too complicated for him to fix. He was always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. He was very proud of his contributions to the community. He was also a member of the American Legion. An avid outdoors man, he would spend his time hunting, fishing or spending time with friends, of which he had many, and who will miss him greatly.

Born in Nyack, NY, Phil graduated from Pearl River High school and then traveled the world with the Merchant Marines. He spent the majority of his career as an Operating Engineer; he was also a carpenter and entrepreneur. During this time he was housed on the RV Conrad through Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, which he left to marry his longtime sweetheart, Linda, and raise a family. Phil is survived by Linda; son Timothy Sheridan of West Milford, NJ; daughter Lisa Sheridan and her husband Felix DeAmesti of Pearl River; daughter Tracy Sheridan and her husband Steve Dickey of Pearl River, and four grandsons, Mathew Sheridan and Kevin, Andrew and Jake Dickey.

Rhode Island



Memorial Mass Held to Honor Former Rhode Island Priest
Hibernians and Irish dignitaries from throughout Rhode Island gathered on January 4 gathered at St. Mary's Church in Providence to take part in a traditional Latin rite memorial mass to honor Fr. Desmon Wilson. The mass was led by Fr. John Berg. Fr. Wilson was a longtime advisor to the Fenian Memorial Committee of America and a priest who dedicated his life to Christ, the beleaguered people of West Belfast, and was a champion for the rights of the Irish people. Rest in peace, Fr. Des. Your like will not be seen again.

Wisconsin



Major donations to support Catholic education

The Rev. William J. Kelly S.J. Division from Milwaukee is proud of its actions to support Catholic education in South Eastern Wisconsin. Using their two main fundraising platforms, the Milwaukee Irish Fest Hospitality Suite, and Taste of Ireland food and music event, the brothers were able to raise \$30,000 in 2019.

During the February 2020 division meeting at Milwaukee's Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, representatives from three schools were present to receive this great charitable contribution. Checks in the amount of \$10,000 each were presented by long time division member and Foundation board member Tom Callen (pictured at far left). These contributions support scholarships for deserving students at Nativity Jesuit Academy, Notre Dame School of Milwaukee, and St. Rose and St. Leo of Messmer Catholic Schools.

There is a well-founded history of charitable giving from the brothers in Milwaukee. Using the Spaghetti Dinner event in the past, and the more recent Taste of Ireland event and Irish Fest Hospitality Suite, the division has been able to donate \$347,000 in support of Catholic education since 1998.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts from the many brothers within the division, and the great community that we reside in. In the spirit of Christian charity, the Milwaukee division will work hard to maintain this great tradition. We enjoy seeing fellow brothers from other states during Milwaukee's Irish Fest, as well as Taste of Ireland. They are always welcomed and their support is always appreciated. If you plan to visit the Milwaukee area August 14th - 16th, or September 24th, please come see us!

New York



St. Patrick looks down on the assembled members of the John C Devereux Oneida County Division 1 and the Ladies of Knock following the annual Mass at St. Joseph/St. Patrick's Church in Utica.

Celebrating St. Patrick in Central NY by Tom Loughlin Jr.

While the cancellation of the St Patrick's Day parades in Utica and elsewhere took much of the steam out of many secular and frivolous weekend observances, there was no lack of enthusiasm for its religious aspects in our Hibernian hearts. In Central New York, the AOH Oneida County John C. Devereux Div. 1 and Ladies AOH Ladies of Knock started St. Patrick's Week with prayer and finalized their observances with their annual St Patrick's Mass at St Joseph/St Patrick's Church in Utica.

Father Richard Dellos encouraged attendees at the St. Patrick's memorial mass to emulate the Patron Saint of Ireland's evangelization and conversion of Ireland by being "fishers of men" in their daily lives. Touching on the current corona virus concerns, Fr. Dellos invoked the memory of the calm bravery of Saint Marianne Cope, of Utica, in her dealing with victims of the feared disease of leprosy, and urged us to emulate her courage in the face of this ominous new threat.

Virginia

Irish American Heritage Month in Fredericksburg

Each year the General Thomas F. Meagher Division commemorates Irish American Heritage Month with three-day displays each week at Fredericksburg area libraries. Brothers volunteer as docents to discuss the annual theme, hand out information papers highlighting Irish-American contributions to the growth of the United States, and have St. Patrick-themed stickers for the children. In 2020, the theme was Irish signers of the Declaration of Independence as depicted on a large poster board displaying images of the eight men along with short biographical sketches. Regrettably, two weeks were cancelled (coronavirus) as was the Irish dance exhibition by the Muggivan School of Irish Dance.



Peter Carroll, Dan Mulhern and Bill Halpin were ready to serve the public.



John Hogan discussed the signers with Peter.



Irish Ambassador visits Richmond Hibernians
To kick-off Irish American Heritage Month, the Major James Dooley Division and LAOH Mary Ryan Division of Richmond, Virginia, co-hosted a luncheon for Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S., Daniel Mulhall, on March 1, at Poe's Pub in Richmond. During this well-attended event, VA State Board Treasurer Vince Eikmeier presented a bottle of fine Irish beverage to welcome the Ambassador.

Division holds 2nd St. Patrick Coloring Contest

Two hundred and sixty-nine children from St. Francis of Assisi, Holy Family and Sacred Heart parishes in Prince William County participated in the Fr. Judge Division expanded coloring contest. Judges selected first-, second- and third-place winners for each of the five grades as well as one grand-prize winner. Winners received a T-shirt, St. Patrick Holy Card and their framed entry. The presentation ceremony followed Mass attended by the children from the three parishes, their parents and program coordinators. This was the second annual contest, inspired when Dan Sullivan and Harry Flynn learned about the Louisville Division's contest presented at the 2018 National Convention. Division coordinator Flynn said: "Our success with the program is due to the great support from Louisville AOH contest coordinator Bill Moriarity." Flynn and Sullivan promote a county-wide program to significantly increase IAHM awareness, provide a fun and educational opportunity for children, and bolster AOH recruiting efforts.



Division President Fran McVeigh and Treasurer Dan Sullivan congratulated a group of coloring contest winners.

Louisiana

Louisiana Hibernians donate to children's causes

The James Cardinal Gibbons Division in Metairie, Louisiana recently made donations to Boys Hope/Girls Hope and to St. Michael Special School. Boys Hope/Girls Hope provides group homes for academically motivated middle and high school students to rise above disadvantaged backgrounds and become successful in college and beyond.

St. Michael's Special School provides a Catholic environment where students with special educational needs can grow in faith and reach their full potential – academically, socially, and physically.



From left, Division Vice President Steve Murphy, Division President Thomas O'Brien, Boys Hope/Girls Hope Executive Director Chuck Roth.



Division Treasurer Martin Sirera who is also pictured presenting the donation to St. Michael principal Romaine McCarthy,

Missouri

Kansas City Hibernians Spread Christmas Cheer

The Padraig Pearse Div. 1 spent a cold December evening greeting car and truck loads of families touring Jackson County's annual Christmas-in-the-Park light display spectacular. The display began in 1987 with 23 displays and has grown to over 56 major displays and close to 500,000 lights! The event runs from Thanksgiving to just past New Year's Day, donations are accepted, and over the course of the Christmas season with nightly help from volunteers who help the County raise over \$1 million each year for distribution to non-profits throughout the Kansas City region.

Nightly during the season, members of numerous service groups act as greeters and distribute candy to occupants of the vehicles; if the drivers are so inclined a good-will donation is accepted. The Pearse Division was selected for the second year in a row and with plenty of member participation have developed a good routine of hot dogs, snacks and Christmas cheer designed to ward off the cold during the five-hour shifts.

For their volunteer effort the Hibernians receive \$1,000 that goes into the organization's non-profit, which stores funds for the annual scholarship awards and other multiple programs of community and Irish support.

This year's crew included the 2020 Hibernian of the Year, Dennis Murray. Awarded just two days before the Christmas lights event, Dennis was recognized for his role as Division treasurer and committee head of this year's most profitable and successful set of Fish Dinners. The Division serves the popular all-you-can eat dinners every Friday during Lent. A New York transplant, Dennis' positive attitude and willingness to pitch in on all tasks and activities made him a popular selection.



Chilled — but happy — Hibernians Bill Quinn, left, John McEvoy, Dennis Murray (2020 Hibernian of the Year), Steve Lynch, Pat Ryan and Pete Lobdell.

Missouri Hibernians support suicide prevention

Members of the County St. Charles Division 1 in Missouri were honored for their support of the St. Louis Out of Darkness Walk, which raises funds and awareness of suicide. The division was honored by the board of directors for the Eastern Missouri Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In addition to raising funds, members try to dispel the myth that the church believes that anyone who loses their life to suicide is automatically damned. Part of this effort includes distributing the pamphlet by Fr. Chris Alar, "Devine Mercy After Suicide." As the catechism of the Catholic Church states: "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to Him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives."



Board members from the Eastern Missouri Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention present a plaque as a sign of appreciation to members and officers of the County St. Charles Division 1 Hibernians.



West Virginia

By Tom Murphy

AOH Division 1, in Wheeling, WV, recently awarded Jen Carter of St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling \$500 to contribute to the continuing education of her students. Jen's goal was to purchase various educational materials that could be used on a daily basis in her classroom to enlist active learning strategies to address the learning needs of the whole student. She was able to do this.

Today's students need to have educational experiences that address the social,

emotional, physical, creative and cognitive levels. Jen was able to purchase hands-on project-based materials to assist in real life math scenarios, interactive project-based activities rooted in the Catholic faith, art supplies and other items to improve the learning environment in the classroom.

Jen stated that, "I cannot thank the AOH enough for what you have allowed me to bring to my students this year. Our community is blessed to have this organization. Thank you so much for all you have done for us!"



St. Michael Parish School Principal Kim Burge, left, and teacher Jen Carter.



Students showing their appreciation.

Texas

Successful Southwest Convention; Dallas Division Founded, Texas State Board Elected

On August 17, 2019, Hibernian Brothers and Sisters in the southwest convened a convention in Dallas with the goals of providing the minor degree to our Hibernian brothers who still needed initiation to the Order, charter the Hibernians' newest division — Michael Collins Division 1 of DFW — and to elect a Texas State Board.

We are happy to report that the Southwest Convention was a tremendous success with Brothers and LAOH Sisters traveling from San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, New Orleans and Tulsa. The day began with a briefing from Irish Vice Consul General Paul Breen who updated the 30+ attendees on the goals of the Irish Government as they relate to Brexit and the Diaspora. After a quick break, we formally initiated 10 new Hibernian Brothers into the Order with the help of National Treasurer Sean Pender and National Catholic Action Chairman, John Fitzmorris.

Next we moved to lunch with keynote address from National Treasurer Sean Pender who gave us a "State of the AOH." After lunch wrapped we reconvened AOH closed

session by reviewing DFW division charter paperwork, and the body immediately moved to form Texas' newest division in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area - Michael Collins Dallas County Division 1. Finally, having initiated new Brothers into the Order, and chartering Texas' newest division, it was so moved to elect a Texas State Board with three Brothers serving from Dallas—Rob Healy as Vice President, Pat Kelly as General Counsel, and John Dugan as Chairman of the Standing Committee—as well as three Brothers serving from Austin—Mike Joyce as President, Joel Brewer as Treasurer, and Kevin Buechler as Recording Secretary.

A reception followed featuring The Irish Rogues. The Rogues are Dallas' premier pub band having been around the DFW area for more than 30 years. On Sunday, we capped of the convention by celebrating Mass at Holy Trinity where we were welcomed by Fr. Milton Ryan. A special thanks is in order for Ed Redmond and Plaza Pub in Arlington, TX for his generosity sponsoring the AOH Southwestern States Convention as well as The Irish Rogues.

—M.P. Joyce



The Brothers of the Michael Collins Division, Dallas Co. 1.



Texas State Board with AOH National Treasurer Sean Pender, John Dugan, Rob Healy, Mike Joyce, Pat Kelly and Joel Brewer.

Nebraska

Bob McEniry, Sarpy Division president Hibernians in action

On March 11, the members of the AOH Sarpy County Division 1 in Sarpy County, Nebraska, served 500 to 600 parishioners at St. Patrick Church in Gretna, Nebraska. All enjoyed a great corned beef and cabbage meal with all the fixings. This was a free event that included the meal, entertainment and games. They have been helping St. Patrick Church with their annual St. Patrick's Day Hooley celebration since 2011. The Hooley organizers arrange local troupes of Irish dancers for entertainment and the dinner for this event.

The Mission Statement of St Patrick Church: "We, the community of St. Patrick's, are a diverse people of faith, committed to using our variety of gifts to serve the Lord and one another through worship, faith, formation, education, and outreach to the community. Through this, we strive to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world, making visible the kingdom of God."

Pictured right: AOH food servers, (L-R) Tom Lynam, Matthew Brewer, Mike Wear (is also Nebraska State AOH), Bob McEniry and Jim Maloney.



Kansas

Kansas Hibernians building new divisions

There was a time when Kansas was home to 13 Hibernian Divisions across seven counties, mostly in eastern Kansas. Currently, the Father Bernard Donnelly Division, Johnson County, is the only Division in the State. As you know, with only one Division, Kansas has no State Board and no County Boards.

With that as background, the Donnelly Division has begun to venture out of county to explore the interest of other Irish Catholic men in neighboring counties in forming new AOH Divisions. Donnelly Division President Zach Kittle has formed a New Division Committee composed of Andy Sprehe, Denny Dennihan, Liam Riggs, John Pouy and Larry Shepard.

Beginning slowly and close to home, the Committee began this campaign in the City of Lawrence, in Douglas County. Lawrence is the home of the University of Kansas. Douglas County is just to the west of Johnson County and the City of Lawrence serves as the home base of many folks working in Kansas City and its Kansas suburbs. In the past, the Donnelly Division has had members living in Lawrence who we were unable to retain largely because of the travel time required for meetings and events. Committee members Riggs and Pouy are current residents of Lawrence and should give us proper strategic intelligence on how to best tailor our recruiting.

In 2019, the Division's Committee contacted the three parishes in Lawrence, made visits to parish offices, placed notices in church bulletins, set up tables at parish events and

advertised several Happy Hours. The Division has also been a long-time supporter of the Lawrence Irish Road Bowling scores, fielding several teams. The Division was even invited to lead the St. Patrick's Day parade in Lawrence with a banner and kilted color guard. Initial results have been disappointing, but the Committee intends to ramp up efforts in 2020, if current conditions allow.

The New Division Committee has also identified several other outlying counties for possible expansion. Candidates include: Leavenworth County, northwest of Johnson County, which is home to the Army post in Leavenworth; Wyandotte County, directly north of Johnson County and in the KC metropolitan area; Shawnee County, home to the State capitol of Topeka; possibly a second Division in our own Johnson County; and Sedgewick County, far to the southwest of KC and home of the City of Wichita, Kansas' largest city. Donnelly member Jeff Reilley was a past resident of Wichita and is taking charge of this effort on behalf of the Committee.

As the only Division in the entire State, the Donnelly boys see the future of Hibernianism in Kansas as more than just expanding our own Division's membership. We are hoping that the motto and message of the AOH will inspire other Irish Catholic men in Kansas to better live their faith and heritage, but in the wide expanses of the southern great plains, it ain't easy and it don't come fast. We welcome advice and counsel from other Divisions on the western frontier, similarly challenged by great distance and small populations.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Connecticut Hibernians, like their Brothers across the United States, saw their March activities cancelled or hopefully postponed during the season of St. Patrick. A few were lucky to have scheduled their events early enough in the month of March before the Governor's Executive Order curtailed all public events due to the spread of the coronavirus.

The JFK Division of Bridgeport was able to hold their 70th annual Communion Breakfast on March 1 at the Gaelic Club in Fairfield. Several hundred Hibernian grandfathers, fathers and sons gathered at the JFK Division's premier event of the year to hear an informative address by New York's John Dearie and an update on affairs at the Irish Hunger Museum by its Director, Ryan Mahoney.

The John A. Gildea Division of Danbury was fortunate enough to be able to award the 50th annual Hibernian of the year award to Brian Hearty at the 61st annual Hibernian Ball at the Amber Room in Danbury. Brian is a three term Past Division President and currently AOH Fairfield County Vice-President and Division Marshal and is known for going above and beyond in support of the Danbury Irish Center. Brian joins his father, Peter Sr. (1978) and brothers Sean (2009) and Kevin (2015) in being named Danbury's Hibernian of the Year!

Unfortunately, Brian's father Peter Hearty Sr. was unable to hold the 50th annual New Fairfield St. Patrick's Day Parade before the Governor's edict was enforced.

The Monsignor Slocum Division of Waterbury under the chairmanship of Ray Wolk was able to hold their parade and open house in good weather on March 7 at which LAOH President Peggy O'Brien would serve as Grand Marshal and 2019 Waterbury Hibernian of the Year and Past State President Atty. Tom McDonough would be honored. This annual event was a bright spot for Waterbury before the gloom of the coronavirus shutdowns kicked in.

Meriden's Jim Finley, Parade Co-Chair, announced ... "the AOH membership voted at the behest of local and state officials in order to protect the health and safety of marchers and spectators to postpone their parade until May 16, which will allow the current public health situation to stabilize while still allowing central Connecticut's favorite and largest parade to take place."

As we go to press, the State Board meeting of the Connected AOH is still scheduled for the morning of May 2, at the Great Hunger Museum in Hamden, as is the 25th year anniversary celebration of the opening of the beautiful Stamford Hibernian Hall on the evening of the same day. Both these could of course change.

Kudos to Jim Gallagher of the John P. Holland Division, of New London, for his continuing efforts to keep Connecticut Hibernians informed of Irish affairs, which is particularly important during these difficult days.

Past AOH State President and Retreat Chairman Dave Howe asks that we circulate President Trump's Pro-Life speech from January 24th's March for Life. He is the First U.S. President to appear at Washington D. C. Pro Life Rally! I personally witnessed this historic event after earlier meeting with Brother Hibernians from around our nation at the AOH Pro-Life Breakfast. The speech be found at: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xzS0vjw7C_g

We would also draw your attention to the very informative talk given by Dr. Michael K. Needam in November in Danbury: Brexit Nov 23rd 2019 GDICC .pdf

For news or info: jpgallagherct@sbglobal.net



Past Connecticut State President Atty. Tom McDonough greets well-wishers as he rode the parade route in the 2020 Waterbury St. Patrick's Day parade

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

Indiana

by Jim Lynch

Joe Cahill named Indianapolis Hibernian of the Year

The last official duty of the outgoing president of Kevin Barry Division 3 in Indianapolis, Indiana, is to select the AOH Hibernian of the Year. The individual selected is one who has made note-worthy division contributions during the previous year. Generally, the member has not been selected before.

This year, Bob McCurdy, AOH president for 2018 and 2019, picked Division Financial Secretary Joe Cahill. Joe has done an outstanding job working with our finances and has been especially helpful in creating a new bank account to handle our gaming revenues. These funds are used to finance our numerous gift-giving and charitable donations.

Joe is married to Lucy, and they have three children, Patrick, Emily and Michael, and three grandchildren. A life-long resident of Indianapolis, Joe graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit H.S. and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was a long-time employee of and retired from Eli Lilly and Co. Among his numerous activities, he is an excellent guitarist and a serious student of family history.

The award was presented on January 26, at the 2020 Officers Installation Dinner, held at the Firefighters Union Hall in downtown Indianapolis. The Union Hall, catered food and donated beverages were arranged by new 2020 President Tom Branson. This is traditionally the first duty of the new president.



Joe Cahill, center, with his family at the Union Hall.

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Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence

Division 8 kicked off its Irish Heritage Month events with an Irish flag raising on the North Common across from City Hall on March 2, where Mayor Daniel Rivera presented a proclamation declaring March as Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence. The Irish Flag flew over the City until March 31.

On March 7, Division 8 held their 149th Saint Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance where the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award was presented to the Very Rev. Christopher Casey and the Irishman of the Year Award was presented to Mark J. Alaimo. On March 8, the Division launched their March Author Series with Robin Gerry of New York. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 virus, the Division's other Irish Heritage Month events were either cancelled and/or postponed until the fall. The Division will soon begin planning for their 150th Anniversary Celebrations, which will take place in 2021!

Division 14 Watertown

Division 14 has worked hard coordinating events for Irish Heritage Month and has, in step with the times, had to postpone or cancel events. The Division rests but the spirit of the membership, remembering those that are shut in or otherwise unable to get out all of the time, and generally caring for each other are paramount. Be Safe and Well!

James C. Campbell Division 19 Lowell

Division 19 wishes all brothers and sisters peace in this difficult time and hope to see you at Irish Heritage events postponed to the fall. Keeping our Hibernian brothers and sisters in thought and prayer.

Division 36 Worcester

The Division had a successful Irish Festival and is appreciative to all members that planned, donated or otherwise helped with this great event. Keeping all Hibernians in our thoughts and prayers.

Division 1 Holyoke

The Division had a successful Irish Night with more than 450 guests before the cancellations began. Work will continue on two floats for the Holyoke St. Patrick's parade looking toward the rescheduling TBA. Take the time to reach out to your fellow Hibernians during this period. A friendly voice does wonders while we navigate this new way of day to day life.

Father John Murphy Division, Plymouth

The Division holds fast working with the Scituate Easter Rising Monument Committee to erect a monument. The monument is being carved in Barre, VT, and fundraising to complete the installation is still being done. Bless you all.

Pennsylvania

Wreath Presentation for the Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

A wreath was presented at the memorials of John C. Delaney and Patrick DeLancey, two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, at the Lackawanna Courthouse, in honor of their great heroism. The presentation took place on March 1, in honor of Irish American Heritage Month. The wreath was presented by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hook O'Malley Division 4.



At the presentation were, from left, Joseph Holland, Bernie McGurl, President Patrick O'Malley, John Fletcher, Bob McAndrew, Magistrate Terrence Gallagher, Keith Oleski, Vietnam Veteran Judge Thomas Munley, Kevin Donovan and Tom Lynch.



Philadelphia Hibernians help the hungry
As part of the Hibernian Hunger Project, Philadelphia Division 51 presented a check and a truckload of food to the staff of Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service Center. From left, Angelique Sosa, Jackie Ries, Kathy Salerno, Bill Regan and Charlie Forshee.



Bucks Co. Hibernians help Catholic school
Division 5, Bucks County, PA, recently donated \$4,000 to the Holy Family Regional School, Levittown, PA, for Tech Department purchases. From left, Jim Downey, HF Development; Hibernians Tom Groark, Tony O'Malley, President Dan Keelan; Kara Haggerty, HF Principal; Bill Snyder, HF Asst. Principal; Mary Ann Conway, HF Advancement Director.



Fr. Fox named Man of the Year
The Hook O'Malley Division 4 held their annual Man of the Year dinner at which Fr. Richard Fox was presented with the Man of the Year Award for 2020. Fr. Fox received this award as a result of his dedication to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church in Scranton and all of his previous congregations. On behalf of the parishioners of St. Patrick's, thank you, Fr. Fox. From left, Patrick O'Malley, president of the AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4, Fr. Richard Fox, recipient of the 2020 Man of the Year Award, and Bernie McGurl, 2019 Man of the Year.

Donations roll in for Hibernian Hunger Project

The AOH Havertown Pa., Dennis Kelly Division 1's annual Hibernian Hunger Project Food Drive started before the Coronavirus's full effect was being felt throughout the state but with a "stay in place" order in effect it was cut short. The division still managed to collect from various Catholic grade schools and high schools in the Delaware County area. With the assistance of Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast, the Hibernians were able to deliver 46 (very) heavy boxes of canned goods to the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Food Pantry in Darby, Pa. Hats off to BPHS President and AOH brothers Dr. John Cooke, Matt McShane, Tom Light and the entire BPHS family for their generosity. Making the delivery was: John Cooke and his sons Connor and Patrick; Tom Light; and AOH brother and Bonner grad Frank Lewis.



Delivering canned goods to the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Food Pantry, Darby Pa. were Connor and Patrick Cooke, AOH Brothers John Cooke and Frank Lewis with Rose the Director of the Food Pantry



Taking the Lessons

The Tri Abhainn (Three Rivers) Major Degree Team of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, exemplified the Major Degrees for 17 candidates on February 15. Officers of the Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team are: Ard-Righ – Denny Maher – Division 32, Ollamh – John Tarpey – Division 1, Bard – Jim Green – Division 1, Brehon – Ed McManus – Division 1, Chief of Escort – Mike Moog – Division 9, and President Division 4 – Rick Duffy. In the photo: from left, Front, Mike Moog, John Tarpey, Joe Leckenby, Jim Green and Ed McManus; Second row, Rick Duffy, Denny Maher, Jim Walsh, Kevin Morrin, Dennis Nolder, Walt Wocieczowski and Bob McMaster; Third, James McGlumphy, Jerry Coyne, Craig O'Leary, Larry Werner, Tom Palmosina, Tim Finnerty and Steve Flinn; Back row, Tom Connelly, Matt Donovan, Jim Dougherty, Dan Miles. Jon Kasunic and John 'JW' Walters. — Submitted by Larry Squires, Allegheny County Catholic Action.



Thanked for their FFAI donation

AOH Division 5, Bucks County, received a symbolic bodhran for their donation to the Freedom For All Ireland fund. The bodhran was presented to the division at the Freedom For All Ireland Beef and Beer fundraiser held in Philadelphia, PA. From left, Dan Keelan, Ken Moran, Vince Haggerty, Jim Fitzpatrick, Kevin Moran, Tom Moran, Tony O'Malley, Keith O'Malley, Tom Groark and Mitch Jenkins.

New York

by Denis P. McGowan

Staten Island Hibernians Hold 56th Annual Ball

More than 400 brother and sister Hibernians and their families and friends attended the 56th Annual Hibernian Ball on February 22. The event is one of the best attended social functions of the Irish-American community on Staten Island, and is where the Grand Marshal of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade and his aides are installed and presented their sashes.

The event was well attended by several dignitaries to include District Attorney Michael McMahon, who is a Brother Hibernian, and his wife, Judge Judith N. McMahon, U.S. District Judge Eric N. Vitaliano, and Judge Michael J. Brennan, who is a Past President of the John F. Kennedy Division 1. Brother Charles "Chip" F. McLean, Jr., a past New York State President and Past National Director, was also present and recognized for his lifetime of service to the Order. The evening's Master of Ceremonies, Brother Denis P. McGowan, Richmond County Vice President, began the evening with a call to give recognition to all of our nation's veterans who were in attendance that evening to stand, and asked the attendees to give them all a round of applause and thanked them for their service to the nation.

The guest of honor was Dr. Robert Patrick Griswold, the Grand Marshal of the 2020 56th Annual Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Dr. Griswold is a loyal Brother Hibernian and Past President of the John F. Kennedy Division 1, of which he has been a proud member for 33 years. Joining Dr. Griswold for the evening were his wife Peggy, and their children, Robert, Kyle, Michelle and David, along with several tables of friends, neighbors and medical colleagues.

Sister Noreen Hansen of LAOH Saint Brigid Division 2 was also recognized as the Aide to the Grand Marshal for the 259th New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

The 2020 Miss Hibernia, Ms. Taylor O'Halloran, was officially crowned and sashed and was escorted by the 2019 Miss Hibernia, Ms. Claire Harrington.



Dr. Robert P. Griswold with Brother Jack King, 2019 Grand Marshal



At Babylon Division 2's installation were, from left, Sentinel Mike Johnson, Chairman of the Standing Committee Jack Henry, Marshal Frank Collins, Vice President Dennis Harty, President Jim Killen, Suffolk County President Chris Thompson, Financial Secretary Jerry Belmont, Treasurer Mike Gibbons, Immediate Past President Bill Corrigan, Suffolk County Vice President Bill Gorham. Missing from photo was Recording Secretary Jim McGrath.

Babylon Div. 2 installs its officers

The St. Patrick's Division 2 held their installation of officers in January, assisted by NYS Vice President John Manning, Suffolk County President Chris Thompson, Suffolk County Vice President Bill Gorham, Suffolk County & National Webmaster Jeff Nisler and MC'd by Division 2 Past President and current NYS Charities & Missions Chairman Matt Buckley. Immediate Past President Bill Corrigan handed over the gavel to President Jim Killen and his officers for his two-year term.



Albany's Communion Breakfast by Tim Weklar, Div. 5 President

Albany Hibernians held their annual Communion Breakfast on March 1. AOH Albany County Chaplain Deacon Jim O'Rourke was the guest speaker and spoke about his experience as a seminarian. Deacon Jim is currently a seminarian at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary outside of Boston and will be ordained into the priesthood in 2020. Front: National Director Liam McNabb, National Vice President Karen Keane, National Catholic Action Cathy Turck, Albany Div. 1 Kathleen Stevens and Albany Div. 1 Missions and Charities Shelia Mehling. Rear: Albany Div. 5 President Tim Weklar, Albany County Chaplain Deacon Jim O'Rourke and National Organizer Tim McSweeney.



In tribute to our heritage by Rick Long, Niagara County Division 4 President

On St. Patrick's Day, Lockport's William J. Ryan Div. 4 President Rick Long and Ladies AOH President Jeanine Shaw respectfully placed a wreath next to the monument that pays tribute to the men who emigrated from Ireland to better themselves by digging the Erie Canal. Many of them settled in Lockport, raised families, and became our ancestors.



Roisin Dubh celebrates 40th anniversary

The Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band, from Division 7, East Islip, Suffolk County, celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year. Pipe Major Bill LePage has led the band for the last 25 years. Under his leadership, Roisin Dubh has achieved great recognition, such as a First Place in the 2019 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, Champion Supreme Titles from the EUSPBA, and the honor of performing at the Knock Shrine in Ireland. Other Band Officers include Joe LePage, Rory Cullen, Chris Murphy, Gerry Tilton, Colleen Davis, Shawn O'Neill, Joe Risola, Kevin Smith and George Broschart. Piper Vic Vogel has been a band member for all 40 years. The band is pictured at the Irish Coffee Pub after performing at the 2020 Grand Marshal's Ball honoring Past President Tom Davis.

Ladies hibernian news

LAOH National Historian

by Sandi Riley Swift

As I sit and prepare this letter, I am living a new normal, as are many others. I am working from home, taking care of my mother's necessities by leaving her groceries (and lotto tickets) at her doorstep twice a week, and monitoring her with daily calls. It is a busy time for me. I have just wrapped up the Irish History Writing Contest, and I am working on the 125th Anniversary Book submissions and ads. As grandparents, we are helping my son and daughter-in-law (who both are in quarantine working from home) with my 17-month-old granddaughter four days a week. She has appeared in many of my work Zoom conferences. We do miss our other grandchildren, three of the boys used to come over one day every weekend. We have done street to driveway visits with them, keeping a distance. Their parents have given them access to facetime with us; the first day my 5-year-old grandson rang me eight times. I pray you are all doing well and keeping safe. With the help of God and his Holy Angels this too shall pass.

If any Division, County or State has not submitted an article for the History Book, please contact me. I am still organizing it and downloading entries. If an AOH, LAOH or individual wants to place an ad, also contact me.

We have completed the judging of the Irish Writing Contest. The topic was "History of the LAOH in the USA (honoring the 125th Anniversary)." The winners are from the following states:

Level I

1st - Lynn, MA; 2nd - Pittsburgh, PA; 3rd - Danbury, CT
Honorable Mention - Meriden, CT
Honorable Mention - Waterbury, CT

Level II

1st - Worcester, MA; 2nd - Beaufort, SC; 3rd - Sumi Valley, CA
Honorable Mention - Ridgeland, SC
Honorable Mention - Ridgeland, SC

I would like to thank my three judges who worked diligently on these entries.

President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer

As I sit writing this article we are dealing with the COVID-19, I am praying that you will be safe and stay healthy. Please follow the directives that have been issued for us in order to try to stop the spread of this terrible virus. I know many of our members are considered essential personnel and need to go to work, let us remember them in our daily prayers. And a big thank you to the all the doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists and first responders who are working to curb the coronavirus.

As I mentioned to the National Board Members and to the State Presidents, I have complete faith the Convention will go on. As stated in the letter from AOH National President James McKay and myself, it might be necessary to make a few changes but come July, we will be partying in Orlando. The Florida Convention Committee, along with our National Board Liaisons, Danny O'Connell and Kathie Linton, are working hard to keep the Convention on track.

Leading up to the Convention, it might be a little challenge for the State Presidents and State Boards but I know as long as we all work together, we will succeed. There are a few deadlines that need to be kept in mind:

- Register for the Convention Packages. The early deadline is June 1st.
- Nominations for the St. Brigid Humanitarian Award are due by April 15, to be sent to National Vice President, Karen Keane.
- Nominations for Life Membership are due by June 6, to be sent to National Secretary, Marilyn Madigan.
- Appeals for Aid nominations are due by June 7, to be sent to National Missions & Charities Officer, Colleen Bowers.
- Forms have been sent to all State Presidents concerning Registering for Degrees.
Please register as soon as possible.
- Any proposed resolutions, proposed changes, or proposed amendments to the Constitution or the Ritual are due 30 days prior to the opening of the National Convention and are to be sent to me. These changes need to be approved by the State Board prior to sending the changes to National.

Again, we will be having a Basket Raffle at the Convention. Maire Leffel, Fundraising Chair, has graciously agreed to chair the raffle. She will be contacting the State Presidents concerning the raffle.

Thank you to all the State Officers who made sure their State's Annual Reports were sent into National by the deadline.

Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando.

In closing, I will use the words the Ohio Governor used to end his press conference today, "May the Lord bless you and keep you."



Ladies AOH National Board

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LAOH National Catholic Action

by Cathy Turck

Spring is a season of hope. A bridge from the barren darkness of winter toward the warmth and light of summer. The earth softens and welcomes us to plant seeds that will transform into flowers, fruits and vegetables. The grass comes alive and starts to color our yards, fields, and hillsides with green. The buds on the trees and bushes begin to bring the landscape alive. Spring is here but this Spring will be like no other. Most of us are experiencing a separation.... from our family, our friends, our loved ones, our co-workers, our church and faith contacts. Although spring is a time for coming out of hibernation, seeking fresh air and sunshine, we are advised to remain in our homes. We turn the radio or tv on for daily updates, searching for the hope we need to get through this pandemic. The hope that the numbers will go down. The hope that it won't affect my family members, my friends, my neighborhood, my co-workers.

Hope is also embedded in our faith. Hope can be uplifting, buoyant, and energizing. God gives us strength when ours is depleted. He gives us hope in darkness when we cannot see the light. God walks by our sides and gives us the strength to carry on. We walk by faith, not by sight.

As we move into Holy week leading us toward Easter, take a moment to reflect on the blessings we have. Pray for those affected by this virus and those who are in the path of the virus like our medical personnel, our first responders, fire and police departments. While maintaining the appropriate social distance, reach out to others, check in on an elderly neighbor, a family member you haven't heard from, or a division sister who you haven't seen in a while. Send a card to let them know you are thinking of them. Be the light. I leave you with an old Irish Blessing.

May the light of God surround you; the Love of God enfold you, the Power of God protect you, and the Presence of God watch over you. Happy Easter.



**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
State of Ohio**

November 25, 2019

Dear LAOH National President, Carol Sheyer, and LAOH National Board:

The Great State of Ohio takes pride in unanimously endorsing our sister Hibernian, Marilyn Madigan, for the National Office of Vice President (or higher) at our upcoming LAOH National Convention in Orlando, Florida in July 2020.

Marilyn has been an active member of the LAOH since 1977. Currently, she holds the National Office of Secretary. She has proudly served as National Fundraiser (2012-2014), National Treasurer (2016-2018), and National Irish Historian (2014-2016). During our historic centennial celebration of the 1916 Easter Rising, Marilyn was invited around the country to speak on her extensive historical knowledge of the Role of Women during the Rising. Marilyn has served many offices within her own Division, including President. Marilyn was a founding member of the Ohio State Degree Team and has served as its Treasurer and Guardian.

Because of Marilyn's commitment within the Irish community, she was the 2019 Irish Inductee to the Local International Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Marilyn also received the Irish National Caucus's Irish American Peace Prize, this past October in Washington, DC. After receipt of the Irish American Peace Prize, she quoted: "I am humbled and honored to receive this Award. After hearing the news of my selection, the words of Pope Paul VI keep coming to mind, "If you want peace, work for justice." We all need to take a part in working to correct the injustices here in America and in Ireland."

In her professional career, Marilyn received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John's College and recently retired after 40 years of dedicated service as a Registered Nurse at University Hospitals, Case Medical Center, Cleveland.

Our sisters from across the state of Ohio strongly back Marilyn Madigan to remain on the National Board. Her selfless works and deeds will continue to lend distinction to our Order and make the LAOH strong. With proud enthusiasm, we ask for your support in electing Marilyn Madigan to the Office of Vice President (or higher) on the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Board.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

LAOH Ohio State Board:

President, Theresa Cory; Vice President, Teresa Harris; Secretary, Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti; Treasurer, Nichole Parks-Norris; State Historian, JoAnn Shire; Missions and Charities, Marie Rizzo; Catholic Action, Cindee Case; Immediate Past President, Clara Joyce; FFAI, Lauren Yanda; Webmaster, Shannon Lehn

May she rest in peace

Sr. Ann Currier IHM

On February 13, 2020, a beloved Michigan LAOH member, Sr. Ann Currier IHM passed away. Or, as her memorial card read, "Began Fullness of Life."

Sr. Ann was born on May 16, 1928, in Battle Creek, Michigan. She was one of 11 children and followed in an older sister's footsteps entering the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary right after graduating from St Philip High School. She earned a Bachelor's degree at Marygrove College and a Master's Degree in Education from Wayne State University. Sr. Ann taught for over 20 years at various schools.



The call to serve the poor and marginalized became her life's work. In 1972, she began as pastoral minister at Most Holy Church in Corktown, a poor area in Detroit. She served and advocated for many neighbors in need throughout her 30-year tenure. She worked with some of the street people who told her that instead of leaving Detroit, if she needed a place to stay, they would protect her on the streets. As she said, they needed to be loved and valued.

After retiring to the IHM Motherhouse in 2004, Sr. Ann continued to serve those in need in the Monroe community. Her dedication and selfless service to the community was recognized by many groups including the Archdiocese of Detroit, Dignity in Action Committee and the Trinity Continuing Care Services. Sr. Ann was the recipient of the St. Brigid Humanitarian Award presented by the LAOH at the 2014 National Convention in Louisville. She was the Chaplain of the Mary of the Gael Division in Monroe and was a true spiritual inspiration for the members.

Her gruff exterior hid a heart so full that if given any new item, she immediately gave it to someone who needed it more...including her boots one snowy winter!! Sr. Ann will be greatly missed and as the back of her memorial card read, she is: "Dwelling now in LIGHT yet ever near."

New York

Schenectady JFK Div. 1 - LAOH / AOH pull together on St. Patrick's Day

It was a St. Patrick's Day like no other. Planning had been in the works for weeks and months prior. After cooking and slicing over 300 lbs. of corned beef, baking dozens of loaves of soda bread, making over 100 servings of shepherd's pie, and hundreds of pounds of potatoes, carrots, and cabbage, the New York State Governor shut down all businesses and restaurants the night before St. Patrick's Day due to Covid-19 virus.

St. Patrick's Day at the Schenectady Hibernian Hall is the biggest fundraiser of the year and helps support all the good community works of the men and ladies of John F. Kennedy, Div. 1. Since the governor's directive allowed for take-out meals only, the LAOH and AOH worked together overnight to set up a system for drive-up services to pick up meals in the parking lot.

On March 16, an article in the local newspaper - The Schenectady Gazette, highlighted the efforts of the Schenectady Hibernians to move forward with celebrating St. Patrick's Day and sharing our Irish culture and heritage with the community. The day would not start with mass in our local church but rather, by having the temperature taken of all the volunteers before allowing them to stay for their shift. There would be no bands, no bag pipers, no dancers, nor our typical Irish hospitality that the community has come to expect from the Schenectady Hibernians. But there would be food. Plenty of food.

No one knew what to expect. Would this year be one of the biggest losses ever or maybe, just maybe, would enough people show up so we could break even? With a dozen orders for food called in the day before, the thought was that at least a few people saw the article in the paper online. We went to bed hoping for the best and saying our prayers a little harder than we normally do.

What happened on March 17, 2020, was nothing short of amazing. We opened operations at 11:30 a.m. and the phone rang off the hook all day with people placing orders. Hundreds of people from the community drove up to buy food, support the ladies' bake sale, and some came to make monetary donations to support the cause. As the day progressed, one thing became abundantly clear. Members of the community, who have experienced the Christian Charity work of the Schenectady Hibernians since 1880, came out in full force to support the group. It was a sight to behold. Food was sold out by 3:30 pm except for pre-sale orders. A very exhausted group of volunteers sat around at the end of the day looking at each other, thinking, what just happened?! The St. Patrick's Day that almost wasn't, could now be considered one of the most successful in terms of food sales. The profits will keep our Hall open and allow us to continue to practice Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

As you read this, everyone has become much more aware of just how dangerous this invisible threat has become. Those affected by this virus and in the path of the virus have been and will continue to be in our prayers. Be strong, be safe, be healthy. God bless you all.

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 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.

Pennsylvania

LAOH and the AOH of Washington County, Pennsylvania gather

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Washington County, Pennsylvania, gathered to for their Annual Mass remembering the deceased and living members of both organizations at Mary, Mother of the Church in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Annually, the men and women participate in several events together in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade, where they typically win the trophy for being the "Singing Irish."



Bill Lee - AOH Division 1 President and Dorothy Weldon - Mary Ellen O'Neil Division 4 LAOH President



PLEASE NOTE THE HIBERNIAN DIGEST SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions are due the first day of even months.
Please email submissions to assthibernianeditor@gmail.com

Please email story, tagline and photos separately.

Please have taglines and stories written in Times New Roman,
12 point font.

Please enter DIGEST into subject line of email.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE AT LEAST 1 MB IN SIZE. PLEASE
NOTE THAT 1000 KB = 1 MB. If your photo is less than 1 MB, it
CANNOT be accepted for the Digest. It can be used in the
electronic newsletter, but cannot be used for the Digest.

Please feel free to email with any questions.

assthibernianeditor@gmail.com

Irish Potatoes in Pennsylvania

At the start of March, Divisions throughout Pennsylvania put on their baking aprons and prepared for their Annual Irish Potato Sale. Thousands of pounds of flour were mixed to create the tasty and traditional treat that members and friends look forward to each year.



New York

Mike Byrne leads Mineola Parade

Past Nassau County President, Past NY State Director, National Charities & Missions Board member and sports chairman had the honor of marching as Grand Marshal of the Irish American Society's St. Patrick's Parade in Mineola, NY, on March 1. It was a grand day, and all

participants and the many hundreds of spectators were fortunate not only to enjoy the parade and ceremonies but also to have held it before the "social distancing" and other anti-contagion measures widely implemented.



North Shore Long Island's Division 8 marched proudly in March 1st's St. Patrick's Parade, organized by the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens, in Mineola.



Mike and Rosemarie Byrne.



Past New York State Division 6 Director Mike Byrne led Mineola's St. Patrick's Parade, flanked by Aides Frank Nolan (a Hibernian in Nassau's Division 20) and Maureen O'Neill-Regan. Other Aides not in the photo were Niall Mulligan and Mary Cassidy.



Western Nassau County's Division 20 enjoyed marching in the St. Patrick's Parade.



Members of Ladies AOH divisions throughout Nassau County marched proudly to the cheers of many hundreds of happy spectators lining the route.

Minnesota

Minnesota Shamrock Division marches for St. Patrick

'Twas a fine day for the Irish in Le Center, Minnesota, when they marched in their annual St. Patrick's Parade. The little town of Le Center, the oldest Irish community in Le Sueur County, has always taken pride in its Irish heritage. The Shamrock Division of the AOH has perennially marched proudly in the parade given that many of our members are local residents. In these recent times of limiting celebration sizes, the Shamrock Division had to limit marching this year to the small Le Center parade. A limited number of Shamrock members chose to march with our banner and maintain safe social distancing. The members displayed the colors proudly and continued our tradition for another year.

The Shamrock Division has approximately 100 members and usually will display our banner in the St. Patrick's Day Masses and Parades in St. Paul and Belle Plaine, both of which were cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

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



Shamrock Division members proudly carry their banner in Le Center

2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention

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

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

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

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

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

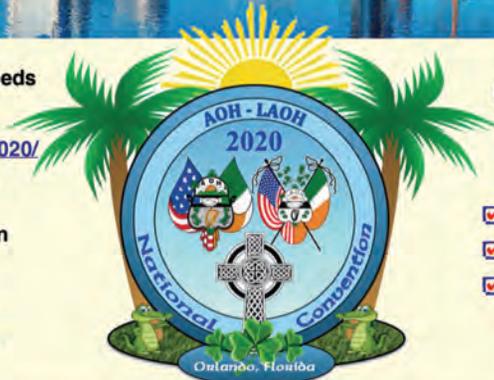


All of your convention needs can be found at

<https://aoh.com/orlando2020/>

Including Links to:

- ★ Package Registration
- ★ Hotel Registration
- ★ Items for Purchase
- ★ General Information



Register Today For The Full Convention Package To Enjoy All Of The Good Times!

- Register Early
- Buy the Full Package
- Support Your AOH and LAOH by taking out an Ad in the Convention Souvenir Journal

Welcome To The 2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention

★ Register for the Convention Full Package to enjoy all the good times!

You are invited to Orlando, Florida

For ONLINE REGISTRATION and RESERVATIONS please go to <https://aoh.com/orlando2020/>

Registration:

For Convention events only. Does not include hotel registration. Please print neatly.

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Email _____ Phone _____

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (circle one)
Membership # _____ Division # _____ County _____ State _____

Guest Registration: Name _____ Email _____

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 Loins | Business Casual |
| Installation Banquet (circle one) | Four Served Salmons 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.
 Make Checks Payable to "AOH National Board"
 Amount of payment: _____
 Send payment to:
 2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention
 P.O. Box 882181, Port St. Lucie, FL 34988-2181

* Please consider making all reservations online to streamline the process.

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.

Available Advertisements are:

- (Please check the appropriate line to indicate the size and price for your advertisement.)
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front Cover: \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page Color: \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Back Cover: \$400 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (B/W): \$150 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (B/W): \$ 85 |

(Attach all ads to this form or provide information for a customized ad by Journal Chairman)
When attaching ads, the ad must be a clean scannable format or camera ready. Electronic version is encouraged with source files. Digital file types must be in pdf or jpg format.

NO FAXES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

All advertisements will be published as sent - so please proof your entry.

When submitting your request for an ad, include your name and contact information (phone and email) should clarification be needed.

Please email ads & questions to gringhar@amco.com or call Greg Sehn at (201) 787-6650

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

Mail to: AOH/LAOH 2020 National Convention Journal
% Greg Sehn Canning (Chairman)
4530 Caladium Court, Kissimmee, FL 34758-2156

Pay via PayPal at <https://aoh.com/orlando2020/> and click on the link for Ad Journal.

All cheques should be made payable to AOH/LAOH 2020 National Convention with "Journal" on the memo line.

Irish American Heritage Month



IAHM in Suffolk County

Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine declared Irish American Heritage Month. Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, Long Island, was founded in 1655 by Governor Thomas Dongan, an Irishman. At Supervisor Romaine's declaration ceremony were Suffolk County LAOH and AOH Board and members. NYS LAOH Charities and Missions Chairwoman Cathi Doherty, holding the proclamation, took the lead and made this event happen. Romaine stands next to her in the photo.