

Join the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 24



The National Board of the AOH invites all Hibernians to March for Life, as many did last year.

All Hibernians are invited to gather with the AOH at 12:30 p.m. at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue NW to join the March For Life. The Order has arranged a Fellowship Night on Jan. 23, and a Pro-Life Breakfast and Mass before the march. For more details, see page 2 in this issue of the Digest.

The AOH will be led again this year by Irish Thunder Hibernian pipers Mike Brown and Mark Ryan, from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Joining the Hibernian pipers this year will be the Saint Anthony's High School Celtic Friars Pipe Band. Saint Anthony's High School is located in South Huntington, New York.

Come to the National Hibernian Convention 2020!

There is no better way to become successfully involved in the Ancient Order of Hibernians at any level than by attending the 2020 National Convention (July 22-26), as it promises to be one of the best. The Rosen Centre Hotel, in Orlando, Florida is a fabulous venue, with a room rate of \$115 per night. Combine this with the great rates for flights to Orlando and you get an incredible event. All Hibernians are welcome and every division should be represented.

To encourage involvement of younger Hibernians, the National Board has established the Tom McNabb Memorial Scholarship program, which will provide convention packages to our young upcoming leaders. Details of the scholarship will be included in our email blasts after the first of the year.

President Jim McKay and the National Board have committed to change up the convention program with a focus on how to be an officer — both elected and appointed. Additionally, our tie to Ireland will be enhanced with speakers from the Emerald Isle via Skype throughout the event. All officers' feature presentations will be to the entire body, giving us all a taste of what each position should be doing at every level.

We will have the opportunity to attend Mass daily beginning with the opening Mass on Wednesday, July 22. Daily Mass will be held both Thursday and Friday prior to deliberations and the installation Mass will be Saturday afternoon.

The social aspect of the convention includes three incredible events, including the Ice Breaker Wednesday night, Irish Night on Friday, and the Installation Banquet Saturday evening. The Ice Breaker will be a beach-themed event featuring the Caribbean Chillers, Florida's favorite Jimmy Buffett tribute band. Irish Night and the closing banquet will feature our own Andy Cooney.

For more information, see page 24.

Book your room and purchase your package for the 2020 AOH-LAOH national convention by visiting <http://orlandoirish2020.com/> or follow the link from the national webpage. We hope to see you in Orlando.

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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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MARCH FOR LIFE

Join the March for Life

Friday, January 24
Washington, D.C.

Thursday Night Fellowship (Jan. 23rd)

6:30 p.m.

All Hibernians Welcome at Across The Pond Pub

Pro-Life Breakfast

9 to 11 a.m. at The Irish Channel Restaurant

Invited Speaker: Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-4)

\$25/pp, No Reservation Needed

Pro-Life Mass

St. Mary Mother of God Church
Immediately Following Breakfast

March For Life

Meet at 12:35 p.m. at the corner of
7th Street & Constitution Ave NW

Need Help? More Information?

Contact JP Walsh

Jaywarp1@gmail.com



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president's message

By Jim McKay III

By the time you get this issue, Christmas-season gladness will have moved on to New Year's celebrations and hopes for a healthy and happy 2020.

We recently held our President's Dinner in Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital, where our National Board gathered to conduct the business of our Noble Order. I think our gatherings were productive and a great time was had by all. On a personal note, this was my last President's Dinner as your National President.

I took this occasion as an opportunity to kick off our Capital Campaign for our Hibernian Monument in Dublin. As you may recall, I and some of our Executive Officers were lobbying the authorities in Ireland for permission to erect a monument dedicated to the help that the Hibernians of America gave toward Irish freedom during our existence. Over the past two years, we have met with many of the politicians, bureaucrats and family descendants of the martyred victims of 1916. We received nothing but enthusiasm from these entities. We even were able to contact some of the private developers of the historic area wherein the Monument could be located. Shortly, I will be forming a committee to handle all aspects of the project from fundraising, architectural design and locations. We will keep our membership abreast of the progress of this historic campaign.

This January, the AOH will be participating again as we have in the past in the March for Life event in Washington, D.C. We invite all our membership to participate if possible on that special day. Our National Life Director John Patrick Walsh, as usual, has planned a number of events for this occasion this year.

I am pleased to report that through YOUR efforts as Hibernians, a six-month stay of deportation has been issued for Brother Malachy McAllister, who was scheduled to be deported on 11/29. This welcome news aptly came at Thanksgiving, a time our nation remembers the blessings of this great country, which has always been a haven for the persecuted and as Christians we entered into the season of joyous hope.

The AOH has led the vanguard to keep this brother member of ours in the United States where he has been a productive citizen and raised a family for the past 20 years. Malachy has become the poster child for the injustices of some of our government's actions in regard to post GFA Irish emigrants of this country who sought asylum as a result of the troubles in the north of Ireland.

All eyes should begin to turn toward Orlando for our National Convention in July of 2020. Our National Vice President Danny O'Connell has been working diligently to make this convention special and successful for our Order. All members should consider making their reservations early because I feel our room block in Orlando will sell out quickly.

Both Marie and I would like to take this opportunity to hope that all of my Hibernian Brothers and Sisters not only had a very Merry but also a Holy Christmas, and that we all have a healthy and happy 2020!

God Bless.



vice president's report

By Danny O'Connell

With the new year upon us we have so much on our plate that your participation will be critical to our success. We have the National Convention July 22 to 25 in Orlando, Fla. Our success will be based on your participation. We are in the beginning stages of the Dublin Monument honoring the AOH and Irish-American participation in the 1916 Easter Rising, the formation of the Republic of Ireland. Your participation in our fundraising to honor our ancestors is critical to our success. We have the label program, where 100 percent of the proceeds benefit our charities. We have St. Patrick's Day and Irish American Heritage Month, which yields many opportunities for all of us to recruit. These items are just the tip of the iceberg; we have a busy year ahead of us.

"If it is to be, it's up to me!" This is a slogan I am asking every Hibernian to adopt as we move forward. At the end of the day it will become, if it is to be, it's up to me. Together, we can be successful in all of our endeavors. The most important item may be the 2020 convention. This is our opportunity to network and set the base for everything we do as Hibernians. Your attendance, and most importantly your participation, is critical to our success. I ask you to save this date, book your room, order your convention package, and join us in Orlando on July 22.

The AOH Dublin Monument provide us with a unique once-in-the-lifetime opportunity to honor our ancestors who left Ireland to provide us with a better life. These men and women never forgot their home and never quit fighting for a free and united Ireland. What better way to commemorate our family's history than a monument in Dublin, Ireland. The monument location will be Moore Street or O'Connell Street near Moore Street.

The key to our success with the monument will be the commitment from each member of the AOH to raise the funds needed to succeed. Your personal participation honoring your family name will yield a place you can visit in Dublin in order to honor those who came before us.

Each of you should have received your AOH return address labels. This program supports our charities. Hibernian disaster relief, Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger relief, History Day, and many more efforts. Using your labels get our logo out in front of your family and friends. You Label donation provides funding for our principal objectives. I want to thank everyone who has supported the Label Program in the past and ask each of you, please consider supporting the Label Program this year.

As always, Irish American Heritage Month, with the jewel of St. Patrick's Day, brings us all together with celebration and commemoration of what it is to be, Catholic, Irish, American. Beginning January 1, take every opportunity afforded to you to recruit new members to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Embrace your history, embrace the faith of our forefathers, embrace every opportunity afforded to you to grow the AOH. "If it is to be, it's up to me." Our success at every turn depends on you.

God Bless.



national secretary

By Jere Cole

Almost there!

We are at the deadline for your independence from the National Secretary's Office in maintaining your roster.

Unfortunately, 60 of you (about 20 percent) have not logged in and are going to be left behind.

What this means is you will have no say in your per capita and will have to pay on what we have on the books for you as of December 31, 2019. Form 40s are no longer accepted! The on-line tool will be the only way in which your roster may be maintained. Form 40s will be returned to you for action. We have been preparing for this all year and this is a huge step forward for our organization. All that have tried it say it is good and that they prefer this method of making corrections.

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

Please be sure your roster is up-to-date by December 31, 2019, to avoid any last-minute confusion. Contact my office if you need another secure link to log on to your roster editing system, or if you need to designate someone other than your financial secretary to make the changes. You must act today!

2020 Membership cards will be mailed beginning in the 1st week of January. Joe Ryan and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Remember

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



treasurer's report

By Sean Pender

As most should have heard by now our efforts to prevent the deportation of NJ AOH member Malachy McAllister were successful. Malachy was contacted on Thanksgiving that his stay was extended for six months. Malachy was originally scheduled to be deported the next day, November 29.

Since the moment of the previous extension in April 2019, Malachy and his legal team and advisors worked toward a permanent resolution of this status. Legislative and administrative options were pursued and visits to Washington, D.C. to lobby for support were completed in June, September and October.

As the deadline approached, legislative solutions such as a private relief bill for Malachy and his family were not successful. With time running out, the National President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, PEC and Immigration chairmen held a conference call to plot strategy. It was decided that President McKay would write a letter directly to President Trump requesting relief for Malachy and that the AOH would issue a call to action to have members call the White House in support of Malachy.

Thousands of members made the call, and those efforts no doubt contributed to the successful extension that Malachy received. Throughout his long search for justice Malachy has had bipartisan support in D.C. that was evident again during these negotiations; special thanks to Senators Menendez and Schumer, Congressmen Pascarella, Smith and King for their unwavering support. Additional thanks to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his strong support. Lastly, our members should be very proud of the work they did to work for justice for Malachy and his family.

Ongoing efforts continue as we work to a permanent solution.

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



Director's report

By Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation....

How are you helping your Division?

Are you currently serving your Division as an Officer? If so, thank you for your service to the Order and your Division Brothers. If not, have you considered seeking a Division position in recent years? We all have something to share; talents and skills that could make a difference in our organization. I recognize the reality that many of us have limited time aside from our families, work and other commitments. However, the personal benefits of being involved with setting goals and advancing the mission of your Division are significant. Examples of gains of serving your Division:

- Learn leadership skills.
- Share your ideas to improve and sustain your Division.
- Have more friends and Hibernian Brothers.
- Learn more about Irish history and culture.
- Put your fundraising skills to work or learn how to raise funds.
- Be part of a team.
- Perform meaningful community-oriented work with local charities.
- Connect with your Catholic faith.
- Mentor others, new officers and/or members.
- Help the team set and achieve goals.
- Enhance your resume and community experience.
- Set an example for your children, nieces and nephews, the next generation.

These are just a few examples of how you can make a difference as a Hibernian as well as some personal benefits.

Though Division Officers have been elected and likely appointed for the year, please consider pursuing an office next year. If you are unsure about serving in an elected office, perhaps an appointed position or serving on a committee that is an ongoing committee or an event committee for a one-time function may suit you better. If you have questions about the duties of a specific office, approach your Division President or another leader to learn more. New blood and ideas are needed today to make sure we have a tomorrow.



Director's report

By John Wilson

Happy New Year! The countdown has begun for our 2020 National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The convention is held every even-numbered year (except in a national emergency). Every two years at the convention goals are set and a new agenda for the Order is put into place. The business of the Order is conducted, seminars are offered, Constitution & By-Laws are reviewed and changed, the Executive Board is elected. Vacancies for five new National Directors for the Order will be voted on and elected. The convention site for 2024 will be decided. There are some very worthy candidates and a couple of great locations for the 2024 National Convention that will be presented.

As we move into 2020 plans are already underway for St. Patrick's Day. Please discuss at your next meeting what your plans are for Irish American Heritage Month in March.

I want to congratulate those state boards that meet at various county boards and divisions throughout their state. There is no better way to stay in touch with your members. Keep up the great work.

Does your Division have a Mission Statement? I noticed that AOH Div 32 in Chicago ends their correspondence with their Mission Statement. I wanted to share theirs:

AOH Division 32 Mission Statement

"The Chicago Division 32 was organized to promote and preserve Irish values, culture, and heritage. Our focus is charity. We provide scholarships for elementary and high school students, aid for children with terminal diseases, and victims of disaster. Members give their time to such causes as Misericordia Candy Days, and helping to feed the homeless."

This written declaration of Division 32 reminds them of their core purpose and focus that normally has remained unchanged over time. It reminds them of what their organization stands for and lets others in the community know as well. The purpose of a mission statement for an organization should be very clear and important to all members. They will benefit from the direction of the organization moving forward.

How is your division doing with the FFAI AOH Christmas Appeal? We Americans can make a difference. We are the voice of the Irish in America and we must lead the way in showing our support for Northern Ireland. The FFAI donations are carefully chosen charities and are recipients of monies raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns and are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

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



Director's report

By Bill Sullivan

It has been a busy fall here in New England with a whirlwind of Irish events and activities taking place.

On October 26, Division 14 in Watertown, Massachusetts, observed their 125th anniversary at their Division home, with members, their families and friends proudly celebrating this great milestone. Richard Thompson, Past Division and Mass State President, served as Chairman of the Anniversary Committee.

On November 15, the Irish Echo's Golden Bridges Awards event was held in Boston. Among the awards presented was the 10th Annual David R. Burke Award, named after one of the great Hibernian leaders of the 20th and early 21st Century. The award was presented to Maureen Linehan for her volunteer work at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, MA, and at the Irish Pastoral Center in Boston.

My sincere thanks to the committee that planned our National President's Testimonial weekend in Washington, D.C. in mid-October. From the reception at the Irish Ambassador's Residence and night tour of our nation's capital on Friday night, to the events on Saturday evening – the Mass at Saint Patrick's Church and the testimonial that followed, it was a memorable and first-class weekend of events! On a similar note, our National Board Meeting on Saturday was productive, with several new initiatives in place. An ambitious and positive course has been set for our Order as we move forward to our National Convention next July in Orlando.

We are pleased to announce that the Hibernian Charity Board will again provide the funding for our 2020 Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships. 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 now available on our AOH National Board Website. An Application Request Form for both these scholarships can also be found on our AOH National Web site under the heading: Committees/Projects. Then, on the list shown, click on the title: Scholarships.

You may remember in the last *Hibernian Digest*; we shared an email from one of the recipients of our 2019 Study Abroad Scholarships. Recently we received an update from Cara McCarthy, who is attending the fall semester at University College Dublin. In her most recent email Cara writes:

"Just checking in from Dublin. Over the past month, I have been exploring Ireland even more. I have found my favorite little coffee shop near St. Stephens Green where I do my homework every week and love to walk along the river. Outside of Dublin, I have explored Wicklow (via horseback), played a lacrosse game for UCD and done many hikes, including the Howth Cliff path. Thank you again for your contribution to my adventure!"

As 2019 fades into the history books we look forward to the New Year with anticipation and hope. For some Divisions the end of 2019 and the start of 2020 will signal the election and installation of new Division Officers. I want to thank the outgoing officers for their service and offer my best wishes to those who have been elected to serve in 2020. Your time, talents and hard work hopefully will have and will leave a positive mark on your Division and benefit the Order!

Best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

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



Director's report

By Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you well. I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2020. As we move into the New Year, Division installations will be taking place. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your State Board Officers or your National Director for help with any questions that you may have. Thank you to the outgoing officers for your service to the AOH.

One of the things that I hope we can continue to do this year is keep our level of engagement up. There were several times last year when the National Board put out a "call to action." Whether it be writing letters or making phone calls, Hibernians answered the call. When Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice was in Columbus, Ohio, on his U.S. tour this past November, he spoke about how important it was for the AOH to remain engaged for justice in N. Ireland. When the Freedom For All Ireland tour was in Ireland last year, the people we met with could not thank us enough for our engagement to them. When we engage as "the voice of Irish America" as President McKay calls us, we are a powerful organization. Let's remain engaged!

Congratulations to the St. Patrick Division in Cincinnati on their 60th anniversary celebration this January.

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

Deadline for Feb. - March issue

All articles and photos are due no later than **FEBRUARY 1, 2020**



anti defamation

By neil cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, as I write this, we are preparing for the joyous season of Christmas and looking forward with anticipation to the start of a new year and decade. However, by the time many of you read this in the Digest, we will be preparing for the annual celebration of our faith and heritage that is St. Patrick's Day and, sadly, the busy season of defaming Irish stereotypes.

While at the moment it is premature to begin highlighting specific examples, I would like to take this column to remind you, Brothers, where these defaming stereotypes come from and why we should not dismiss them as "just a joke" to justify our inaction and apathy. In British-ruled Ireland the image of "lazy, drunken Paddy" was explicitly cultivated to justify British Imperial rule; to create an image of inferiority and to justify the need for a "culturally superior" British rule. In America, anti-Irish stereotypes were embraced out of fear that Irish Americans were organizing and would become a force in politics and labor. By necessity, much of that organization was being done at the only place open for poor immigrants to meet: the pub. Creating and promoting stereotypes was a way to demonize this form of association. John "Black Jack" Kehoe was hanged (though later pardoned) as a "Molly Maguire" on the fact that he was Irish, owned a pub, and was a Hibernian.

Brothers, if we wish to see our heritage survive, we cannot accept the double whammy of seeing the multitude of positive accomplishments made by Irish Americans against incredible odds marginalized, if not ignored completely, while these caustic defaming stereotypes are embraced and promoted. Of course, there is always the need for discretion separating the just simply tasteless from the truly defaming; there is a world of difference between a Leprechaun with a mug of beer with "Happy St. Patty's [sic]" written underneath it and an item emblazoned "Drink till you're Irish" or "Irish Today, Hungover Tomorrow." One can imagine if you replace "Irish" with any other ethnic group in "Drink till you're Irish" what the reaction would be; our acceptance is not proof that "We are bigger than others" or "We are not a snowflake." Instead, it sadly sends a message that we do not care enough about our heritage to defend it. We as Hibernians have a vested interest in promoting pride in our Heritage, for where will the next generation of Hibernians come from? They will not come from a propagation that our heritage is simply a one-day green bacchanal in the middle of March where anyone can lay claim to that heritage by "Drink[ing] till you're Irish."



Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Athbhliain faoi mhais daoibh! Best wishes for a most Happy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year to all my fellow Major Degree Team member Brothers and all Brothers and Sisters throughout the Order. May 2020 bring forth much joy and happiness to you and your families.

2019 was a very successful year for our Major Degree Teams with 21 exemplifications of the Major Degrees of the Order performed nationally. We look forward optimistically to a similar level of Degree activity in 2020 and the opportunity to bring more of our Brothers into full membership in the Order.

Personally, I found the Order activities of October 18-19 surrounding the National Board Meeting and President's Testimonial Dinner in our Nation's Capital most enjoyable, with the opportunity to meet with many of our Brothers and Sisters from throughout the country. The hospitality afforded us by His Excellency, Mr. Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the United States, at the reception at his residence, along with the nighttime tour of our national monuments were most memorable experiences.

2020 looks to be an exciting year from a Major Degree perspective. This year of course will involve the National Convention in July in Orlando, Florida, and the annual National Rituals Board meeting with the opportunity for our Major Degree Team members to meet in person. Also, some of our Major Degree Teams will be celebrating significant anniversary milestones. Our longest tenured team, the Schenectady Major Degree Team, of New York, will celebrate 100 years of bringing the Lessons of the Order to the membership in the Upper New York State area. We congratulate them heartily on achievement of this tremendous milestone. Also, Eastern Pennsylvania's Major Degree Team, the Isle of Erin MDT, based in Swedesburg, PA, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their official certification while closing in on 100 Major Degrees exemplified to date.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order for early 2020:

Albany, NY. Sun., Jan 26; 1 p.m. - CDIAA, 375 Ontario Street, Albany, NY. Schenectady Major Degree Team exemplifying.

Bristol, PA. Sun., Feb. 9; Noon - Michael Dougherty Bucks County Division 1 Clubhouse, 614 Corson Street, Bristol, PA. Isle of Erin MDT exemplifying. www.aohbristol.com; www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm

Philadelphia, PA. Sat., April 4; 12 Noon - Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Center, 6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA. Isle of Erin MDT exemplifying. www.theirishcenter.com; www.aohnd1.com/degreeteam.htm

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



Director's Report

By Dan Dennehy

New Division: The newest Division of the AOH in America has been initiated in Orange County, NY, in Warwick. (See photo below.) Named for two great and sorely missed leaders, Martin McGuinness, the Irish Chieftain, and Steven McDonald, Peacemaker and heroic Irish American advocate, and NYPD Detective. NYS AOH State Director James Russell, NYS Co-Webmaster and Past State Organizer Kevin Cummings, AOH Orange County President Ed Burke, County Treasurer Jack Graham, AOH Rockland Cy Hughes, and fellow leaders met to participate in the McGuinness McDonald Division's establishment. Honored to witness my old friends become officers, including Eddie Boles and James McLaughlin, and the installation of Detective Brian McCabe as charter Division President! Best of luck to Orange County and the newest Division!

Working with other organizations works locally! In 2015, Centennial Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa Commemorations, a joint effort of the AOH, LAOH, Hudson Valley Irish Fest, NY GAA, and County Cork BP&P Association was recognized as the Global opening of the Ireland Centennial of the Easter Rising. This November, the first dinner dance of O'Donovan Rossa GAA in Astoria Queens was held. Less than 2 years old, the Rossa's reached the championships in that time. The team was granted use of a logo created for our 2015 O'Donovan Rossa Centennial GAA tournament and N.Y. Commemorations of the Centennial of O'Donovan Rossa death and Padraig Pearse's Graveside Oration. At the dance, my fellow committee members from the GAA Tourney congratulated honored guest including the great-grandsons of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. Joe Byrne introduced us and afterwards several of the members of the GAA Club inquired about the AOH and are considering membership! They are mostly Irish immigrants now living in Queens, and would be welcome additions to the AOH! A film about the O'Donovan Rossa Centennial was made by his great-grandsons and can be viewed on Amazon Video, don't miss 'Rebel Rossa.'

Thank you for all who contributed logistical support to National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin's successful speaking tour of Mark Thompson from Relatives For Justice. Mark's knowledge of Brexit and Legacy Issues in N. Ireland are of great benefit to all who got the opportunity to hear him.

House Bill Supports Good Friday Agreement against Brexit

December 3 saw the passing by Unanimous Consent of a House Bill sponsored by N.Y. Rep. Tom Suozzi, which supports the Irish Peace Process and Good Friday Agreement. This effort stems from our efforts to promote the McGuinness Principles. Many towns and cities have adopted the Principles, and Hibernians have played a key role throughout. On November 1, a letter from Irish citizens in Ireland and England addressed to Taoiseach encouraging the government to establish a Citizens Assembly or Public Forum to take a renewed look at Irish reunification in light of the potential ramifications of Brexit. I have attended Irish Civic Forums in the past, here and in Ireland, based on those positive results of previous events, I encourage participation in this kind of forum as long as they are in line with the fulfillment of the Good Friday Agreement.

Think AOH National Program, but Act Locally

Westchester AOH officer Cathal McGreal organizes the huge donation of turkeys from this fun event, which feeds hundreds locally. With the Hibernian Hunger Project in mind, AOH Division 18 Peekskill and Hudson Valley Irish Center joined the local Fire Dept. Police, EMT's and Lions Club in supporting the effort and help with the expenses of Cathal's outlay. It's a fun way for the community to see us.

A live Facebook stream captures the Quiet Man Public House Turkey Run again this year.

2020 Brigadier General Jim Cullen International Human Rights Internship offer extended to Hibernians and their families for a law internship opportunity in Belfast; Deadline is January 24, 2020. The Brehon Law Society of New York and leading Belfast-based human rights law firm KRW Law LLP announced that they are accepting applications for a three-month summer internship for a current law student for Summer 2020 in the North of Ireland, mid-May through mid-August. KRW Law LLP will offer a stipend. All questions about the internship and application process can be directed to Jennifer Frankola-Crawford, Esq. at 917-456-6523.



From left, NYS Dir. James Russell, New Division President Brian McCabe, Rockland Treasurer Cy Hughes, Orange County President Ed Burke, National Director Dan Dennehy, Orange Treasurer Jack Graham, and NYS AOH Webmaster Kevin Cummings.



Director's report

By ed halligan

I joined with a couple of Hibernians from my area for our trip to Washington, D.C. this past October. It was sort of a business trip for me as we had our National Board meeting. It was also the Testimonial for Judge James McKay, our National President. What a great weekend. We were entertained by the Irish Ambassador at his residence. We boarded buses with a tour guide and did a night tour of some of the more popular monuments. Saw some of the D.C. nightlife and had an overall good time.

The best part was getting together with Hibernians from across the United States. As we traveled home, we reminisced about those whom we met and the new friendships that were made. I advised my travel companions that this is what conventions are like; seeing old friends and making new ones. It is disappointing that more Hibernians do not attend State and National conventions. There is the business aspect of a convention, but if more members would participate, maybe there would be better communication and understanding as to how State and National Boards operate. Maybe the EIN issue wouldn't have been that big. Maybe we would be able to retain members and recruit new ones more efficiently. Our organization has a wealth of talented people who are committed to the AOH.

This summer the National Convention will be in Orlando, Florida. Bring your family and please attend the meetings and break-out sessions. It sounds like we will have elections especially for the Director positions. There are five positions that will be open. Attend your State or area caucus and listen to the candidates. I have already met with a couple of these brothers and I am impressed with their spirit and compassion.

In closing, we heard that Malachy McAllister received a six-month stay on his deportation. In the short term it is great that our prayers, emails and phone calls worked. Thank you to the legislators and all of you who did your part to keep Malachy here. The long term we hope for an end to the threats of deportation that Malachy and his family have endured.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year!

charities & missions

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

We have just gathered with family and friends, giving thanks for the bountiful yields from our nation's fields and factories. As we give thanks, consider those who do not benefit from our shared bounty. I urge you to consider the less fortunate during the Advent and Christmas season. As you think about the Providential prosperity provided to you and yours, please consider donating your time, food and dollars to the less fortunate. We have a great resource for giving in the Hibernian Charity, but we cannot give what we do not get. Please send your checks made out to "Hibernian Charity" with Hibernian Hunger on the memo line and send to:

Hibernian Charity
P.O. Box 19325
New Orleans, LA 70179

Or donate by sending money through PayPal to HibernianCharities@gmail.com

Please donate food stuffs, blankets and socks to your parishes, missions, community food pantries and other organizations that provide for the less fortunate. Many divisions support activities that gather and provide food for the poor. Division 18 in Peekskill, NY, supports a Turkey Trot where members of the community, some dressed as turkeys, Christmas Ornaments and pilgrims run loaded down with frozen turkeys - many non-runners just donate hundreds of pounds of turkey and nonperishable food items. The Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke Division 1 in Savannah, GA, have a Turkey Trot where brothers "run" - maybe jog - up to missions, convents, food pantries, veterans' homes and many other places that serve those in need dropping off turkeys and hams. These are only two examples of the many acts of kindness taken on by AOH and LAOH divisions across the country around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please let me know what your divisions are doing so we can share the good ideas around. Again, please consider the less fortunate in your prayers and activities around the holidays and thank you for all you do for the less fortunate.



organizer

By tim mcsweeney

Division Organizers: Roles and Responsibilities

As we all know, membership growth and membership retention is paramount to ensuring our Order has a long and prosperous future. Recruitment and retention begin at the division level. The appointment of a division Organizer is a dictate in our national Constitution. The Organizer is tasked with directing recruitment and retention on the division level. A division Organizer should be willing to use the resources provided by the national board and also have the ability to think outside the box. Does your division have an organizer? This critical role should be filled immediately, if one does not already exist.



Irish American Heritage Month

By neil cosgrove
chairman

Brothers, this year will mark the 30th anniversary of the first Presidential proclamation of "Irish American Heritage Month," and it is vitally important that we actively commemorate and promote Irish American Heritage Month, not only in fulfillment of our duty, but for the pragmatic reason of where will the next generation of Hibernians come from if our young people don't identify with pride as being Irish. Without trying to be alarmist we see signs all around us that Irish American identity is slipping; we see many feisana and festivals being discontinued, we read daily of the closing of Irish restaurants and pubs that were the meeting place of their communities for generations. Closer to home, many of our Divisions are struggling for membership.

Let us not forget, Irish American Heritage Month is a national program unanimously adopted at the 2004 AOH National Convention. That resolution states, "... local AOH Divisions are hereby urged to unite in this worthy mission by appointing Divisional IAHM Committees charged with developing and implementing strategies for the promotion and expansion of Irish-American Heritage Month." Sadly, Brothers, while you are all to be commended for the countless works of charity and outreach that you do, it seems that "the Irish stuff" falls by the wayside. Perhaps that was acceptable years ago in the age of Irish neighborhoods, when Irish heritage and culture were all around us; we now live in a different world and such lack of investment and involvement will eventually destroy us. Let us not be subject to the old charge against the Irish: "Fighters in every clime. In every cause but their own."

Brothers, if we — the largest Irish American organization in America — do not conspicuously celebrate the contributions of the Irish in America, who will? How can we ask other institutions to recognize Irish American Heritage Month if we do not?

I ask you to consider the following action plan.

First, let us begin at home. When was the last time you had a conversation with the young people in your life about your family's Irish story, their trials, accomplishments, and why you are proud to be Irish? How sad if our descendants must get their identity by giving a saliva sample to a DNA company because we failed to keep the tradition alive.

As trite as it seems, March is Irish American HERITAGE Month, not Irish American HISTORY Month. History is in the past; heritage is alive today, shaping us as we move forward.

Work with your state legislature to have March recognized as Irish American Heritage Month and make sure such recognition is picked up by the media.

Make sure our websites are up to date in March and not still wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas." Let us prominently put Irish American Heritage Month on the home page for March.

Why not take the opportunity to engage your local newspaper before February is out to do a feature on Irish American Heritage Month and the role your Division plays in the community? BTW, is this not a great recruiting opportunity?

Consider putting one event on in March celebrating Irish American Heritage Month. Perhaps a presentation on the role the Irish played in your community? A talk on a prominent Irish American? Again, is this not a great recruiting opportunity?

Once again, the National Board will be promoting articles and video celebrating Irish American Heritage Month, so please make sure to share these items.

Brothers, none of the above items are heavy lifts, but they can have far-reaching impact to ensure that our heritage is accorded the respect it deserves and in promoting and growing the Order.

"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."
— Edmund Burke

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.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



freedom for all ireland

By *Martin Galvin, chairman*

Mark Thompson's tour against Johnson's legacy cover-up

Our FFAI work is well-known and deeply appreciated in the six counties. That fact was eloquently stated by Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, during his most recent AOH tour. Less than a week before he arrived, Boris Johnson announced plans that would shut down any hopes of justice for those killed by British troopers or their loyalist agents.

The AOH was able to organize public events in Chicago, Columbus (Ohio), Philadelphia, New Jersey, Baltimore, Hartford, Albany, Peekskill and the Bronx. The House Foreign Affairs Committee scheduled a special hearing where Mark was joined by Professor Mark McGovern attended by members of Congress and aides. The timing of the tour allowed them to also attend meetings supporting Malachy McAllister.

Anyone who attended any of these events or saw the Ohio event on Facebook, could not help but be moved. Speakers like these would not want to appeal for our help unless our help really matters.

We want to bring speakers to more areas and need your ideas on new areas where we can bring them!

Christmas Appeal 2020-21

By now you have received the Christmas Appeal mailing. Instead of opening the door to Irish national freedom, Britain and the DUP want to nail that door shut. America can make a difference, but only if the AOH, as the voice of the Irish in America, leads the way. Our donations to carefully chosen charities through your contributions to the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

The AOH and, perhaps more important, those who receive our donations, count on you. We cannot let them down!

Time to make McAllister's victory final

It was a Happy Thanksgiving for Malachy McAllister, and for justice. After six more months of deep anxiety for himself and his family, the combined efforts by political leaders, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the Irish community succeeded in halting Malachy's imminent deportation for another six months. It is too important a victory to be hollowed out, or even lost, six months from now.

One can only imagine what it is like for Malachy to face the real threat of deportation again and again. How can he take on major well-paying masonry projects? What does he tell family members facing the prospects of being permanently uprooted to Ireland?

Few individuals could have earned the sympathy and support necessary to keep him here. Senators Menendez and Schumer, and Congressmen King, Engel, Smith and Pascrell were among those who intervened with the administration. Cardinal Dolan called the President. Many law enforcement and military officials publicly endorsed him. The Irish Embassy backed him. The AOH and other Irish organizations campaigned for him.

Malachy has multiple grounds that should have entitled him to full, legal, permanent residence under American law. He has lived in America for decades, is a father, successful businessman and a respected member of the Irish-American community. He should be allowed to live here without semi-annual battles against deportation hanging over his head, where the British and DHS as the expression goes "only have to get lucky once."

He was a political prisoner decades ago in a war that is long over. It was a conflict in which he and his children were deliberately targeted for extrajudicial execution by the forces of British law and order, using British crown agent Winkie Rea.

Cardinal Dolan, leading politicians, law enforcement and so many Irish Americans would not have backed a criminal. America must not continue to victimize him and his family at Britain's behest! We cannot enjoy Malachy's victory only to see him go through it again in six months.

Congressional briefing on trooper amnesty

Nine days after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced plans to block prosecutions of British troopers for Troubles killings, the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee hosted a special briefing by Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, and Professor Mark McGovern. Congressman Eliot Engel scheduled the briefing, attended by Congressmen, many Congressional aides, two observers from the Irish Embassy and an observer from the British Northern Ireland Office. Mr. Thompson from Belfast and Professor McGovern from Edge Hill University, near Liverpool, urged Congress to take a lead along with Irish America and the Irish government in opposing a trooper amnesty, which would be a political disaster and violation of the Good Friday Agreement.

Campaign promise

Congressman Engel, a key Congressional leader on Irish issues, set up the emergency briefing after requests from the Ancient Order of Hibernians about the disastrous legacy implications of Johnson's amnesty announcement. The British Prime Minister made a campaign promise to amend the Human Rights Act, to cease applying to acts by British forces that took place before 2000, including murders during the Troubles.

The move would cut off access to British courts for relatives of victims killed by British crown forces, and violate specific sections of the Good Friday Agreement, in which Britain pledged to put the European Convention of Human Rights into law for the north, with direct access to the courts.

Thompson, a leading advocate for justice for relatives of those killed during the Troubles, was already in the United States on an AOH tour, which included major events in Chicago, Columbus, Ohio, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Baltimore, Hartford, Albany, Peekskill and the Bronx. He traveled to Washington to speak at this crucial hearing and to back Malachy McAllister's fight against deportation.



Working the halls of Congress at the special hearing, as well as to seeks a stay of Malachy McAllister's deportation were, from left, Malachy himself, National Treasurer Sean Pender, Congressman Keating, Mark McGovern, Congressman Engel, Congressman Higgins, National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Relatives For Justice Mark Thompson and Emer Roche.

McGovern, author of the groundbreaking book, Counterinsurgency And Collusion In Northern Ireland, flew to Washington to join him. The AOH, joined by the Irish American Unity Conference, Irish Northern Aid and other Irish activists, urged representatives to attend the emergency briefing.

Among Congressmen present were Eliot Engel, Brian Higgins, Brendan Boyle, Tim Burchett, Bill Keating, Thomas Suozzi and Dan Kildee. Other Congressmen sent key aides, led by Billy Tranchese, representing Congressman Richard Neal. The Irish government was represented by Deputy Head of Mission Emer Roche and Political Counselor Brian Cahalane.

Committee Chairman Eliot Engel opened the hearing by noting the importance of legacy justice as part of the Irish agenda, then asked AOH representative Martin Galvin to introduce the two experts.

Mark Thompson said the Good Friday Agreement was only achieved with critical American Congressional involvement. It provided for major human rights and equality reforms and signaled the end of conflict and the nationalist nightmare in the northern statelet.

"Regrettably the rights and entitlements of the GFA have not been realized in respect
continued on page 11



political education

By *Neil Cosgrove, chairman*

Brothers, there is no other way to start this article than with a tremendous "Thank You" for all your support, which was pivotal in obtaining a stay of deportation for our Hibernian Brother, Malachy McAllister. Many pundits had come to accept that Brother McAllister's deportation on November 29 was a fait accompli, yet you, by your phone calls to the White House in response to the call to action, turned the tide. The White House switchboard reported they received thousands of calls; those five-minute phone calls turned the tide to allow an Irish immigrant who has complied with all U.S. laws and done nothing but contribute positively to his community to remain with his children and grandchildren. Take pride in yourselves, Brothers. You have issued a powerful refutation to every apathetic naysayer who bemoans, "You cannot change things," and to sanctimonious pundits who claim that "Irish America" no longer exists. Every one of you who called: feel proud of yourselves; those of you who could not, please let this inspire you and consider getting involved the next time. Let us remember the words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

In that same vein, there is another political maxim that we must remember in the coming year: "The first rule of politics is being able to count." 2020 will be a year of national counting through the Census. In the 2020 census there will be an opportunity to specify an individual's ethnic heritage in addition to race. It is vitally important that every person of Irish heritage indicates "Irish" in response to this question. As noted above, many "experts," for self-serving reasons, want to make the case that the Irish have melted away into the American landscape, so that Irish issues can be deprioritized in favor of other agendas. We should not let this happen; we are Irish American, and we count. I realize that in writing to Hibernians I am preaching to the converted, but it is vitally important to have this conversation with our children, relatives, friends and neighbors. We hear many people talk about Irish Pride on St. Patrick's Day. Let us remind them to be equally proud to say "I am Irish American" on their Census form.

Finally, Brothers, let me note that as I am writing this we are preparing for the joyous feast of Christmas. May I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a new year full of blessings.



immigration

By Dan Dennehy, chairman

Wishing everyone a Happy 2020

The AOH Immigration committee continues to work on attaining immigrant visas for the Irish and aiding the Irish in distress in a challenging immigration environment for all. We are working toward success on the E3 Visa for Ireland. On this and many other issues, we appreciate the efforts of the Embassy of Ireland, Billy Lawless, Ireland's Senator for the Diaspora, and the Irish Immigration Centers, notably the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. Please support your local Irish Immigration center, find them at ciic-usa.org

AOH's tremendous effort for Malachy McAllister

I want to thank every member who made the call to the White House on Thanksgiving Week. We are grateful for the legislators, Irish Embassy, Catholic clergy leaders, organizations for their continued support. We also thank Irish Americans across the Nation who joined the AOH in calling the President to have the Department of Homeland Security grant Brother McAllister a stay of deportation. AOH messaging created recognition of the need for lasting and satisfactory resolution of his U.S. immigration struggle. The White House staff relayed the impact of our many calls with a singular message. We all stand with a Brother in distress.

For years, Malachy depended on a legislative measure, a Private Bill, which granted him a stay of deportation. Recently that measure was removed from Congress by the current administration. Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security issued Malachy a 6-month stay, which they pointedly stated was his last. Hibernian leadership and Malachy's legal team agreed to a strategy of direct communication to Chairs & Members of Congressional committees holding up legislation to return the use of Private Bills.

We have developed relations of mutual trust and respect on our issues with Congress members over the years. We provided documentation and details, and requested members work on the Committee holdouts as constituents. Despite many great efforts, the legislation to secure Malachy's private bill out of the Committees failed due to holdouts.

We then initiated the White House Thanksgiving call plan to appeal to the highest levels of the U.S. government. Hibernians were relieved on Thanksgiving weekend to learn that Brother Malachy McAllister was issued an 11th-hour 6-month stay of deportation. Additionally, legislators promised to work on a lasting solution to his immigration issues.

We know Malachy McAllister only as a trusted friend, honest businessman and Irish American family man. We fully support his desire to keep his family together safely here in America. Hibernians will stand with Malachy, working with our legislators until he is free from the threat of deportation to resume his livelihood, contribute to this Nation, and to watch his family grow.



At the Cardinal's residence at New York's Saint Patrick's Cathedral, National Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy, left, and NJ AOH State Board officer Malachy McAllister thanked His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and U.S. Representative from Long Island Peter King for their key roles in the successful effort of Ancient Order of Hibernians in America's effort to achieve a stay of deportation from President Donald Trump.



project st. patrick

By Vic Vogel, chairman

I would like to thank all of the States, Counties and Divisions that participated in the 2019 Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal. The generosity displayed this year will enable the Ancient Order of Hibernians to increase the number of Dioceses and Seminaries that may participate in the Vocational Grant Program.

At this time, Grant Information Letters and Grant Applications have been mailed. Once received, the Diocesan Bishops and Seminary Directors will distribute them to deserving Seminarians. Grant Applications are expected to have been returned by the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact me for additional Project St. Patrick Memorial Cards. My email address is victorjvogel@yahoo.com. The Good Work of our Priests, Seminarians and Religious needs the support of all Hibernians. In that way, it will also become our Good Work. Thank you!



veterans affairs

By Jim Green, chairman

Having just paused in our sometimes chaotic lives to give thanks to our Lord for the blessings He shares with ourselves, our families, Hibernian brothers and all of our friends, we now incredibly turn toward the blessed Christmas season and look forward to the New Year of 2020 – the third decade already of this new century. I wish all of you and your loved ones a blessed, peaceful and safe holiday season, and the very best for the coming New Year. If you know of a Hibernian veteran who spends a lot of time alone during the holidays, please consider reaching out to them and sharing some love and companionship with them. They'll be very grateful. Sometimes the trauma they've experienced in life, or at war, leaves them feeling the need to just be alone, and we should be sensitive to that. But some of these vets could use someone to provide them reassurance, a warm meal and a safe place to stay. Let's all work toward keeping our minds, eyes and hearts open to helping them in any way we can.

As has been the case in the past, there continues to be great interest in the Hibernian Veterans Pin, and still some confusion on how to order them. So if you're not aware, the process is simple. They can be ordered for \$5 each from the "National Board Order Form" found on AOH.com, under the "Forms" tab at the top of the main page. See page 2 of the form for ordering pins.

I have heard from many brothers around the country interested in ordering pins - such as Division President Scott McDonald from Le Sueur, Minnesota, Veterans Chairman Kevin McGrath of Division 1 in Lexington, Kentucky, brother and Army veteran Michael Driscoll of Branchburg, New Jersey, and North Carolina State Veterans Chairman Brian Triplett. These brothers, and many others, have ordered pins and are presenting them to the brother veterans. What an inexpensive but wonderful way to honor these brothers who risked their lives for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Just before the Veterans Day holiday, President Tim Donaldson of AOH Division 23 in Pittsburgh reached out to me and said that their Division was planning to hold their first veterans pin presentation for their brothers, and asked if I had 50 pins on hand (yes) and whether I would join them for the ceremony. I was certainly proud and honored to provide the pins and participate. Joining me at the event in their clubroom was PA State President Pat O'Brien, PA State Veterans Affairs Chairman Rich O'Malley, and Allegheny County President John Tarpey. As President Donaldson read out each man's name and their branch of service, they came forward. I placed the pins on their lapels and thanked each of them for their service. The meeting room was packed with proud Division brothers and family members. A reception followed in their social room downstairs. I hope that this scene inspires anyone that has not performed this ceremony to do so at your earliest convenience. It is truly a special occasion. A photo accompanies this article of the brothers that participated.

Until next time, God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans. In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, Jim Green.

More AOH Veterans News on page 14.



AOH Division 23 veteran brothers received their Hibernian Veterans pins, presented by President Tim Donaldson (not shown), National Veterans Affairs Chairman Jim Green, and PA Veterans Chairman Rich O'Malley. The veteran brothers in the front row, from left, Jason Donaldson, Donald Barry, Sr., Jim McConnell, Sr., Paul Donaldson, Jeremiah Hollihan, Sr., Richard Greer, James Callwood, Bryan McMahon, Sr. Back Row, from left, Chris Zewe, Brian Koehler, Sean Foley, Jim Green (crouching), Bill Komorowski, William Barry, Donald Barry, Jr., Rick Murphy, Michael Murphy, III, Tim Byrnes, Sr., Tim Byrnes, Jr., Michael Lemon, Jr., Michael Lemon, Sr., Rich O'Malley.

Remember

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



historical happenings by Mike McCormack, Historian

When I was a boy, Milton Berle had a TV show, every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. I heard it was funny, but I never got to see it since he was on at the same time as Life is Worth Living, with Bishop Fulton J. Sheen! My mother would let nothing pre-empt Bishop Sheen, whom she thought was a saint! How right she was will come to pass as the beloved cleric travels the road to beatification. As Father Sheen, he served as our AOH National Chaplain for two National Presidents. This will be the first time an AOH member will be considered for sainthood (though over the years some believed they were entitled to that title). On Easter Sunday, 1940, our National Chaplain made history by appearing on the world's first TV broadcast of a Catholic service. His lectures brought many converts to the faith including politician Clare Boothe Luce, automaker Henry Ford II, violinist Fritz Kreisler and actress Virginia Mayo, among others!

However, his road to canonization is rocky. Opened in 2002 by the Diocese of Peoria, IL, in June 2012, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed him "Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen." In March 2014, a miracle attributed to him led toward beatification. That derailed in September 2014 as Peoria Bishop Daniel Jenky demanded his body, entombed beneath St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY, be removed to Peoria. When New York's Archdiocese refused, the case went to court. Msgr. Franco, Archbishop Sheen's assistant, said that his friend often expressed a desire to remain in New York after death. Sheen's niece, 90-year-old Joan Cunningham, also opposed moving the body, but Bishop Jenky's ultimatum – no body, no beatification – meant that she would never see her uncle beatified. So, she filed to have the body brought to Bishop Jenky's waiting marble crypt. In June 2018 it was resolved. A tip of the hat to Cardinal Dolan, a devotee of the Archbishop, who agreed to send the body to Peoria. The process for canonization was restarted and in mid-November it was announced that beatification would take place on December 21, 2019. Then, on December 2, the Vatican put the beatification on hold for further inquiry. Though no reason was given, Bishop Jenky stated: *The life of Fulton Sheen has been thoroughly and meticulously investigated. At every stage, it has been demonstrated definitively that he was an exemplary model of Christian conduct and a model of leadership in the church.*

What was forgotten is that canonization doesn't make saints, it merely recognizes the saints that God has already made; and even if they never recognize him, we always did; even if he did pre-empt Milton Berle!

Congratulations to Past National President Ned McGinley who traveled to Nequehoning, PA, to secure the 2,000-pound church bell donated by the Hibernian Benevolent Society to a church now being shuttered. Ned, with the help of Rich Smith and Ron Heffernan, arranged for the historic bell to be moved to the care of AOH Division 1 in Jim Thorpe (formerly Mauch Chunk), Carbon County, PA; Carbon County is near where the AOH originated. It will be kept in a local museum.

Thank you for all your comments on the histories I provide; that's what keeps me going. Enjoy the holidays; 2020 means perfect eyesight; let's make 2020 a perfect year. Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year keeping the tradition alive.

Echoes of Irish History

By Mike McCormack

Carrickfergus

The song Carrickfergus has a haunting melody and it has been sung by hundreds of artists from Joan Baez to Van Morrison. However, it has been recorded with some misleading lyrics that add confusion, taking the listener from Carrickfergus in northern Ireland to Kilkenny in southern Ireland without reason. The song, which dates from the 1700s, remains popular despite its misunderstood story line. Yet, its meaning is actually more beautiful when the proper lyrics are applied.

The song originally consisted of two verses. The modern revival came from Peter O'Toole, who gave the air and words to Dominic Behan. O'Toole mistook some of the original lyrics and Behan added a second verse between the original two to try and tie the other two together. The result, without Behan's middle verse, is:

I wish I was in Carrickfergus, only for nights in Ballygrand.
I would swim over the deepest ocean; the deepest ocean, my love to find.
But the sea is wide and I cannot swim over and neither have I wings to fly;
If I could find me a handsome boatman to ferry me over my love and I.
And in Kilkenny it is reported there are marble stone there as black as ink.
With gold and silver I did support her, but I'll sing no more now till I get a drink
For I'm drunk today and I'm seldom sober; a handsome rover from town to town
Ah but I'm sick now my days are numbered; come all ye young men and lay me down.

First of all, there is no Ballygrand in Ireland. However, across the Irish Sea from Carrickfergus on the Antrim coast is the town of Ballygrant, on the Isle of Islay, southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides. *But the sea is wide . . . Islay is 25 miles north of Ireland yet nearly 80 miles of the turbulent Irish Sea separate Carrickfergus from Ballygrant.* You would definitely need a hansom boatman as skilled as a hansom cab driver to make that crossing and it wouldn't matter if he were handsome. *And in Kilkenny, there are marble stones there as black as ink . . . why the switch to Kilkenny?* Actually, it should be Kilmenny for that is the parish in which Ballygrant is located. If the singer's beloved had died in Ballygrant, she would be buried in Kilmeany churchyard, which has many black marble headstones since black marble from the nearby quarry was once Ballygrant's primary industry! *With gold and silver, I did support her . . .* historically another major employer in Kilmeny Parish was silver mining, which attracted miners from Ireland. Could the author have worked in the mines for a time? With these details, the ballad becomes a story of a loved one lying in Kilmeany graveyard and her poor itinerant lover, who once supported her, losing the will to live. He longs to be back in Carrickfergus which he only left for employment in Ballygrant where he lost his heart to a local girl, now deceased. As he recalls their times together, he drowns his sorrow in the juice of the barley, knowing that his own demise is near, and wishes a boatman would "*ferry me over to my love and die.*" It remains one of the most beautiful Irish airs and is now more meaningful with this explanation of its lyrics.

March is Irish Heritage Month and the "H" in Heritage represents History for without a pride in the accomplishments of our ancestors, we would have no heritage to pass on. Check AOH.com for information on National History Day, and enjoy sharing your heritage.

Fulton J. Sheen

By Mike McCormack, National Historian

On May 8, 1895, Peter John Sheen was born in El Paso, Illinois, to parents of Co. Roscommon heritage. Known as Fulton, his mother's maiden name, he was educated at St. Viator College and St. Paul Seminary before ordination in Peoria, Illinois, on September 20, 1919. In 1921, after a year at Catholic University, he studied advanced theology at University of Louvain, in Belgium, earning the Cardinal Mercier Prize for International Philosophy in 1923. He studied in Rome in 1924, earning a Sacred Theology Doctorate before returning to Catholic U. and teaching there for 23 years. His lectures attracted media attention and in 1926 he recorded a series of sermons for radio broadcast leading to a summer position on The Catholic Hour radio show in 1930. Audience response was so positive that he became a weekly host, presenting Catholic doctrine in a uniquely popular way. Granted Monsignor status by Pope Pius XI in 1934, his broadcasts resulted in so much mail that in 1937, he wrote: *"During the past year, letters demanding personal attention have run between 75 and 100 a day. This coupled with classes; never given with less than six hours preparation for each lecture has left me physically exhausted. However, the good to be done is such that one dare not shrink from its opportunities."*

Despite his demanding schedule, in 1937 he was honored to accept the office of AOH National Chaplain from National President John E. Fenton, of Lawrence, MA. Fenton was a Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Land Court, and conferred the honor on Monsignor Sheen at the National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ, that year. The remarkable cleric filled the office so well that he was reappointed in 1939 by National President Joseph E. Kerrigan of MA at the National Convention in Pittsburgh. On Easter Sunday, 1940, the AOH National Chaplain made history by appearing on the world's first televised broadcast of a Catholic service. Monsignor Sheen remained in the office as our guiding counsellor until 1941 when demands on his time required his attention to other

parts of his ever-growing flock. Invitations to speak not only took him across the country, but he maintained a full teaching schedule, published 34 books while at Catholic U., 32 after leaving, and transcripts of his weekly radio talks, while writing a syndicated column in the secular press. In 1950, when he left CU to become National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, he was the best-known clergyman of his time and raised millions to support Catholic missions. Consecrated Bishop on June 11, 1951, he moved from radio to begin his TV series, Life is Worth Living, reaching an estimated 30 million viewers on the most widely-viewed religious series in TV history; he won an Emmy for Most Outstanding TV Personality and was featured on the cover of Time Magazine. In 1966, he became Bishop of Rochester, and in 1969 retired to New York, remaining semi-active, writing and preaching until his death on December 9, 1979, 40 years ago, at age 84!

Considered for Sainthood, his cause for Canonization was opened in 2002 by the Diocese of Peoria. In June 2012, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the Congregation for the Cause of Saints proclaimed him "Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen." In March 2014, a miracle was attributed to his intercession and the next step was beatification. On June 27, 2019, Archbishop Sheen's remains were removed from New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral and flown to Peoria, where they were entombed in a marble monument in the Cathedral to St. Mary, where he had been ordained 100 years earlier. The Vatican announced that on December 21, our former National Chaplain was to be beatified and become Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, and his cause will begin the road to becoming Saint Fulton J. Sheen. However, on December 2, the beatification was put on hold for further investigation — though no reason was given. Prayer is now requested to resolve all questions and bring our former Chaplain to Sainthood.

World Series

Regional editor returns from Afghanistan, enjoys World Series on return

Hibernian Patrick Abbott, of the John Berry D.C. Division 1, was deployed to Afghanistan from early 2019 to October. Prior to his deployment, Patrick told his wife, Kate, to invite friends to join her using the now spare ticket from the Abbott's season-ticket package for the Nationals baseball team. Additionally, Patrick told Kate not to worry about him missing the postseason as the Washington Nationals were struggling and very unlikely to reach the post season. During the deployment, Patrick was primarily focused on his mission, while also finding time for editing articles for the Hibernian Digest, prayer, and tracking the Nationals.

Kate was able to attend games with many friends, including fellow Hibernians at the Irish-American Heritage Game in September. Toward the end of the deployment, Patrick was able to watch postseason games live on the Armed Forces Network very early in the Afghan morning. Patrick repeatedly told Kate he feared another postseason disappointment against a National League team, while Kate pointed out his redeployment date would be the theoretical date for a World Series Game 5.

The Nationals powered through the Brewers, Dodgers and Cardinals to reach the World Series. The seesaw World Series made a Game 5 necessary, fulfilling Kate's dream of going to the World Series with Patrick. Patrick's plane landed in the morning and after a much-needed afternoon nap, Patrick attended Game 5, only to see the Astros win and lead the series 3 to 2. Patrick remained positive, saying, "A bad day at the ballpark is better than a good day over there." The series went back to Houston and the Abbotts attended the watch parties at Nationals Park. The Nationals won the following two games, winning the Series and providing a welcome back to remember for Patrick.

With the deployment done, Patrick looks forward to a new year back with the Hibernians, Knight of Columbus, his parish and with his wife. Though no longer division treasurer, Patrick hopes to get involved with the state's Project St. Patrick while also cooking hot dogs at St. Vincent de Paul's #NatsMass prior to Sunday baseball games.



Minnesota

Shamrock Division donates \$2,000 to historic Irish church

St Thomas Church, in Jessenland, Minnesota, had called to the Shamrock Division of the Minnesota AOH to help support the church in its time of need. The church's well, its only source of water, has recently fallen to the ravages of time and usage and now needs total replacement. The St Thomas Church is on the National Register of Historic Places and was built in 1870. The church has limited funds and needed help with this essential repair.

Established 40 years ago, the Shamrock Division met in the St Thomas Church to start our division and celebrate our first Mass. The Shamrock Division has been celebrating our Founders Day and Mass annually at St. Thomas Church since then. The area called Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish farming settlement in Minnesota, has given a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of our Founders Day. The day is always well attended by our local members and clergy.

Given our long-standing relationship with the St Thomas Church, the Shamrock Division unanimously voted to donate \$2,000 to the well restoration fund.



Father Sam Perez accepted the \$2,000 check from Shamrock Division member Matt Skelley and Tim Halloran at St Thomas Church in Jessenland.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

It is always gratifying each November to see the various AOH Divisions in Connecticut honoring the members who have gone before us to their eternal reward. This year the custom has continued. The General Philip Sheridan Division, of Stamford, held their memorial for deceased members with a Mass at their Hall on Sunday, November 3, which was followed by a light meal and social hour.

The AOH and LAOH of Danbury held their annual Mass for deceased members on November 14, when Chaplain Father Sean Kulacz celebrated Mass at the Danbury Irish Center. Father Sean is an active Chaplain who regularly hosts Theology on Tap sessions, at the Irish Center, on topics of current interest.

A Memorial Service for deceased John P. Holland Division members was held at the AOH plot, at St. Mary's Cemetery, New London, on Saturday November 23. Chaplain Father Mark O'Donnell was the celebrant. Through the fine effort of Brother John Hughes, the AOH Monument had been cleaned and restored to a respectable condition for the deceased Brothers who are laid there to rest. Immediately following the Cemetery Service, the New London brothers adjourned to the Coast Guard Academy to set up for the following day's Communion Breakfast, which was preceded by a Mass at St. Mary's Church in New London.

Both the New London and Waterbury AOH Divisions have the distinction of owning cemetery plots that were purchased over a century ago. The motivation at the time was to provide a burial site for AOH members who lacked a family or financial means. Both Hibernian plots are adorned with impressive looking Celtic Crosses.

Congratulations are in order to immediate Past State President Attorney Thomas McDonough for being honored as Waterbury Hibernian of the Year at a dinner held at the Waterbury AOH Hall on November 18.

President John Slevin presides over meetings of the Hartford AOH on the first Thursday of every month at the Irish American Home in Glastonbury. The Hartford Division is dedicated to helping the newly arrived Irish both socially and politically.

The Meriden AOH held their annual Turkey Raffle on November 22 and the membership is already planning for their 95th annual corn beef and cabbage dinner that will be held in March!

In recognition of the Presidency of John F. Kennedy, the Stamford AOH Division hosted a roundtable discussion on "President John F. Kennedy- His Life and Legacy" on Friday, November 22. The talk took place at the Hibernian Hall, in Stamford. The discussion was moderated by Brian O'Neill, President of the General Philip Sheridan Division. Tony Pavia, celebrated historian and author, Joel Blatt, UCONN professor of history, and Dudley Williams, educator and community leader comprised the panel.

One of the earliest monuments erected to the memory of President Kennedy was dedicated in New Britain, Connecticut, on Flag Day in June of 1964. Until as late as November of 2017, the New Britain AOH Division held annual ceremonies at the monument in commemoration of the death of John F. Kennedy. Sadly, this tradition has ended because the New Britain Division has gone the way of the Divisions in Greenwich, Norwalk, Derby, Middletown and Portland; all of which have gone defunct in the last two decades.

In John Ridge's history of the AOH, he stated that few states recovered like Connecticut did in the years after World War II, when membership in the AOH in Connecticut increased from a low of 500 to well over 2,000 members. That charge was led by the remaining strong Divisions in Connecticut. We are in need of another such burst of energy and enthusiasm!

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Bridgeport President Mark Ryan returned the winner's trophy to Danbury Past President Brian Hearty while State President Brenden Walsh looked on at the 9th annual Connecticut AOH Softball Bash.

to legacy justice through continued British government bad faith supported by unionists who exercise a veto on rights being delivered."

Thompson said "British bad faith on legacy had been a principle reason for the collapse of Stormont power-sharing executive. He cited examples including: denial of money and resources to the Police Ombudsman "stopping investigations of 450 plus killings during the conflict"; refusal to implement the legacy mechanisms agreed at Stormont House December 2014 "to address killings that had never been investigated"; vital information is being deliberately withheld from judicial processes, civil litigation and legacy inquests, and even destroyed by official bodies responsible for deaths in a bid to further hamper investigation into state wrongdoing; and families of those killed who have found the safety to now seek justice are also under attack.

Thompson appealed for Congressional action to help get legacy justice for the relatives of victims.

Professor McGovern

Mark McGovern said "British attitudes about British soldiers accused of Troubles killings paralleled the undeserved, but deeply felt, sense of collective victimhood that underscored Brexit. In the same political quarters, which imagined Britain as a force that must be unchained from Europe to reclaim itself, the British soldier accused of conflict killings has assumed the mantle of the victim.

"The proposal to amend the 1998 Human Rights Act - which incorporated the European Convention on Human Rights into British domestic law - would mean it will no longer 'apply to issues - including any death in the Northern Ireland Troubles - that took place before the Act came into force in 2000'."

Professor McGovern termed it "a strategy of... misusing law as a substitute for traditional military means" and legislating legacy impunity for British crown forces and perhaps even their agents who received weapons provided by British crown forces.

Under House Foreign Affairs Committee rules all questions from the Congressmen are off the record to enable a full and free discussion. The Congressmen listened, asked pointed questions, and it was apparent they were deeply interested in how the British government was unilaterally breaking its Good Friday Agreement pledges and what this would mean for victims' relatives.

Congressman Engel has received other letters of support from Congressmen who could not attend but want to be part of any Congressional action taken.

Also present were Malachy McAllister and AOH National Treasurer Sean Pender, who took time out from lobbying to support the hearing witnesses because of the importance of this issue.

AOH

Martin Galvin, Freedom For All Ireland Committee Chairman for the AOH noted:

"This Congressional hearing — the very fact that the British Prime Minister announces an Amnesty for British troopers on November 11th and within nine days Irish America has taken it to Congress and is in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee with two leading witnesses, shows the importance of this issue to the AOH, and Irish American organizations like the Irish American Unity Conference, Irish Northern Aid and Brehons.

"Ongoing proceedings, like the Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest, may result in judges recommending prosecutions of the murderers of a Catholic priest, grandmother and eight others.

"This week, the Bronx AOH remembered the anniversary of the murder of former Bronx resident and American citizen Liam Ryan by off-duty members of the British Ulster Defense Regiment in Tyrone on November 29, 1989. There is a request to have that murder investigated by the Ombudsman's office in the north.

"Johnson is trying to block investigations or proceedings like Ballymurphy, which reveal the truth about British troopers, so that families have no chance for justice.

"It is crucial for Irish America to join with Congressional representatives and the Irish government to stand behind the relatives denied justice in Ireland."

Kentucky

The Father A.J. Ryan Division held elections in November. President John O'Dwyer was re-elected, as was Treasurer Tim Burke, Membership Chairman Marcus Burke, Sentinel Pat Dunlevy, Marshal Tim McMonigal and Secretary Rob Fallahay. Jim Sadlo was elected as Vice President and John Favier was elected as social director.

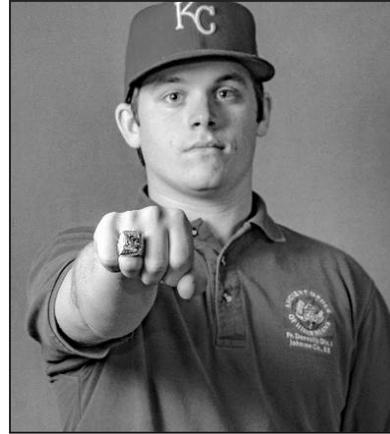
Official AOH Apparel by



Keltex
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& Promotional Products

Kansas

Hibernian in the clubhouse



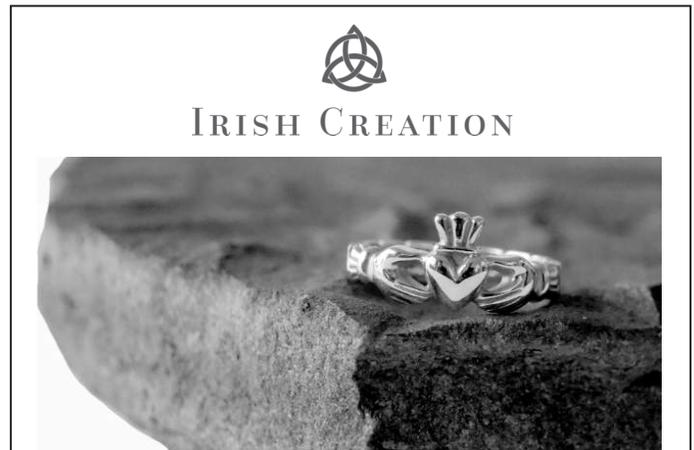
We all know about the luck of the Irish, but there is no way to know the limits of its effect. Jake Grohmann, of the Fr. Donnelly Division 1, in Johnson County, has received and delivered some luck during his tenure as batboy and clubhouse assistant for the Kansas City Royals. Jake was hired to serve in these positions at the beginning of the 2015 season.

With a few hundred applying for the position, Jake was lucky to get such a coveted spot. The Royals had just concluded a playoff run in 2014, going a record 8-0 for the first three rounds. However, the Royals fell a win short in the World Series, losing to the Giants in seven games. In the 2015 World Series, the Royals scrambled with clutch hitting, solid

pitching and solid defense to beat the Mets in six games to claim their second title since the franchise birth in 1969. That little extra bit of luck from their new hire is all it took.

As glamorous as it might seem, Jake said that working the games on the field is the easy part of the job. Clubhouse duties demanded attention to details, like the clubhouse remaining clean and the players having everything they need to remain at the peak of their game through the grind of 162 games, plus postseason. On the field, Jake notes that if the batboys do their jobs during the game, no one will notice them. Hours are brutal through an 81 home-game schedule with extra-inning games, rain delays and road trip unpacks when the team returns home. With the young crew the Royals fielded in 2014 and 2015, Jake enjoyed the camaraderie of many young players who welcomed him and made him feel a part of the team.

At the beginning of the 2016 season, the World Series winning team distributes rings to players, coaches, front office staff and their hard-working clubhouse staff. Stepping into a new job, Jake ended his first year with a World Series ring. Not a bad deal! Jake continued on with his duties on the field and the clubhouse through the 2019 season. His Royals adventure behind him, Jake is working toward his degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and then more adventures elsewhere.



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

irishcreation.com

Alabama

Fr. Treacy Division brother, bagpiper named honorary firefighter

In 2018, Roque Haines was initiated into our worthy Order and became a member of the Father Treacy Division in Huntsville, AL. He had been playing bagpipes for years and honored our division by leading us in the 2019 Huntsville St. Patrick's Day parade, while he was working to establish Alabama's first and only Fire and Rescue Pipes and Drums Band to march in future parades.

Over a year ago, Brother Roque asked the Department if there was any interest in forming a band and there was, though no one in the Department had played before. He took it from there, spending many hours each week teaching those interested how to play. And, on September 11, the Huntsville Police Department and Huntsville Fire and Rescue came together to hold a 9/11 ceremony at Huntsville Fire Station One to include the new Pipes and Drums Band.

Before the ceremony started, Chief Mac McFarlen presented Brother Roque with an "honorary firefighter" badge. Brother Roque and Chief McFarlen have stated how impressed they are that the band went from not being able to read music, to being able to play bagpipes within one year. Brother Roque also coordinated the band purchasing a few bagpipes made specially to honor 9/11 firefighters. Only 343 of the pipes will be made to honor the 343 fallen firefighters on September 11, 2001. Huntsville Fire and Rescue has bagpipes numbers 11, 12 and 13.



Honorary Firefighter Roque Haines of the Father Treacy Division.

Indiana

Barry Division's Fall Events

The fall activities for Kevin Barry Division 3, of Indianapolis, centered around two important events. First, each year, close to All Souls Day, we remember and honor division Hibernians who have passed away during the year with a Memorial Mass. On November 10, in our home church, St. Philip Neri, that Mass was said by Fr. Jeff Dufresne, administrator of the parish. Hibernian members Dan Shea and Dave Dinn did the readings and Chuck McGinley did the petitions and named the deceased Hibernians. At the beginning and end of Mass, approximately 25 members followed division flags as they were paraded in and out of church in a very impressive ceremony. Coffee and doughnuts followed in the parish meeting room for members and parishioners.

Those members who passed away during 2019 were: Robert Buck, James McCaughna, John C. McGinley, Fr. Glenn O'Connor, Michael O'Dwyer, Thomas Spencer and John F. Sullivan, Jr.

The second major event that took place this fall was the nomination and election of 2020 division officers. First nominations were conducted at the October meeting. Second nominations and elections followed at the November 14 meeting. Newly elected officers for 2020 are: President Tom Branson, Financial Secretary Joe Cahill, Treasurer Chuck McGinley, Recording Secretary Jim Lynch, Sentinel Victor Doucleff and Standing Committee Chair Dan McNelis. New officers will assume their duties at the January meeting. An induction dinner and ceremony, location to be announced, will also take place in January.

The division members thanked Bob McCurdy for his two years of excellent service as President of Kevin Barry Division 3 in 2018 and 2019. — Jim Lynch



New Division officers are, from left, Jim Lynch, Dan McNelis, Tom Branson, Victor Doucleff, Chuck McGinley and Joe Cahill.

Rhode Island

Charity and new leadership By Austin Behan

The Newport, RI, Dennis E. Collin's Division 1 was gearing up for the busy giving season, with a number of drives over the rest of 2019. The division had a clothing drive to help those in need to keep warm during these arctic winters in New England. We had a canned-food drive to help local pantries for Thanksgiving. Finally, the Division took part in the local Knights of Columbus blood drive and Christmas clothing drive, led by a number of our members, including Past President Rob Lehane and Glen Cardinal.

In December, members of RI State and Newport Division board attended a special election by our Warwick Division. While small in numbers, the Warwick Division makes up for it with their passion in our motto friendship, unity and Christian charity. They truly embody this and their passionate members continue to show it. The division elected a whole new executive board for a complete changing of the guard. The RI State board is very excited for this change and look forward to them growing their membership.



Past State President Wick Rudd handing the gavel to Incoming Warwick Division President Stephen Mulcahey at their installation of officers, with current State President Tim Burns

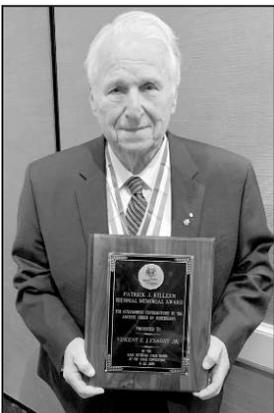


Michigan

Convention honors Lysaght

Vincent Lysaght was honored at the AOH Michigan State Convention with the Patrick J. Killeen Biennial Memorial Award. The award was given for outstanding contributions to the Order. It is awarded once every two years and is named for Patrick Killeen who was instrumental in the growth of the Order.

Lysaght was the founding treasurer of the Adrian St. Patrick Division and was treasurer of the Michigan State Board for almost 9 years. In addition, he was the National Board chairman of the Notre Dame Hibernian Fund, which includes both a scholarship fund and an endowment for the Notre Dame Cushwa Center for the study of the Irish in America. He is a member of the St. Patrick's Division in Adrian, Michigan, and is a National Life Member of the Order.



Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence: On November 1, Division 8 kicked off their annual FFAI Christmas Appeal Fundraiser. The Division members have again pledged a donation of \$1,000 for the Christmas Appeal.

Division 8 has contributed \$1,000 every year to the Annual FFAI Appeal since the inception of the Appeal more than 40 years ago. Bob Collins, Division 8's FFAI Chairman, is heading up this year's drive.

On December 11, the Division's Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Claddagh and the committee is promising to all a night of fun, delicious food, great music, super prizes and a few surprises! A collection of socks and mittens will take place at the celebration that will be donated to a local shelter.

The Division is now in the midst of planning their Irish Heritage Month activities. Among the events that are expected to take place are: Division 8's 149th Annual Saint Patrick's Banquet and Dance, the Division's 51st Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon, a lecture and author series, a film festival, a concert and an exhibit on the Irish of Massachusetts. Several more events are still in the planning stages for March 2020.

Division 14 Watertown: Division 14 turned 125! Special thanks to Dick Thompson for chairing this wonderful night at the hall.

LAOH members congratulated Dorothy Jean Brown on earning her degree in Holyoke. The members reflected on the upcoming holiday season with joy and reverence in the spirit of giving, volunteering and doing the good work as Hibernians. The division hosted the Children's Christmas Party December 15.

Division 19 Lowell: The division had its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 17. In December the Division manned the kettle at the local grocery again, donating time ringing the bell and the occasional carol or two for the Salvation Army. The members gathered for the annual Division Christmas party.

Division 36 Worcester: The division had successful events such as the Meat Raffle to raise funds to improve the Cahill House and add to our Irish Cultural Foundation. As the Division looks to the holidays The Shamrock and Holly Fair was once again a success. Thanks to Janet Robertson, Carol Ring, Eileen Benoit, Kathy Goozey, Meghan Young, Lisa Scanlon and Sheila Gowaski for being on the committee this year. Thank you also to Kathy Gervais for once again gathering and making baskets for our annual Thanksgiving charitable donation. The LAOH Christmas party will take place December 10th, directly following a short meeting. Thank you to Sharon Giza for organizing this party for us. During the party we will be collecting for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

The Cultural fund also had a fundraiser at the 99 where a percentage of sales will help the fund in its efforts toward helping fix Cahill house façade.

Division 1 Holyoke: Since the last Digest a big congratulations to Eileen Curran for being honored with the Citizenship Award from the Holyoke Saint Patrick's Parade Committee. Division members and fellow Hibernians met at the ICC of Western New England to meet our new Irish Consul General, Laoise Moore, along with Vice Consul General Shane Caffrey on Saturday, Oct. 19. Holyoke Ladies AOH have done a wonderful job the last two months making 15 beautiful fleece blankets for homebound and nursing-home residents. Over the course of several evenings the ladies gathered in fun and Christian fellowship. So much fun, they are planning to make this an annual event.

The division hosted the annual members Christmas party held in lieu of our monthly meeting on December 2, collecting canned goods for Kate's Kitchen, keeping in mind the reason for the season: keeping Christ in Christmas. This is followed by the children's Christmas party Dec. 8 featuring The Big Kid, John Gaughan, in from the North Pole for this special day. A busy day indeed, division volunteers also staffed Kate's Kitchen and serve meals on Dec. 8.



On Friday, November 15, the Irish Echo's 11th Annual Golden Bridges Awards were held at the World Trade Center in Boston. Among the awards presented was the 10th Annual David R. Burke Golden Bridges Award. The recipient of this year's David Burke Award was Maureen Linehan, for her work at the Irish Cultural Centre, in Canton, and at the Irish Pastoral Center, in Boston. From left, Bill Sullivan, Bob Collins, Patricia Burke, Maureen Linehan, Dave Barrett and John Foley.

Remembering the Brig St. John

On behalf of the Father John Murphy Division 9, Plymouth, I wanted to share with my fellow Hibernians a report about the 170th anniversary of the shipwreck of the Brig St. John. Our Division sponsored the Annual Mass on Sunday, October 6, at St. Anthony's Church in Cohasset. The celebrant of the Mass was Father John Mulvehill, the soloist was Máirín UíChéide and the bagpipes were played by Brother Hibernian Paul Boyle of the Boston Police Gaelic Colum. After the Mass we had a short reception at St. Anthony's Parish Center where the keynote speaker was John McColgan, the archivist for the City of Boston. Mr. McColgan spoke of the Great Hunger and shared with the audience the deprivations and hardships that the Irish endured in the years preceding the sailing of the Brig St. John from Galway in 1849. Following the reception, we then went to the Cohasset Central Cemetery where we said prayers over the Celtic Cross that was erected by the AOH and the LAOH in 1914. The final song that was sung was Amazing Grace. It was encouraging to one and all that this was a very well attended event and the largest crowd that we have had since the 150th anniversary in 1999. — John L. Sullivan



At the Cohasset Central Cemetery were, from left, Leo Falter, Dan Sullivan, Richard Thompson, James O'Sullivan, Jack Meehan, John Travers, Ed Falter, Joe McCusker, Tom Whyte, Paul Hogan, Brendan Burke, John Sullivan, Paul Connolly, John Shea and Francis O'Brien.

South Carolina

O'Connor named Hibernian of the Year

The Bishop Patrick Lynch Division, in Bluffton, honored Past President Tim O'Connor as its Hibernian of the Year. Tim is the embodiment of a man who lives our motto of friendship, unity and Christian charity. When and where there is a need, he will be one of the first to step up. In late 2016 he answered the call and served the following two years as our President. Under his leadership much was accomplished, including but not limited to the development of our website and Facebook page, organizing social outings to Savannah Banana ball games, and dinner trips to Harold's Steak House and the growth of the successful Irish Open golf tournament. Whether it be begging for Project St. Patrick, cleaning up Buck Island Road on Saturday mornings, Standing Up for Life on the side of Rt. 278, serving as web master for our site and social media page, marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Hilton Head Island, Irish road bowling with our Hibernian Brothers in Savannah, working on the set up and cleanup for Monsignor Cellini's anniversary reception, Tim is there with his Irish smile and willingness to help.

Tim also serves as chairperson for the annual SC state raffle and, since assuming that role, ticket sales by our division and the state have grown significantly. Tim is a devout member of St. Gregory the Great parish – being active in the Christ Renews His Parish ministry, serving as a Eucharistic Minister and contributing his expertise to the parish Finance Council.



Current Division President Jim Coyne, left, congratulated Brother Tim O'Connor as the Division's 2019 Hibernian of the Year.

Ohio



Clergy appreciation

In October, the Mark Heffernan Division in Akron held their annual clergy appreciation dinner. Local Priests, Deacons and their wives were invited to the Heffernan Division hall for a day of camaraderie and a home-cooked meal. This annual event has become one of the Division's most anticipated events. Division President Chris Quinlan stated, "This is just one of the many ways we try to support our clergy. As the AOH was founded on protecting the clergy, this dinner allows us to carry on that tradition." After the dinner, the MacConmara Academy of Irish Dance entertained the guests.

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."

VETERANS continued from page 8

Veterans Remembrance event in Pittsburgh

A POW/MIA remembrance event was held on September 21 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. On side 1 of the photo, the picture is of AOH National Veterans Chairman Jim Green, representing the Order, carrying a memorial wreath to the Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Wall. He is being escorted by a member of the University of Pittsburgh ROTC Guard. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall is in the background.

The photo on the reverse side is of Jim Green placing the wreath at the candlelit Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Wall.



Walking the Rosary

The Mahoning County AOH Division 6 and the LAOH Division 6 participated in the Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Walk last month. Members met at St. Columba Cathedral in downtown Youngstown and participated in the procession while reciting the rosary to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. From left, Dave Henley, Shannon Lehn, Donna Marsolo, Pat Lally, Michelle Neal, Mark Klacik, Raymond Kelly IV and Susan Henley participated.



Washington County Division presents awards

The Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Division 1, Washington County (Ohio), held its monthly meeting on November 23. The Division gathered to welcome Brother Wes Casto into the Hibernian fold and to present the 2019 Emerald Isle Award of Appreciation. Thanks to Brother Patrick C. Kelly we offer the accompanying photos of the event.

Division President Tom Binegar recognized the efforts of Bro. Patrick C. Kelly and Bro. Chip Rogers in launching the official voice of the Division, the newsletter "The Turf and The Sleán." Bro. Kelly brought a printed version of the newsletter, which has already been electronically distributed to the Division's member. The Turf and The Sleán was well received and much appreciated. Bro. Kelly emphasized that it was a sounding board for all members and asked for contributions to future issues.



Gathered after the meeting, from left, Brothers Chip Rogers, Andy Donchatz, Patrick C. Kelly, Rob Brannan, Will Rathbone, Tony Weber, new member Wes Casto, Tom Binegar, Bernie Lyons, Jim Udell, Marshall Griffin and Earl Campfield.



Bernie Lyons presented Tony Weber with a Division 2019 Emerald Isle Award of Appreciation. Brother Weber is the purveyor of Irish Comestibles to the Division. Bro. Weber makes sure that our picnics and other social functions are well provisioned from Weber's Corner Grocery. Bro. Weber's motto is, "If you run low - let me know!" Moran Construction/Ram-Jack, of Marietta, was also a recipient of the 2019 Emerald Isle Award of Appreciation. Thanks to the good offices of Ms. Jodie Bonnette the Division has a place to meet, storage space and parade vehicles. Ms. Bonnette was unable to make the Division meeting for the presentation

New Jersey



Christian charity in action
Brothers from Vol. Patrick Torphy Division, of Middletown, prepared Thanksgiving dinners at local churches on November 23 and Thanksgiving morning. Total served exceeded 200 meals. From left, Jim Shaw, Ryan Monahan, Pat Quigley, Tom Dunn, Kevin and Michael Gibson.



Thanksgiving at St. Ann's
From left, Andrew Lagumarsino, Joe Colford, Matty Guerin, Jim Bruncati, Chaplain Richard Vila, Bob Garvey, Steve Mulvey, Eamon Manley, Kevin Gibson, James Brogan and John McMackin.

in memoriam

Remembering John William "Jack" McGuire, Sr.

Kentucky Hibernian John William "Jack" McGuire, Sr. born Sept. 11, 1938, passed in peace Oct. 18, 2019. Jack was the best husband, dad, granddad and friend that anyone could possibly have. He was Catholic by faith and action and he was proud to be Irish.

Jack was gifted with intelligence, athleticism, a quick wit and a beautiful voice, all of which he shared freely. He enjoyed life, music, spending time at the lake with his family, fishing anywhere, two fingers of bourbon and Friday Happy Hours.

Jack was a graduate of St. Patrick, St. Xavier, Centre College and Missouri S&T. He was a teacher and coach for JCPS at Eastern and Moore Highschool. He later taught at Sacred Heart Academy and Bellarmine College. Jack was an active member of St. Martha Parish, Derby City Fly Fishers, Knights of Columbus-Bishop Spalding Council.

Among his many volunteer activities Jack was a lifelong blood donor, coached his children's sport teams and volunteered at the Franciscan Kitchen and with Healing Waters. He was involved with Reel Recovery as both a host and a participant.

Jack is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Mary Ann (Muething); children, Bridget Hardee (Pete), Caryn Steffey (Darryl), Colleen O'Rourke (Tim) and John McGuire; grandchildren, Grace, Hunter, Sarah and Jack Hardee; Ryan and Nolan Steffey; Patrick and Kelly O'Rourke; siblings, Bob McGuire (Rosella), Peggy Bridges (Harold) and Tom McGuire (Theresa).

Rest in Peace My Brother

Remembering Michael J. Murray

Michael J. Murray, of Stamford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on October 30, 2019. Mike was a Past President of the Stamford AOH.

Mike was born on April 13, 1941, to Thomas & Mary (Kennedy) Murray in Stamford.

Mike is a proud graduate of St. John's School and St. Basil's Preparatory School both in Stamford, as well as the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

While working at the A&P grocery store in Stamford he met the love of his life, Ann

(Hogan). They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this year.

Mike was employed by Pitney Bowes for 33 years, first as an industrial engineer and later in employee benefits. After early retirement he joined Ann full time in their store, The Fifth Province Irish Import Shop. They owned and operated the shop in Stamford for 30 years.

Mike was passionate about his hometown of Stamford and served in many capacities. He was on the Democratic City Committee, Chairman of the Stamford Police Commission and a member of the Stamford Police Pension Board. He was active in, and a past President of, the Stamford Ancient Order of Hibernians, and an officer of Northrop Little League.

Mike is survived by his wife, Ann, and his three sons and their spouses: Michael and his wife, Stephanie, of Darien, have four children, Jack, Kate, Hope and Christopher; Brian and his wife, Lynn, of Stamford have two children, Molly and Peter; and Edward and his wife, Carolyn, of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, have three daughters, Aileen, Kelly and Amanda. Mike enjoyed special relationships with all of his grandchildren and took great pride in all their accomplishments and activities. He will be sorely missed by each of them.

Mike is also survived by his dear cousin Marion Zaffino and his in laws: Lorraine Hogan, Jim and Dawn Hogan, Mike and Eileen Hogan, Sr. Eileen Hogan, Kathleen and Jack Gallagher, Louise and Michael Bluth, and Theresa Hogan-Pavlic. In addition, he is survived by many Murray, Hogan, Thompson, Comstock and Zaffino nieces and nephews all of whom were a big part of his life. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Mary, brother Tom and his wife Barbara, and cousins, Nancy Comstock and Sr. Ann Murray.

Mike was a trusted and loyal friend to many. He cherished these relationships until his passing. He felt blessed to have them all in his life.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
 Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Is iomaí duine cáiliúil a bhfuil nó a raibh sin sir Éireannacha aige nó aici. *There are lots of famous people with Irish ancestors. Minic go leor, ní bhíonn a fhios sin ag mórán daoine. Often a lot of people don't know that. Ach bíonn a lán daoine ag roinnt eolas suimiúil ar an idirlíon na laethanta seo. But a lot of people share interesting information on the internet these days. Ina measc siúd, tá grúpa (duine ar Facebook) darb ainm Milwaukee Irish. Amongst them are... Tamall ó shin, bhí scéal acu faoi dhúine de mo laochra pearsanta ó m'óige, Edgar Allan Poe. A while ago, they had a story about one of my personal heroes from my youth...*

Rugadh é i mBoston ar an 19ú Eanáir, 1809. *He was born...* Ba as Sasana a mháthair. *His mother was from England. Meiriceánach ab ea a athair. His father was American. Agus a sheanathair, David Poe, rugadh eisean i gcontae an Chabháin! And his grandfather...was born in Cavan!* Bhí a shin-seanathair ina chónaí i gCill Dalláin, agus a shin-sin-seanathair i nDring. *His great-grandfather lived in Kildallan, and his ggg in Dring. Bhí seisean ina mháistir ceathrú don arm Meiriceánach sa réabhlóid Mheiriceánach. He was a quartermaster...in the Revolutionary War. Ar an drochuair, thréig athair Edgar a bhean is a chlann in 1810. Unfortunately, Edgar's father abandoned his family... Fuair máthair Edgar bás an bhliain dár gcionn, agus tógadh faoi chúram mhuintir Allan é, i Richmond Virginia. His mother died the next*

year, and he was raised by the Allans... De shliocht na hAlbann ab ea iadsan. They were of Scottish ancestry.

Chaith Poe tamall san arm. *Poe spent a while in the army. Bhí sé ar lonnú ag Dún an Neamhspleáchais ar Oileán an Chaisleáin i mBoston. He was stationed at Fort Independence on Castle Island... Bhí scéal faoin áit sin gur tógadh balla agus duine beo istigh. There was a story about that place that a wall was built with a person alive inside. Is dóchúil go bhfuair Poe an idé dá scéal féin, The Cask of Amontillado, ansin. It's likely Poe got the idea for his story there.*

Saol gearr deacair a bhí ag Edgar. *Edgar had a short difficult life. Bhain sé cáil is clú amach dó féin i saol na litríochta, mar chritic, mar scéalaí ficín (gearrscéalta go háirithe), agus mar fhile. He achieved fame in the literary world, as a critic, as a story teller (especially short stories), and as a poet. Scriobh sé b'fhéidir na chéad scéalta bleachtairreachta, mar The Murders in the Rue Morgue, srl. He wrote probably the first detective stories, like...etc. Is iomaí scéal uafáis a scríobh sé - mar The Tell-Tale Heart, srl. He wrote many horror stories, like...etc. Agus bhí dánta cáiliúla aige mar The Raven, srl. And he had famous poems like...etc. Tá aithne ag gach Meiriceánach ar a shaothar. Every American is familiar with his work. Fuair sé bás i mBaltimore ar an 7ú Deireadh Fómhair 1849. He died ...October.*



North Carolina

North Carolina Hibernians gather in convention

The North Carolina State AOH and LAOH held their biennial convention in Wilmington, NC, on October 11-12. Congratulations to the newly elected State Board members and all of the brothers who received their Major Degree. Thank you to the Brian Boru Degree Team for coming down from Virginia to perform the major degree ceremony.

Brothers Bob Jackson, of Guilford County, Division 1, and Jerry Ryan, of Wake County, Division 1, were honored with the Timothy M. Lawson Award for their work and contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people.

A banquet was held at St. Mark's Catholic Church following Mass. Honorary Consul General Dr. John Young spoke on his recent trip to Dublin and led a discussion on what we can do to assist with the best outcome for Brexit and ensure there is no hard border.

The convention committee would like to send a special thanks to Bitty & Beau's Coffee who allowed them to use their Community Table for the convention planning meetings. Bitty and Beau's Coffee is run by employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The shop creates a path for people with disabilities to become more valued, accepted and included in every community. Since they originally opened in 2016, they have moved to a larger location in Wilmington, NC, and have also opened locations in Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, and are in the process of opening a new location in Annapolis, Maryland.



Incoming State Board, from left, Secretary Bob Driscoll, Vice President Stephen Kurpiewski, President Christopher Cooke, Treasurer Bill Keely, Director George McEvozy and Director Ray FitzGerald (not in the photo).



Honorary Consul General Dr. John Young with Incoming State President Christopher Cooke and Immediate Past State President Patrick Tracey.



The convention committee, from left, Bob Shields, Frank Reck, Pat Dagnon, Phil Dagnon, Patti Clune, Bob Clune and Joe Costy (not in the photo).



Timothy M. Lawson Award winners Brothers Bob Jackson and Jerry Ryan.

Hibernians' helping hands

Wake County, NC, Division 1, completed their annual Thanksgiving Food and Turkey Drive. The donations, which included 66 turkeys along with sides, were dropped off to the New Bern House in Raleigh. The New Bern House is a shelter in Raleigh that is run by the Helping Hands Mission. Some of the turkeys will be cooked and served at the soup kitchen at New Bern House. The others will go to needy families, elderly and sick.

Sylvia Wiggins, who is in charge of the Helping Hands Mission that runs the New Bern House, said, "Every year the Hibernians step up to the plate to really do good things to help us. Your goal is just to improve the lives of others and you have all done that 100%. We are so very grateful. Thank God for the Hibernians and all of the good work you do."



Wake County Division 1 Hibernians at their Thanksgiving food drive.

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Virginia



Learning about the 'Immrama'

At the annual Irish History Presentation sponsored by the Msgr. Charles Kelly Division, of Virginia's Chesterfield County, on November 20, Division Vice President Matt Dullaghan, left, and President Jack Simila, right, thank John Countryman, Emeritus Professor of Fine Arts at Berry College, for his presentation on "The Immrama," a class of Old Irish mythological tales concerning a hero's sea journey to the Otherworld. Prof. Berry described St. Brendan's reported journey to the west of Ireland, passing Iceland and possibly reaching the Canadian Maritimes. These presentations are open to the public as part of the Division's mission to promote Irish-Catholic history and heritage.

Hibernians take action in Roanoke

Hibernians in Virginia's Fr. John Lynch Division put their talents and their hearts to work for the good of their community. In addition to the good deeds pictured, Fr. Lynch Division brothers also supported charitable programs by donating food gift cards to needy families for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and by participating in a clothing drive for Roanoke Reach.



Fr. John Lynch Division, in Roanoke, VA, Brothers Paul Miller and Tom Huck (and Roger Vest, not pictured) installed lights in the sanctuary of St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church.



Brothers Tom Huck, Roger Vest, Paul Miller and Mike Whelan constructed a new porch for a veteran during Renovation Alliance's rebuilding day.

Colorado

Carrigan Division celebrates the Very Reverend Joseph P. Carrigan

Members of The Very Reverend Joseph P. Carrigan AOH Division celebrated the anniversary of the 160th birthday of the division's namesake with a Mass and a luncheon on Saturday, November 9, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Denver. The celebrant of the Mass was Division Chaplain Fr. Charles Polifka, OFM, Cap, (seen here as the 4th person in the back row).

Annunciation Parish and its school are beneficiaries of the charitable efforts of the division. Annunciation Parish is known worldwide as the set for the Father Dowling Mysteries TV Series in the 1980s. At the luncheon after the Mass, Brother Kevin Croghan (in the upper right corner in the photo) gave a lively historical presentation on the life of Fr. Carrigan. Fr. Carrigan was a legendary and colorful Irish frontier priest who, among many things, took up his own collection and was known to hold the basket in front of a parishioner and shake it until that person deposited what Fr. Carrigan thought was appropriate. He was beloved to the Colorado Irish community throughout the Colorado territory in the late 1800s, especially to the Irish immigrant miners in the mountains. He started the St. Patrick's Day parade in Denver, now the largest parade in the western United States.



Carrigan Division celebrated the 160th birthday of namesake.

Remembering deValera's Denver visit

The Michael Collins Division 1, of Denver County, Colorado, hosted a community history event to mark the 100th anniversary of President of the Dail Eamon de Valera's 1919 visit to Denver. Three AOH members presented the background of the Easter Rising, the relationship between Collins and de Valera, and the quest for Irish freedom.

De Valera's Denver visit was amply documented in the Denver Catholic Register and these issues are published at its internet archive. The AOH of 1919 sent Denver's (non-Irish!) Bishop John Henry Tihen as their delegate to the National AOH Convention in San Francisco to invite de Valera. — Kevin J. Jones, Vice-President, Michael Collins Division 1

Pennsylvania

Havertown Hibernians tour Jim Thorpe, PA

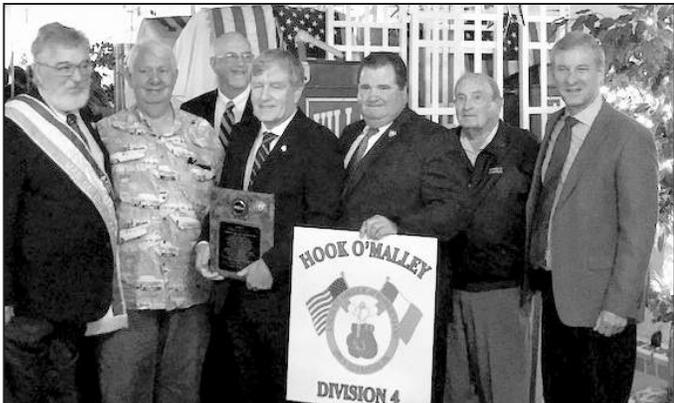
Thirty-one AOH Brothers and guests of the Dennis Kelly Division 1, Havertown, PA, traveled to Jim Thorpe, PA, on November 1, for their annual Division Irish Heritage trip. The day started at St. Dorothy Church in Drexel Hill where pastor Fr. Michael Murphy said a 6 a.m. All Saints Day Mass for the Division. Following Mass the Brothers boarded the bus to Jim Thorpe.

They went to the Carbon County Courthouse, where President Judge Roger N. Nanovic spoke to the group about the 1876 trial of the Molly Maguires in Jim Thorpe PA, previously called Mauch Chunk. After a brunch at the Broadway Grille and Pub, the Division visited the Carbon County prison, which still stands but is no longer in use. The tour, led by Betty Lou McBride, included a talk on the history of the prison as well as a short history of the Molly Maguires, their imprisonment, trial and hanging.

After a short bus ride to Ashland, PA, the group had a tour of the Pioneer coal mine where some of the Molly Maguires had worked. The day ended with a stop at the Hibernian House in Girardville, owned and operated by Joseph Wayne, a descendant of Black Jack Kehoe. The Hibernian House was the meeting place of the Molly Maguires more than 120 years ago. Joe was a great host and we had the opportunity to meet AOH Brothers from The Jack Kehoe Division 1, Girardville. A great time was had by all.



Brothers from AOH Dennis Kelly Division 1, Havertown, PA, visited the Hibernian House, home of AOH Jack Kehoe Division 1, Girardville, PA. Joe Wayne, President of the Jack Kehoe Division, is front and center.



Honoring Ambassador Mulhall

The Paul 'Hook' O'Malley Division 4, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, presented the Ambassador of Ireland Daniel Mulhall a plaque to honor his great work. From left, Man of the Year Bernie McGurl, Mark McDade, Joe Holland, Ambassador Mulhall, President and Commissioner of Lackawanna County Patrick O'Malley, James Connors and Congressman Matt Cartwright.

SNOWBIRD SOCIAL

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

Tim Finnegan's Pub

2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, Florida

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

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

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members.

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

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

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



Shaughnessy awarded Man of the Year

The John Mitchell Day and Man of the Year ceremonies were held at the Cathedral Cemetery. Mr. Mitchell was the great labor leader who fought for an eight-hour work day, minimum wage and safety standards in the mines, which were all parts of the agreement that ended the Great Anthracite Strike of 1902. The AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 has been celebrating John Mitchell Day for the past 15 years. Kevin Shaughnessy, AOH member and Union brother, was awarded Man of the Year for his past dedication to the Union and his community. From left, Jay Schectman, Bernie McGurl, AOH Hook O'Malley Division 4 Man of the Year, Patrick O'Malley, President of Hook O'Malley Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kevin Shaughnessy, the 2019 Recipient of the Mitchell Man of the Year Award, and Keith Oleski.



Remembering Michael McGinnis

This past November, members of AOH Division 2, Newtown, PA marked the 50th anniversary of the death of PFC Michael B. McGinnis with a prayer ceremony at his gravesite in Resurrection Cemetery, which is located in Bensalem, PA. PFC McGinnis, a Marine Corps Combat Engineer, was killed in action in Vietnam in 1969. Division 2 in Newtown is named for PFC McGinnis. Also present at the ceremony were members of the McGinnis family, pictured in the foreground.



Hibernians restoring Pittsburgh's Old St. Patrick's

Significant volunteer repair work is being done at Old St. Patrick's Church, in the Strip District of Pittsburgh. AOH Division 9, now based at Old St. Patrick's, is leading all of the restoration work, with all of the skills and manpower voluntarily provided by Division brother Joe White's construction company. The AOH National Board, the Allegheny County Board, and the Divisions of Allegheny County have all contributed funding and some of the manual labor involved in the project. A goal is to have the restoration work completed in time for tours to be made available when the AOH National Convention comes to Pittsburgh in July of 2022.

New York

Division 1 helps a brother Hibernian

In an example of support for a fallen brother, the AOH John F Kennedy Division 1, Schenectady, NY, Hibernians mounted a major fundraising effort and party for Brother Jim Scott, who is battling back from a near-fatal motorcycle accident. Several hundred of Jim's motorcycling friends joined a stout turnout of Hibernians for the event held at the Division's Hall on August 17. A buffet was provided, with sponsors providing merchandise for drawings as well as direct contributions. Jim's Go Fund Me page can be found on that website by looking up "help-jim-scott".



Battered but not beaten, Hibernian and motorcyclist Jim Scott cheerfully mets supporters at the fundraiser held for him by his Hibernian brothers. The festivities seen from near the buffet.



County official becomes new Hibernian
Nassau County, NY, Division 20 welcomed a new member, Rich Nicoletto, who is the presiding officer of the Nassau County Legislature, on Nov.19.

September 11

Hibernian 9/11 Memorial planned

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on our nation, the New York and New Jersey AOH plan to hold a memorial service honoring all the Hibernians who perished on that infamous day in New York, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. There will be a memorial mass on Saturday, September 25, 2021, at the historic St. Peter's Church, the oldest Catholic Church in New York, and immediately adjacent to the World Trade Center site. After the Mass, a plaque will be unveiled memorializing the names of all Hibernians killed during the terrorist attacks on 9/11 (it is planned to honor those who died of illness related to recovery activities at a later date).

The New York and New Jersey Hibernians want to make every effort to ensure that all Hibernian brothers and sisters who were lost that day are remembered. Below are the names of Hibernian 9/11 victims we currently have. If you are aware of any Hibernian killed in the 9/11 attacks who is not on this list, please contact New York State Vice President John Manning at (917) 589-0047 or email: john@breezymanning.com

Florence M. Gregory - LAOH Kings County, NY
Maurice V. Barry - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Charles Houston - AOH Kings County, NY
Liam Callahan - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Richard Fitzsimons - AOH Nassau County, NY
Thomas E. Gorman - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Dennis Devlin - AOH Orange County, NY
Steven Huczko - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Gerard T. Nevins - AOH Orange County, NY
Donald J. McIntyre - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Kevin C. Dowdell - AOH Queens County, NY
Jim Nelson - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Arthur Warren Scullin - AOH Queens County, NY
Bruce Reynolds - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Sean Fegan - AOH Rockland County, NY
Mike Wholey - AOH Hudson County, NJ
Richard Muldowney, Jr. - AOH Suffolk County, NY
Peter Milan - AOH Monmouth County, NJ



Remembering the Revolutionary War's Timothy Murphy
The Commodore John Barry, Division 1, Saratoga, conducted their annual Timothy Murphy Remembrance Ceremony at the Timothy Murphy monument, Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga National Park, on October 20. Murphy was a Revolutionary War hero who fired the shot that killed General Simon Fraser at the second Battle of Saratoga on Oct 7, 1777. In recognition of his valor and his Irish-American heritage, the AOH erected a monument at the site where the shots were fired.

Schenectady Hibernians earn FFAI award

Guest speaker Martin Galvin, National Freedom For All Ireland chairman, came to the Schenectady Celtic Crossing on October 26 to talk to our members about the issues pertaining to FFAI. Martin also presented the Schenectady AOH with an award for donating \$1,000 to the FFAI Christmas appeal last year. The Irish whiskey raffle was won by our past president, Jim Scott. We had a delicious turkey dinner cooked by John Humphrey with help from Kim Depaux and Cathy Turk. We received a generous food donation from Matt Savoy. I would like to thank our members for their support at this annual event. It was another successful fundraiser.

— Joe Osborne - Schenectady FFAI Chairman

Pennsylvania



At the educational event, from left, was District 3 Dave Bloomer, author and speaker Scott Mingus, Brother Vince McNamara, VP Jerry McGlynn, President Jim Williams and Treasurer Barry Foltz. Not pictured, but critical to the event: Cal Williams, of Cumberland County, Division 1.

The Irish contribution to the Civil War

The Dauphin and Cumberland County AOH invited the public to an evening of stories about the Irish contribution during the Civil War by noted area author Scott Mingus. Scott has written a book on this topic and many others related to the Civil War. He spoke with professional confidence and thrilled the more than 30 attendees. Turnout was fantastic! This marks the first of many future events by Dauphin County, Division 1, designed to educate the Central Pennsylvania community about the importance of the Irish contribution to this state.

Remember

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

Ladies hibernian news

National Caucus



The Irish Caucus 2019 Irish American Peace Award Recipients with their LAOH Sisters. L-R: Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Treasurer; Colleen Bowers, National Missions and Charities; Shirley Murphy; Agnes Gowdy, National FFAI and Award recipient; Barbara Flaherty, Irish National Caucus; Father McManus. Irish National Caucus: Marilyn Madigan, National Secretary and Award recipient; Karen Keane, National Vice President; Dolores Desch; and Mary Ellen Myers.



Ladies AOH National Board

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Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Maureen Shelton	125th Anniversary Chair	mtshelton@live.com

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President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer



It's hard to believe another year has come to an end and we are starting a brand new year. Hopefully 2019 was a productive year for you. It most definitely was a busy year with the 125th Anniversary Celebration and all the State Conventions.

I trust everyone who attended the 125th Celebration had a great time and went home with many memories. I know everyone is still talking about the great time they had at the Hooley. I want to thank everyone for the gifts, kind words and all the support.

A big thank you to my Sisters from Ohio, for all the hours they put into the planning and hosting a marvelous Hooley.

The weekend of the 125th Celebration and the Hooley, I attended the National AOH President Judge Jim McKay's Testimonial Weekend in Washington, DC. The weekend began with a reception at the Irish Ambassador's residence followed by a tour of the monuments at night. On Saturday, I attended the banquet and enjoyed visiting again with the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award recipient, Father Gary Donegan.

During our Executive Board Meeting, in Dearborn, the National Board voted to offer the veteran pins and the Gold Star mother pins at no charge to our membership. If your Division wishes to present a pin to a veteran and/or Gold Star mother, please contact our Supply Chair, Mary Conlon, to order the pin.

With our membership dwindling and Divisions disbanding, it was decided at the Board meeting to form an AD Hoc Committee. The charge of the committee is to look into the problems of why divisions are disbanding and how to increase our membership. Members of the committee are National Vice President Karen Keane, (who is the Committee Chairperson), National Secretary Marilyn Madigan and Past National President Mary Hogan. The committee gladly welcomes any ideas and/or suggestions.

Three Life Memberships were awarded during the Interim Board Meeting on Saturday. They were awarded to Kathleen Kelly of South Carolina, Eileen Madden of California and Mary Ellen Myers of Pennsylvania.

In a few months, March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C. The of the march is Friday, January 24, 2020. The event will begin with a rally at noon on the National Mall by the Washington Monument. The March begins immediately following the rally at approximately 1:00 PM. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Downtown D.C. Renaissance. The group rate is \$184 per room plus tax.

Just a reminder, the 2020 National Convention will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida from Wednesday, July 22nd thru Sunday, July 26, 2020. More information will follow.

As the New Year dawns, I wish it brings nothing but success and happiness for you and your family.

California



LAOH, St. Brigid Division 1 in Orange County California held a baby shower for the Precious Life Shelter.

There are 12 residents that are all due to have their babies in January of 2020. Each one was given a homemade baby blanket and many other things. The Precious Life shelter, baby shower been a Catholic Action project of our division for many years.

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

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016

Virginia

Lori Forbes, past LAOH Virginia State President, organized a statewide project to raise funds to purchase commercial-grade canopy tents for use in the Remote Area Medical Organization in Grundy, Virginia.

The RAM organization partners with volunteer medical professionals to provide medical, dental, and vision care to individuals in need at no cost. The tents are used to shelter patients from extreme weather conditions while they await care. Many begin lining up as early as midnight to receive care the next day.

Lori solicited donations from the LAOH and AOH divisions in Virginia. She was successful in raising funds to purchase five tents, which she presented on October 4 to Frannie and Rayburn Milton from Holy Family Parish, Grundy Virginia. Lori thanks the following divisions for their generous donations:

- Virginia LAOH Board
- LAOH Mary Ryan Division of Henrico County
- LAOH Lt. Col Dowd Division of Woodbridge
- LAOH The Daughters of Erin of Loudoun County
- LAOH Father Mychal Judge Division of Triangle
- AOH Major James Dooley Division of Richmond
- Virginia AOH Board

Ram in Grundy was able to provide Medical, Dental and Vision care to 581 patients at a Value of care of \$276,076 from 708 volunteers. If you would like more information on RAM, please go to Remotearmedical.org



Lori Forbes, Former Virginia State LAOH President, (pictured right) presents five tents to Frannie and Rayburn Milton (pictured middle and left) from Holy Family Parish, Grundy Virginia, for use in the Remote Area Medical Project.

Pennsylvania

PA All Souls

On a bright and cold Saturday evening, the ladies and men from Division 61 in Philadelphia gathered at the AOH Clubhouse to honor those that have passed. Stars with the name of the person being remembered were hung up on wires and illuminated at dusk. Because of a slight wind in the air, the stars danced and shone brightly.

Numerous LAOH sisters and AOH brothers said prayers. Alaina Hubbard, a member's daughter, performed an interpretative dance. It was a beautiful evening and one

of sharing.

This brilliant evening was an extraordinary way to commemorate many of our brothers and sisters that have passed on to heaven in recent years. Sisters that planned the remarkable event, Kelly McCrane and Annie McCrane, received their inspiration from an LAOH Sister they met at the 2019 state convention in Pittsburgh. Proving once again, it is always a positive idea to meet other sisters from across all of the LAOH to share ideas, thoughts, and concepts.

Montana

The Irish Washer Women's Brigade of Anaconda, Montana

A group of ladies from the Anaconda LAOH Division 1 met in 1989, and from their discussion, the Irish Washer Women's Brigade was established. Our first appearance was the St. Patrick's Day parade of March 17, 1990. This year, we celebrate 30 years of marching.

We wanted to be a bigger part of the St. Patrick's Day celebration and show pride for Irish women. Our outfits represent the life struggles of the young Irish girls and women as they came to America. The washboard, of course, signifies many of our grandmothers doing laundry in their boarding houses; the apron and dust caps for the many Irish girls who worked as domestics; the scarf for their shawls that had many purposes—warmth, carrying potatoes, peat, and wrapping up their babies. We wear the St. Brigid's Cross in honor of our patron saint and have added a yellow ribbon in honor of our members who are now marching in heaven. We have put the

American and Irish flags on our boards to acknowledge the love of our country and heritage.

Each year, as we participate in the parade, we not only have fun but demonstrated the great pride we have for our organization and share our message of FRIENDSHIP, UNITY, and CHRISTIAN CHARITY.

In the past 30 years, our marchers have performed in various parades throughout Montana, including the Irish Heritage Day in Virginia City, Fourth of July parades, Red Lodge Irish Festival, Philipsburg Flint Creek Valley Days and many more.

We have five charter members and an additional thirty members. Our ages range from 20s to mid 80s. We are so blessed because we are always getting new recruits, sometimes we have a grandmother and granddaughter, or mother and daughter units, so the process of an ongoing wonderful brigade continues. The only requirement to be a marcher is that you belong to our organization, the LAOH.



Front Row: Joanne Vincent, Ree Stevenson, Mary Pat Tuss, Kathy Sullivan, Rinkey McLean, Alice Heaney, Becky Finnegan, Billie Holmlund, Brittany Loretto. Back Row: Carol Davison, Jamie Costle, Kay Eccleston, Karen Vaughn, Cait Francisco, Lori Nugent, Kathy Conlon, Rosemary Corrigan, Sammi Loretto, Heidi Ungaretti.



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What a great stocking stuffer for Christmas,

mail your entries in now!

**\$100.00 Thanksgiving Early Bird winner is:
THE LAOH NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD, CONGRATULATIONS!**

\$100.00 Christmas Early Bird Drawing

(Ticket deadline December 20th, 2019)

\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2020

(Ticket deadline March 10th, 2020)

26 weekly drawings every Monday for \$25.00

(January 6th, 2020 – June 29th, 2020)

\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

To be drawn at the AOH/LAOH National Convention: Orlando, FL (July 22-July26)

Tickets are \$20.00 each

Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.

C/o Máire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair

17710 Flamingo Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44135

(PLEASE RETURN ALL UNSOLD TICKETS TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS)

Need more tickets or have any questions, email:

nationalaohrafflechair@gmail.com

Winners will be posted on our LAOH National website:

<https://www.ladiesaoh.com>

Louisiana

Members of the Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, and their guests commemorated the LAOH's 125th Anniversary in grand style at the home of LAOH member Helen Roubion.

We began with a beautiful Mass celebrated by our Chaplain, Msgr. Ken Hedrick. Members did the readings and we were honored to have a friend join us to cantor the Mass. Following Mass, we enjoyed a delicious New Orleans-style dinner of gumbo and rice, potato salad, and bread pudding topped with a Bailey's Irish Cream sauce. To make this an even more special occasion, the food was prepared by our Chaplain. We voted to name Fr. Ken Louisiana LAOH Chef of the Year!

A perfect celebration always has at least one thing go wrong; ours was our anniversary cake. No one noticed until we were ready to present the cake that it read "LAOH 150th Anniversary." Quickly, we scrapped off 150th, smoothed out the icing, and then served our "LAOH Anniversary" cake. Problem Solved!

We were delighted to have the opportunity to commemorate this milestone occasion, 125 years is definitely worth celebrating.



LAOH 125th Anniversary

What a wonderful 125th Celebration we had in Dearborn, Michigan October 10-12th!

Our first day started at the Solanus Casey Center. Our group took a tour of the center, prayed at the tomb of Solanus Casey, and left prayer petitions. Next was our opening mass at the Friary, where Solanus heard mass celebrated by our own National Chaplain, Msgr. Jason Gray. Our mass was followed by a lunch at the center. Thursday evening was a presentation by some of our very talented Hibernian sisters. These talented ladies provided a special presentation of a few of our Past National Presidents that guided our Order in the early years and more recent years. They gave us our history in period dress with information and humor that kept everyone entertained. We had standing room only. What a wonderful way to conclude our first day! We should all be grateful to the ladies who made history and to those who portrayed them: Mary Conlon/Mary Quinn, Patti Flaus/Anna Malia Roddy, Sandi Swift/Mary McWhorter, Marilyn Madigan/Ellen Ryan Jolly, Gail Dapolito/Sally Murphy, Kathie Linton/herself, Mary Paglione/herself. History displays were also in the room for the evening before they were moved to our display area.

Friday was a free day for attendees to tour the Henry Ford Museum or Village. Some took a tour to the Motown Museum. Your National Board was busy meeting doing the work of the Order. The evening was full of fun and excitement as it was the Hooley honoring our National President, Carol Sheyer. The LAOH of Ohio put together this fun evening with a very special appearance by the one and only Elvis.

Saturday was a full day as the Interim Board Meeting took place in the morning. We had a photographer take photos starting at that afternoon to record our history of the 125th. The photos will be used in the commemorative book that will be available next year. Msgr Gray celebrated our anniversary mass at the hotel followed by a cocktail reception before the gala dinner and an evening of dancing.

I would like to say again how honored I was that National President Sheyer asked me to be chair of this event. To have our President select my home state as the location for our 125th Anniversary was an honor. I could not have done it without the never ending support of my sisters in Michigan. They always rise to the occasion and are ready to help where needed. They also sponsored the champagne toast for our 125th Anniversary. The Historic Dearborn Staff met our every need. Also thank you to Past National President Patricia O'Connell for taking and responding to all registrations for this event. I would like to say thank you to all who helped in any way to make our 125th Anniversary Event a success.

Yours in Friendship ,Unity and Christian Charity

Maureen Shelton

LAOH PNP

125th Chair/Degree Team Liaison

**Deadline for the Feb-March issue
is NO LATER than February 1**

New Jersey

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Monmouth County, St. Bridget's Division #4 happily celebrated its 20th anniversary. On Sunday, October 27, the members proudly wore their sashes and joined the mass celebration at the Church of St. Anne in Keansburg, NJ. Afterwards, the ladies broke bread at a nearby restaurant for about three hours. The members enjoyed a great meal and shared past memories triggered by poster boards that displayed photos from over the years. Once finished, the festivities and the nostalgia continued at the Bayshore Catholic Center, the Division's home base. The membership looks forward to another 20 successful years in the future.



Standing strong after 20 years...Together!!!!

New York

Hibernians gather in Saratoga Springs

The New York State Board held its autumn meeting in Saratoga Springs to conduct the business of the Order. It was a very well attended gathering with Hibernians from all over the state, from Buffalo and western New York to the downstate areas of Westchester, New York City and Long Island. *Photos ©oconnellphotos.com*



Attendance was strong at the NY State Board's upstate meeting.



Immediate Past State President Vic Vogel, center, was given an award by National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, left, and NY State President Tom Lambert.



NY holds productive Metro Conference
The New York State Board held its autumn Metro Conference for downstate county and division officers on November 23, in White Plains. It was well attended and an excellent opportunity to discuss and decide Hibernian business.



The Oneida County, NY, John C. Devereux Division 1, and the Oneida County LAOH Ladies of Knock gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Utica on Nov. 10 for the annual Great Hunger Memorial Mass in remembrance of the millions who perished. The organization erected and maintains the An Gorta Mor memorial at the church with the costs covered, in part, by memorial bricks forming the foundation of the monument. The Mass was celebrated by Father Joe Salerno, with members of the AOH and LAOH serving as Eucharistic Ministers. — Photos and story by Hibernian Tom Loughlin Jr.



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2020 AOH/LAOH National Convention

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

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

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

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

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

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

New York

Bronx Hibernians honor O'Dwyer, Lambert, Ruane, Nolan

Grand Marshal and Irish-American political leader Brian O'Dwyer, New York State AOH President Tom Lambert, entertainer and organizer of many charitable benefits Sean Ruane, and Bronx Hibernian Man of the Year Bob Nolan, were honored by the Bronx County AOH on November 24.

This year's event included a remembrance of Liam Ryan, the Tyrone-born former Bronx resident and American citizen, marking the 30th anniversary of his murder by British forces. Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, traveled from Belfast to speak.

Bronx AOH County President Martin Galvin noted: "Brian O'Dwyer is being honored for the leadership he has given Irish America on an array of issues, including immigration or justice and freedom for the north of Ireland. Just one example of his contributions, is the nearby Emerald Isle Immigration Center, which has benefitted so many.

"Tom Lambert is being honored as President of New York State Hibernians, and the leading figure in the state with the largest membership in the nation's largest and most influential Irish American organization," Galvin said. "He has made Freedom for all Ireland the priority issue for his presidency."

Galvin continued, saying, "Sean Ruane is a popular entertainer, music promoter and well known community activist, who is being honored for outstanding charitable work in organizing benefits.

"Bob Nolan, past Bronx County AOH President and current District Director, was named the Bronx Hibernian of the Year.

"Liam Ryan, will be remembered as a Tyrone immigrant, American citizen, Con Ed worker, respected as a patriot in the Bronx Irish community. After returning to Tyrone, he was murdered by off-duty members of the British Army Ulster Defense Regiment on November 29, 1989."



At the Bronx Awards dinner were, from left, Honoree Sean Ruane, Mary Ryan Graveli, Mark Thompson, Margaret Ryan, Martin Galvin, NYS AOH President and Honoree Tom Lambert, State Director and Honoree Bob Nolan, and Chaplain Fr. McCarthy.



Attending the annual awards event were, from left, Florida and Brooklyn Hibernian Jim Sullivan, Queens County AOH VP Kieran Mahoney, NYS AOH Vice President John Manning, Past NYS AOH District 6 Director and current National Hibernian Digest Editor John O'Connell and NYS AOH Treasurer Tom Beirne