

AOH Gaelic Mass Day goes national

Bronx County AOH's annual Gaelic Mass in Woodlawn became a national Hibernian event this year endorsed by AOH President Danny O'Connell, and watched by more than 7,000 people on the parish and AOH Facebook pages. Viewers from as far away as Texas and California joined leading Hibernians wearing sashes and medallions, Irish community groups, Irish speakers and parishioners to hear Mass said in Irish by Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald at St. Barnabas on September 12. The Gaelic Mass, dedicated to those who kept the Irish language and culture alive, was symbolized by the Mass Rock, and in the spirit of Irish speakers gathered in secret to hear outlawed Masses in defiance of British laws.

Booklets

Specially prepared Irish-English translations of the prayers were handed out to those coming into St. Barnabas or downloaded by those viewing on Facebook. These booklets allowed everyone to follow the prayers in English as they listened to the Irish words.



Fr. Fitzgerald gives his sermon on the topic of the Mass Rock.

A Belfast newspaper, the Andersontown News, invited Irish speakers to join the Irish Mass being said in the Bronx.

With seating limited by safe-distancing restrictions, reserved seats were provided for Hibernian officers, representatives of Irish

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Hibernian Hunger Project

By Bill Sullivan, National Chairman

Just what is the Hibernian Hunger Project you might ask?

Well, 17 years ago, AOH National President Ned McGinley and the National Board of the AOH and LAOH established the Hibernian Hunger Project as a means to honor those who had died during the Great Hunger; to help educate Irish America about An Gorta Mor, and to help with the hunger problem in the United States through the generosity of the AOH and LAOH membership.

Over the past 17 years, members of the AOH and LAOH have worked as a cohesive group on many fronts to help combat hunger in our country through a variety of ways: volunteering at soup kitchens and food pantries, conducting food drives, and donating money to local food pantries and shelters. As we have seen in several recent articles in the Hibernian Digest, many Hibernian Divisions and Boards were among the first to step up during our present Covid-19 pandemic.

Recently I heard from Tony O'Malley, Vice President of Division 5 AOH in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Tony wrote to me about HOPE 101, which is a food pantry facilitated by the members of Division 5 in Bucks County.

The "HOPE 101 Building," where Division 5's project takes place, was generously donated by four Division 5 brothers: Alex, Bob, John and Todd Phinn. HOPE 101 not only provides dinners to the local homeless and needy but is also a clothes and furniture collection site for those in need. HOPE 101 is funded by donations and proceeds from Division 5's annual golf outing. During the Covid-19 pandemic, HOPE 101 has been providing take-out meals for the homeless and the needy.

Our sincere congratulations to the officers and members of Division 5 in Buck's County PA for stepping up and contributing both financially and with their time and talents to their community in the true spirit of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. It is the exemplary works and spirit of the members of Division 5 that make us all proud to be members of the oldest, largest and greatest Irish Catholic organization in the United States, the AOH!

In future Digest articles and Web Blasts, we want to highlight the efforts of Divisions, County and State Boards to combat hunger

in their community. Please email me a short article on an activity that your Division or Board is doing or has done to combat hunger. When available, photos are most welcome too. My email address is noted at the end of this article.

When the AOH National Hunger Project was established in 2003, all Divisions, County and State Boards were asked to run a food drive during March, and many still do. The reason March was selected was because traditionally it is a time when food banks and soup kitchens are low on food supplies after the winter months. With this in mind, our next article in the Digest will deal with ideas to help you plan for our next AOH National Hunger Month in March 2021.

Stay safe, healthy, and strong!

May you and your families for a wonderful Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021!

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments, or your questions. I look forward to hearing from you! My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net



Bucks County, PA, AOH 5 members Denny Joyce, Jack Donohue, Kevin Moran and Bud Burke were ready to serve a delicious meal to their guests at HOPE 101.

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Pennsylvania



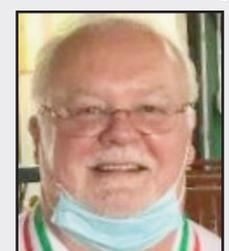
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Toast the Irish New Year & the arrival of 2021 with the Most Rev. Joseph P. Carrigan
Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Denver, Colorado!

The Carrigan Division will still be hosting their traditional New Years Eve party on Thursday, December 31st beginning at 2pm at The Celtic on Market in Denver, CO. There will be live Irish music, bagpipes & Irish step dancers & many virtual speakers including Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap as we count down to the famous "lamp shade drop" & the official start of the new year at 5pm MST (when it is the new year in Dublin)

Proper local & CDC guidelines will be enforced to ensure proper social distancing. If you are unable to attend the event in person this year, we encourage you to still be a part of the fun & attend virtually by tuning into our live stream of the event and where you can view our virtual online silent auction that benefits our charities.

Please visit www.carriganaohcolorado.com or email us at carriganAOHcolorado@gmail.com for details on how to stream the event as we get closer to December.



Fr. Treacy Division supports 9/11 Tribute

The Father Treacy Division was humbled to have many of our brothers along with their lovely families attend the Rocket City Trash Pandas Tribute Night, a new minor league team at their newly built Toyota Stadium in Northern Alabama, on 9/11, remembering those tragic lives lost on that day and honoring all of the first-responder heroes on that day, months after, and continuing to serve. A special USA Amputee Softball Game was played against the local Bearded Warriors organization who routinely walks with our Division in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Among our brothers attending was Brother Dave Gray, who in February ended up in the hospital for what at first was considered complications of the flu and was on a ventilator, dialysis, lost his toes due to complications, and was in treatment facilities for more than four months before being released home to continue multiple doctor appointments and therapies. In the picture with this article, he stood from his wheelchair and remains committed to regaining his strength as he continues to serve his church, our brotherhood and the community.

In addition, Brother Dan Shaughnessy was there and recently became engaged to his lovely, soon-to-be bride down on the field at a different event. This was a truly special evening. And this was the first time our Brothers had been together since March 14 at our Division's St. Patrick's Social. It was a very special night all around in tribute to 9/11 and the opportunity to safely be with many of our brothers again. It truly gives us hope that our bonds remain strong and our desire to overcome Covid is solid and continuing to contribute to the community remains even stronger.

New Jersey

AOH honors Hibernians lost on 9/11

The Order seeks to ensure all who sacrificed their lives are honored and recognized with Twin Blue Light Display for the 19th anniversary of tragedy.

Among the thousands lost in the attack at the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001, were nine members from the New Jersey AOH and eight members from the New York AOH. Also lost was one member from the Ladies AOH in New York.



Vowing that the ultimate sacrifice made by these Hibernians will never be forgotten, the New Jersey State Board asked their members to take one minute on that solemn day and remember the brothers and sister who died in the attack.

Larry Prella, NJ State President, stated, "Eight members from the St. Michaels' Division 8 of Hudson County and one member from the Pat Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County, NJ, lost their lives on that tragic day. These men were at work, either responding to the terrorist attack or helping others get out of the buildings safely. I was incredibly pleased that the logistical issues were worked out for the Tribute Lights and they were lit on September 11th. I would like to recognize the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, Mayor Jimmy Davis of Bayonne, NJ, and Mayor Tony Perry of Middletown, NJ, (along with others) who stepped up to the plate to make sure the two blue lights were in the sky on September 11th."

'Solemn Reminder'

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the attack on our nation, the New Jersey Ancient Order of Hibernians designed a commemorative symbol honoring members who perished on that infamous day at the World Trade Center complex.

The symbol created is similar to the state logo recognizing September 11th and the nine Hibernians from NJ who lost their lives on that tragic day. This image is a solemn reminder that we have not and will not forget our brothers.

The New Jersey State Board, with the permission of the National Board, is selling this as a car magnet for \$10 ea. or 3 for \$25. All proceeds from the sale will be used for a memorial to honor our fallen brothers. Any remaining funds after expenses will be donated to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. If you are interested in purchasing a magnet, please contact Larry Prella at 609-970-9841 or larry.prella@njaoh.com.

Deceased NJ AOH Members

- Peter Milano – Cantor Fitzgerald, Pat Torphy Division 2 – Monmouth County
- Bruce Reynolds – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Tom Gorman – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Moe Barry – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Mike Wholey – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Don McIntyre Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Steve Huczko – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- Liam Callahan – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County
- James Nelson – Port Authority Police, St. Michael's Division 8 – Hudson County

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AOHapparel.itemorder.com

The National hibernian digest

"Ireland. One and Indivisible. Though the heavens Fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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president's message

By Danny O'Connell

It's official, National Board transition is finished. Our AOH leadership team completed their second *Digest* article, several national board meetings, several committee meetings, multiple state president meetings and several live virtual events; there are no rookies left. To borrow a term used often by YSU's president, Jim Tressel, "Macte Virtute!" a Latin phrase meaning "increase excellence." Our path to success through the trying times of Covid is for each and every Hibernian to increase your excellence. Our national board understands we must innovate to lead the AOH and Irish America into the future. I am confident that we have the best team of leaders for the task at hand.

Recruiting

The first area we must increase excellence is recruiting, from application to membership. Our only opportunity for success in recruiting is with commitment from each and every Hibernian. We are recruiting men who will help us in every aspect of our noble Order. From Pro-Life to Political Education, from Freedom for all Ireland to Catholic Action, recruiting new Irish Catholic Brothers will make us stronger in everything we do. Every time you recruit, you are recruiting the future leaders of Irish America. Our success in recruiting will strengthen the Voice of Irish America!

Local recruiting remains our bread and butter. This is where you come in. I know each and every one of you knows at least one if not 10 men who meet the qualifications to become a great Hibernian. The only thing holding them back is you. Take the time to recruit one Irish Catholic you know today. Set a goal as to how many people you can recruit between now and Christmas, New Year's, St. Patrick's Day. It may be your father, your son, your brother, your uncle, someone at work, someone at church. Take a minute right now to write down three names. Increase excellence by bringing in a new member today.

The national board has made a commitment to additional funding to be used in marketing, promotion and advertising for new recruits. This is a sure way to generate applications from those who wish to be part of the largest and oldest Irish Catholic organization outside of Ireland, the voice of Irish America, the voice of the AOH. The key to the success of this national campaign is you! Without our members on the ground vetting and then recruiting the qualified men on these applications, we lose them. With your help we can bring these men into the Order, mentor them, open up the world of Irish America to them and, most importantly, retain them. Increase excellence by converting every qualified applicant in your area into a member of the AOH.

Information

The second area we must increase excellence in is the collection of our positive data. We are working on ways to improve communication between your division, county board, state board and the national board to gather as much impact information as we can. Impact information is anything that shows our strength in number of members as well as the number of people we impact in everything we do. We need to know the numbers of people participating in your events from A to Z. We are working on updated forms to share with you to report everything and anything you do.

Part of the improved communication began on October 8th when we had a National Board State President Zoom meeting. For the first time, we invited all members of every state board to participate in the meeting. This opportunity allowed these brothers to learn first hand what is happening on the national level. Moving forward, we plan to open these meetings up to county and division presidents as well. This meeting went on for less than two hours and afforded everyone on the Zoom an opportunity to hear from almost all of our national chairman.

In closing, I want to remind everyone to check the website regularly for opportunities to participate in our live events. Each event will also be on our YouTube page for you to watch at a later time and date or even during, before or after your division meeting. Remember, Macte Virtute, increase excellence. The excellent work you continue to do every day will help the AOH to increase excellence.

God Bless,
Danny O



President Danny O'Connell had the opportunity to speak with AOH Brother Dickie Brennan, right, recently in New Orleans. If you ever need a good meal while in The Big Easy, find one of the many restaurants with Dickie's name on it and you can't go wrong. Dickie exemplifies "Macte Virtute," increase excellence!



vice president's report

By sean pender

Welcome to the 2020 AOH Label program.

Thank you for the work you do every day to advance the principles and objectives of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Every Hibernian is critical to our success.

The AOH label program provides direct support to our Hibernian Charity. The Charity promotes the spirit of who we are and what we were founded for; it honors and promotes our history, while being firmly rooted in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. I hope you will use these labels to help us promote the AOH and take this opportunity to provide additional financial support to the many worthwhile projects that the Hibernian Charity supports.

Hibernians Disaster Relief Fund — building reserves to help Hibernians in their time of need due to natural disaster.

Project St. Patrick — demonstrating our long-standing commitment to our clergy, by helping those preparing for religious life as priests and nuns.

Hibernian Hunger Project — supporting local hunger programs. In this, the 175th year of the beginning of An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger), we will never forget the tragedy of that hunger, the humanitarian disaster that it caused and the resilience of our people to triumph over it. Regrettably hunger is still in all of our communities and we must continue to work to feed the hungry.

Promoting Irish History in our youth — National History Day ensures that the stories of our struggles, our triumphs and aspirations will endure and inspire new generations.

Irish Way Scholarship — In 1990 the AOH National Board established an Irish Way Scholarship. A \$1,000 Scholarship is awarded annually to the son, grandson, daughter or granddaughter of a member of the AOH. The Scholarship applications are judged by the Irish American Cultural Institute, which is based in New Jersey.

Study Abroad Scholarship — The National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians has established two annual \$2,000 Junior Year Abroad Scholarships for the son or daughter of an AOH member in good standing, who is attending an accredited college or university in the United States, and who has been accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends.

Every penny raised by the label program will support Hibernian Charities. But the bottom line is while every Hibernian receives these labels, we only receive donations from about seven per cent of our members. Brothers we can do better, and when we do, we will help more people.

We remain true to our original purpose, while constantly responding to the needs of those among us and around us. With your financial assistance our National Board will continue to promote our faith, our Irish culture, our concern for community, and our unwavering aspiration for a free and United Ireland.

Remember, no contribution is too small and no contribution is too large. Thank you for taking the time to make your donation to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. today!



secretary's report

By Jere Cole

Making Progress

We are now fast approaching the end of another year. Most of you have by now found some degree of comfort in working with our new roster editing system. Let me remind you all there is no Form 40 any longer; all changes are to be made by your representative on the new system.

In case you haven't noticed, beginning now, we will not be issuing any new membership cards except under special circumstances. The reason being we are almost out of 2020 cards and we will be issuing the new cards after January 1, 2021.

Now is the time for you to make absolutely sure your rosters are accurate. Remember, you are paying per capita on those members you have on the roster as of midnight 12/31/2020. There is no sliding scale adjustment for per capita; you are responsible to pay \$12 per member whether you added them in July or on 12/31/2020.

Per capita is due on 2/15/2021 to the National office and MUST be accompanied by your financial statement, Form 11. This form is available online and is a .pdf fillable document that performs all the math for you; you will need to just fill in your numbers. As with any online fillable form do not attempt to fill out in your browser. You must save the form to your computer first and then fill in that saved copy. You then save the completed form and email to the National office.

Just as was the case this year, if you pay by the deadline your per capita is only \$12 per member. If you pay after the 2/15/2021 deadline, the per capita is \$16 per member.

By year end, we will begin the next phase of our expansion of the system. You will be issued instructions for entering your Form 9 information online just as you now do with the roster. This means you will be able to change your officers and add your EIN number yourself and not ask that it be done by the national office.

Also, do not forget, if you haven't already found out you can now edit the information found in the online division directory. In this way you may add the name of your division, the time, place and date of meetings may be edited.

This year, in another first, in January you will be issued an invoice for the amount that we calculate you owe in per capita. This will assume that you pay on time and can pay the \$12 per member. Receipt of this invoice does not excuse you from completing the Form 11 and returning it with your payment, but hopefully will simplify the process for you and speed receipt of the funds owed.

We want to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season!



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Irish • Catholic • American

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treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

'Tis the season for Per Capitas, which underwrite and support the work of our Order. It is critical for each Division to have a plan in place to ensure Per Capitas are paid to enable our Order to continue our important mission. This is especially important as our National Board is focused on growing our membership and investing in marketing our great Order in an effort to expand our footprint.

Having the member roster system and process in place provides convenience and allows control at the Division level, which gives a clear snapshot of the status of your Division from a numbers perspective. National Secretary Jere Cole and Joe Ryan have worked diligently to make these tools available which, again, offers convenience and flexibility at the Division level. I encourage you to use these tools accordingly.

EINs (Employer Identification Number/Tax ID) continue to be an issue as some Divisions need to take the appropriate steps to be compliant with the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). The IRS has been slow to update their official list of "accepted" Divisions due to COVID, but I'll be monitoring their online records to identify which Divisions need to submit/file to achieve acceptance/success. I'll be following up with National Directors and State Presidents for outreach to specific Divisions as our goal is 100 percent compliance.

If your Division has questions related to EINs, how to file, etc., I refer you to our National AOH website for comprehensive resources and guides from National Vice President Sean Pender's tenure as Treasurer. These tools are very helpful.

December will be upon us soon and I wish each of you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas Season. May it be special and I hope the New Year brings the best of luck and happiness to all.



Director's report

By ed halligan

It is good to see and hear that many Divisions and State Boards are getting together with virtual meetings or combination of virtual and in-person. We need to move forward with our Hibernian business. Money may be tight until we can start our fundraisers, but not all our business requires money. Let us get our rosters updated, make sure we have filed our IRS 990s, attend pro-life events, pray, and do good works for our churches and communities.

A project that will not cost much but will have a great payback is recruitment and retention. We all need to recruit new members, bring back those who have left and retain the members that we have. Our National website receives many applications during the year. We must make sure that these applications are answered, and the applicant becomes a member. The National Directors will be working with the State Boards to make sure the process works efficiently. Each Hibernian can also help by recruiting a minimum of one new member. Consider asking your brother, son, grandson, cousin, an in-law or a neighbor. There are still many Irish Catholics who have never heard of the AOH. Please try.

Natural causes take away many of our Hibernian Brothers each year, but we lose Brothers for lack of interest, finances or maybe they cannot attend meetings. These can be remedied with getting them involved, using Zoom for a meeting, and getting all members Degreed. Your State and National Officers can and want to help.

Hopefully, you saw the FFAI recipients' gratitude and true appreciation for the funds they received from the AOH and LAOH (YouTube FFAI 2020). These are worthwhile charities that depend on us. We do okay but can do better. For those who contribute to the Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal, please continue. For those who have not contributed, please reconsider.

Please support our Seminarians through Project St Patrick.
Stay Safe and pray for our country.

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.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Ray Lynch

I would like to start this message by expressing prayers and condolences to all Hibernians and their families affected by Covid-19; this is a trying time for many of our members nationwide.

And I would like to share a bit of gratitude for all the Hibernians in Louisiana, Alabama and the panhandle of Florida that no lives were lost dealing with the recent hurricanes that swept through their states. Quite a few churches and missions sustained extensive damage during the storms and we are assessing if there is any assistance needed and where. I think it is wise to wait until after their respective dioceses and insurance companies cover what they are responsible for. During the past few months, we have received news that in Florida there were two churches attacked and set on fire, Incarnation Catholic Church, in Tampa, and Queen of Peace, in Ocala. There was internal damage at both locations and repairs are underway. Gratefully their Mass schedules were not affected by these attacks. The Florida State Board is keeping in touch with each parish and will assist after the diocese makes the determination of need.

I am in the process of reaching out to the states in my region to help assist with bolstering membership. Florida Divisions have started soliciting their parishes to set up membership drives. There are a few already scheduled in hopes to add new or transferring members to the state's rolls. Taking advantage of Zoom to admit candidates to our Order has opened many more avenues to reach people and be more accessible and inviting. A few Divisions in Florida have taken advantage of this method and will complete the swearing-in process when they are able to fully meet in person, soon. I am anxious to get past this "lock down" and to be able to visit the states in my region; communicating by text, e-mail and phone is great, but I can't wait to get out and shake some hands.

In closing, I am sending prayers for a safe and blessed upcoming holiday season. Please feel free to contact me at irishyankeenut@yahoo.com or (772) 224-4928 with any comments or suggestions. Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto...



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Bob Mehrens

Upon reading this issue, the election season will be behind us and Thanksgiving and Christmas will be close at hand. I wish to extend Happy Holiday wishes to all my fellow AOH and LAOH members. 2020 has been a difficult year for us all. For those that have not been able to meet in person, please continue to stay the course with your Zoom, Webex, etc.

Hopefully, everyone has been able to elect your new officers and fill in your appointed positions. Congratulations to all of our newly elected Brothers. Please continue to be diligent in selecting individuals who share a common passion, as well as knowledge of each appointed position.

Recruitment and Retention continue to be the most important function of our Order. I ask that everyone continue to do your best to find worthy eligible candidates to grow our numbers. In the coming weeks and months, I will be working with National Vice President Sean Pender and Brother Jack Schneider to create another vital program of our Order, establishing new Degree Teams. We will be organizing some tutorial webinars and those interested are asked to email Jack or myself to ensure an accurate count moving forward. Bob Mehrens meetah2@hotmail.com or Jack Schneider jack1515@aol.com



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Tim McSweeney

The New York State Board held its fall board meeting on October 31. The meeting was a hybrid format with members attending in person at the Shamrock House in East Durham and other members attending via Zoom. It was great to finally see Brothers in person and catching up after months of COVID lockdown. State President Tom Lambert and his board did a great job coordinating the meeting.

On August 14, the New York State Board held a benefit golf tournament to support the NYS/NJ AOH 20th Anniversary commemoration of the 9/11 attack on NYC at the Silver Lake Golf Course in Staten Island. Eighteen Hibernian Brothers from New York and New Jersey lost their lives at the Twin Towers. Proceeds of the Tournament went toward a plaque to be dedicated to those Brothers. The Plaque Dedication will take place September 25, 2021, 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Lower Manhattan. St. Peter's is located just steps from the World Trade Center site. Over 100 golfers enjoyed a day on the links.

The New York State AOH/LAOH State Convention will be held July 8-11, 2021, at the Syracuse Downtown Marriott Hotel in Syracuse.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Sean O'Dowd

The Irish have always been a resilient people, not letting hardships, misfortune or economic crises stand in their way of continuing to enjoy life and practice of their faith.

Who could have guessed or known last March when our St. Patrick's Day celebrations were being cancelled or postponed that our country and the world would still be in the clutches of the pandemic.

Many of our Division members have been hard hit and stressed by Covid-19. It is in these times we show what it is to be a Hibernian and practice our motto in everyday life. Thanksgiving and Christmas are quickly approaching, so what better time to reach out to members you haven't spoken with in awhile, call in on a business/restaurant or other establishment that has supported your Division's causes over the years and let them know you care and how your Division could help them. There are a lot of people and businesses struggling who would appreciate a positive message.

In addition, it's important to review all 2020 membership applications and call each potential member to make them feel welcome, answer any questions and invite them to a meeting. Follow up is critical in securing new members.

Here in the Midwest, the Order continues to meet either in person, virtually or hybrid meetings. We are continuing to make plans to serve our communities in which we live with Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Here is what the AOH Midwest Divisions have been up to:

Illinois: Chicago Division members participate in a food pantry serving more than 300 families weekly.

Iowa: Successfully ran a golf outing with proceeds going toward Catholic education school vouchers.

Missouri: Kansas City is organizing a 5K walk/run to support the local food shelter. St. Charles is active with the Family in Need food pantry serving in excess of 175 families.

Wisconsin: Conducted a Taste of Ireland virtual food and music festival to help support Catholic education in Milwaukee.

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Minnesota Divisions continue to support local groups in need as well as first responders and essential workers.

The point is this pandemic, no matter what your views, has not stopped the Ancient Order of Hibernians from being a positive force and friendly face to the people of their communities.

Keep up the great work on the honorable causes the AOH supports.

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."

AOH National Recruiting Team and You!

In simple terms, the AOH recruiting team is looking for each and every division around the country to have positive growth as compared to December 31, 2019. The team consists of our six national directors, our deputy national organizers, our top four officers and you! That's right, you are a member — and the most important member — of the AOH National Recruiting team.

Our national board has approved funding of a National Marketing, Promotions and Advertising program designed to attract membership. This will be a 12-month combination of digital and print advertising throughout the year supported by our traditional push during Irish American Heritage Month. The success of this program will be you and your willingness to recruit new members to the AOH each and every day.

Your assignment is to put local recruiting on the agenda of each and every division meeting and highlight the importance of recruiting. Work with your churches, utilize the church bulletins, promote local growth, recruit and retain members. Get applications filled out, get them approved, follow-up until the new members are installed, mentor each and every new member.

Your assignment when you receive applications online is to seek out these men who wish to join us, meet them personally or virtually and, if they meet the standards of the AOH, recruit them. Response time is critical to the success of our online application program. The best way to bring in a new online application is immediate follow-up and continued follow-up from your first contact to the day of installation.

Thank you for being part of our team. Our success depends on your success. Together Everyone Achieves More!



Director's report

By Richard Thompson

Let me tell you, Brothers, if you think this National Board has taken time off because of the ongoing Covid-19 virus, you are mistaken. Many of us running for office said how important the use of technology would be in communicating to the membership. Little did we know that we would have an historical virtual National Convention and how that virtual component would quickly play a major part of the operation of the National Board.

As a Director I can tell you that virtual meetings at the National level have been ongoing and frequent as we develop our plans for this Board. We have had meetings with just the 10 elected members and the whole Board. The six Directors have had a virtual meeting and will continue these meetings discussing what is happening in their regions to see if things that work in one region could also be successful in others.

Membership growth will be a major emphasis going forward. I have been asked to help facilitate new membership applications right down to the Division level. We will be asking for the help of our State Presidents, State Organizers, and County and Division Presidents to see that these applications get to the correct Divisions to be vetted and properly approved for membership. There will also be a follow up on the disposition of the applications. A program to recognize areas with substantial membership growth is being developed.

Brothers, please do not forget the FFAI Christmas Appeal this year. We do realize that many of your annual FFAI fundraisers have been postponed due to the pandemic. But if you saw the virtual FFAI presentations last month you had the opportunity to hear from the groups and how grateful they are to receive our assistance. A little extra effort will go a long way.

I have been impressed with the resiliency of the Divisions and Boards throughout New England to find ways to meet, be it outdoors, indoors with limited numbers, virtually and hybrid. Many have also been able to continue work in their communities through food drives, blood drives and softball and golf tournaments, where permitted.

I have been in contact with most States in the region to relay pertinent information from the National level to them. I attended the virtual meeting of Division 1 Manchester, NH, and was impressed with how involved they are with their community and budding relationship with their Archdiocese. I also took part in the Connecticut State Board virtual meeting and heard how the Divisions of Connecticut are finding ways to meet and stay viable.

On a sad note, we lost two prominent Hibernians from the region recently. Ken Robinson, a Past President of Division 1, Manchester. Ken was a businessman, a community activist and the ultimate volunteer; he will be sadly missed by his Hibernian Brothers. Bill Mahoney, a Past President of Division 11, Peabody, MA, and the Essex County Board and has held several chairmanships on the Massachusetts State Board. Bill was a retired firefighter and was very active in his community. May they both rest in peace.

With the new Digest schedule, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Christmas season! Merry Christmas, and please let's hope and pray for a Happy New Year for 2021.



Digital coordinator

By Chris Cooke, chairman

We have passed halfway to St. Patrick's Day and this time of year is usually full of Irish festivals and other events. However, this year, in-person gatherings are extremely limited. However, innovative Hibernians are taking this opportunity to share our Irish culture to new audiences using online technologies. Not only are Irish festivals being streamed online but last month we were able to hold a Watch Party for the Irish Language Mass that was arranged by the Bronx County, NY AOH. For many this was their first opportunity to watch mass said in the Irish language.

Many thanks to Brother Timothy Noonan for his recent help administering the Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) grant presentation [Reported on elsewhere in this issue of the Digest. — Editor]. This virtual presentation was streamed live to both YouTube and Facebook where Hibernians throughout the country were able to watch the presentation of these grants. This gave our full membership a chance to hear directly from the speakers representing the grant recipients.

The National Board is working on more virtual events like these so keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for information on future virtual events.

**"To be Irish is an honor
to be a Hibernian is a blessing"
Show your Hibernian Pride!**



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

If not you, who? If not, now, when?

Brothers, by the time you read this, the 2020 elections will likely have been held, though perhaps due to mail-in voting, we may not know who the winners of elections are. We are in a pivotal moment in our nation's and our Order's history, and I hope that all of you have exercised the wonderful gift of the vote, a gift purchased with the sacrifices of so many Irish Americans, many paying the ultimate price.

Given the necessary gap between the time an article is submitted and it is published in the Digest, and realizing any issue current today will likely be overcome by events by the time you read this, I would like to focus on one word: Activism. Brothers, we must be visible as Irish Catholic Hibernians in the public sphere, or else we will fade away. Let us be clear: activism is not the same as a partisanship; we are active on causes, and we need to work with both sides of the aisle. At times, we may need to work with a person on issue A while disagreeing on issue B. Not to moralize, but our nation's current trend to isolate, marginalize and "unfriend" people just because they disagree with us is tearing this country apart; we cannot let it tear us as an Order apart. "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity" spans all ideologies, and we should live that spirit in our communities, not just on Division meeting night. We are not Democrats, Republicans, etc., etc.; we are Hibernians.

Frankly, the current "He/She is not my (fill in the elected office) when the candidate we didn't vote for doesn't win is the attitude of a petulant child. Our country is being torn apart by ideological guerrilla warfare waged in Facebook and Twitter memes; we cannot keep going this way. Democracy only works when we have the maturity to make it work by respecting the outcome of the vote. The flip side is that if "your man/or woman" didn't win, as soon as that other candidate is sworn in, they work for YOU, and you as a constituent have the right to demand that they deliver on your issues as your elected representatives.

I ask the State PEC chairs to coordinate a plan of action post-election to set up a meeting with your elected representatives to introduce the Hibernians and familiarize them with who we are and what our causes are. As noted previously, based on the results of the primaries and retirement, we have lost many friends on Capitol Hill; we need to begin building new relationships while always grateful for remembering old ones. We need to educate many of our elected officials who do not come from Irish backgrounds that Irish America exists 365 days a year, not just on St. Patrick's Day.

It is up to you, Brothers. If you think anyone will espouse Irish American and Catholic causes other than us, I must tell you that you are mistaken. The Hibernians cannot just be the national board, it has to be YOU; you give the significance behind our issues. Other groups, far smaller groups, are advancing their agendas, sometimes at the price of the issues we hold dear because they are mobilized, dedicated and energetic.

If not you, who? If not, now, when?

**Deadline for
the next issue
NO LATER than January 1**



catholic action

By Ron Hagan, chairman

Brothers and Sisters, welcome to my initial news article for the Hibernian Digest as Chairman of Catholic Action and Project Saint Patrick. The prior August/September issue of the Digest was covered by our Deputy Chairman Pat Lally and I thank him for his contribution to our initial issue as new Chairmen. I also want to thank John Fitzmorris for his guidance and advice on the changeover of chairmanship of Catholic Action and his past four years of his contributions to the Catholic Action Chair. He has been incredibly supportive of the transition and has provided me with quite a bit of prior reports and records to help my transition.

Also, under the direction of our Worthy President Danny O'Connell, I will also be Chairman of Project Saint Patrick. I want to thank Vic Vogel for his guidance on the transfer of his chairmanship of Project Saint Patrick and the processing of this national vocational grant program. In my discussion with Vic because of Covid-19 in the start of 2020, the activity for Project Saint Patrick has been curtailed for the past six months.

Project Saint Patrick is co-sponsored by the AOH and the LAOH, which the LAOH National Chairwoman is Peggy Cornish. The PSP is a national vocational grant program for major seminarians and those in religious life. Because we are eager to move forward to offer grants to deserving applicants, we are going to open the application process tentatively on October 15. Applicants can go to the aoh.com website and complete the fill-in form Project St. Patrick Grant Application, then have the Diocesan Vocation Director or Directress complete a Letter of Recommendation and send to Each Co-Chair listed on the bottom of the application form. All applications need to be submitted by November 15 to the Co-Chairs and our hopes are that the grants approved will have the checks issued by December 15.



organizer

By *tim mcsweeney*

It's hard to believe that after a tough seven months, our country is still in the grasp of the horrible Covid 19 pandemic. This pandemic has drastically changed the operations of our organization and has adversely affected our recruitment and retention. With the loss of the St. Patrick's Day and Irish festivals, coupled with the closure of our meeting and event spaces, face-to-face recruitment was all but wiped out. The inability to hold events and in-person meetings has hampered membership retention. But this gives us an opportunity to explore alternative recruitment techniques and to re-institute some techniques that many of us have not used in a while.

Social Media

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to name a few. Many divisions create and use these pages effectively for recruitment and for communication (meeting announcements, etc.), easy to use and proven. Any division that needs assistance setting up social media pages, please contact me. Think about the millions of people who spend their free time on social media and the Internet, these are potential members and most are young. Additionally, social media sites can be used to stream guest speakers, concerts and events that can draw potential members.

Church Bulletin Advertising

A method that has resulted in positive membership gains in our Order for years, but some divisions have steered away from it. This day and age we need to recruit where potential membership is. We know people are starting to go back to churches after social distancing guidelines are starting to loosen up.

Dues Notices

Include a membership application with each mailed (or emailed) dues notice. Include a note that we are constantly looking for new members. It's simple and easy.

We are ALL recruiters!

Recruitment is not the just the responsibility of the division organizer or the division leadership; it is the responsibility of every member to recruit. Our organization has seen a constant decline in membership over the last 20 years. This is due to poor recruiting on the division level. The National Board is embarking on a project to create a Recruitment Plan/ Recruitment Best Practices Guide to stop our decline in membership and post positive membership gains in the future.

I am still looking for members to serve on the National Organizing committee. No organizing experience is needed, just the will to share ideas and work with a team.

State Organizers: I still have not received contact information for all State Organizers. If you are a State Organizer, please contact me at newjack12007@yahoo.com



project st. patrick

By *ron hagan, chairman*

As Project Saint Patrick Chairman, I have been working with the Hibernian Charity committee, the Chairperson of Project Saint Patrick from the Ladies AOH, along with both the National Presidents to carry on the tradition and processing of Project Saint Patrick and work toward increasing the access of forms, processing and of course our charitable giving to the Hibernian Charity through Project Saint Patrick. The committee is working toward making gifts to Project Saint Patrick easier and more convenient to giving when the brothers and sisters have the ability and time to contribute.

As we work toward a stronger system of giving, we ask that you send your charitable giving in the name of Project Saint Patrick for the Holidays to: Hibernian Charity, P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179.

Brothers and Sisters enjoy the coming Holidays!

New York

By **NYS AOH President Tom Lambert**

NYS AOH to hold hybrid State Board Meeting

I hope you are all staying safe in these trying and uncertain times. The NYS AOH State board will hold the Bi-Annual State Board meeting on October 31, 2020, in East Durham, NY. In deference to the pandemic we all live in, the meeting will be conducted both in-person and via Zoom. The in-person meeting will be conducted with strict adherence to the safe social distancing requirements issued by New York State. There will also be a Zoom conference aspect to allow those who wish to appear remotely the ability to do so.

New York State limits gatherings such as the State Board Meeting to no more than 50 attendees. This requirement will be observed. Other social distancing protocols will also be observed. These protocols include screening for those attending; temperature checks, the use of brief questionnaires and the requirement for the use of masks during the meeting. Screening protocols will be supervised by NYS AOH Vice President John Manning who is an EMT. Social distancing will also be observed by all in attendance.

The NYS AOH Board approved this approach to conducting the upcoming State Board meeting after balancing the need for Brothers to again be able to meet in-person and to enjoy being in the company of other Brothers, with the competing safety issues involved with living in the midst of a pandemic. We believe that this hybrid approach allows both interests to be safely addressed. This approach is recommended to our Brothers across our great country!



pro life

By *Larry Squires, chairman*

Dear Hibernian Brothers in Christ Jesus and St. Patrick,

Pro Life issues may have never been as front and center as they have been recently, and will continue to be, through the presidential elections and a critical Supreme Court Justice appointment. Consequently, there may have never been the deep divide among our brothers, who have strong feelings about current controversial issues, and the fact that we do not have a political party that aligns with all of the causes and concerns of our Order. If we vote one way, we feel we may be doing the right thing for one of the causes, but abandoning or severely crippling other causes dear to our hearts.

This is the world we live in, having two parties with hard lines drawn on their platforms. Almost every bill impacting Pro Life issues is separated precisely across party lines when voted upon. While one party promotes pro-life bills, like the pain capable act, the heartbeat act, and banning full term abortions, the other party touts abortion as a women's right and celebrates states that allow full-term abortion.

Consequently, when Pro Life bills do pass, the most frequent action is an immediate block by the Judicial Branch. This can be very frustrating; however, we have to consider what the effect would be if suddenly Roe vs. Wade were overturned and abortion would become illegal overnight. What would the public reaction be, how will the media, lawmakers and judges treat the situation, and what could we expect to hear from the church leaders?

How did we get here?

In order to consider this proposition in the proper context, it would be important to research and analyze why this country is in the political situation it is in, how our Catholic faith is involved, who were the players involved in legalizing abortion, what their strategy was, and what tactics they used to accomplish so much in a relatively short period of time. There are several good books on this topic, one being "Inside the Atheist Mind - Unmasking the Religion of Those Who Say There Is No God," by Anthony DeStefano. The print version and audio book is available on Amazon. There are also tremendous resources available online, such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church at https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM, or do it the easy way and Google almost any topic followed by CCC, and Google will take you directly to the section of the Catechism relating to the requested topic. If you haven't studied the Catechism in a while, you may be surprised to see the official teachings of the Church on many controversial issues.

Fulton Sheen

There is also a wealth of information online relating to the brilliant works created by Fulton Sheen. While there are sites dedicated to his works, including text, videos and lectures, Google is amazing in what materials are presented when adding a topic to a search on Fulton Sheen. Regardless of how many times I review Fulton Sheen's prolific work, I am amazed with his wisdom, spiritual insight and the clarity and accuracy that he predicted the world we are living in today.

There are also many additional Pro-Life resources at: www.usccb.org/respectlife. While you are reviewing and analyzing material, look for articles that address the tough issues and may make you uncomfortable. Try not to pre-text and look only for materials that fit the narrative you prefer.

The AOH Pro-Life committee should be up and running, appropriately in October, which is Respect Life month. Expect to see fruits of the committee throughout 2021. Since this issue of the Digest will cover October, November and December, please have a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year. Please remember to always pray for our nation's leaders, our Church leaders and, most importantly, for each other.

Support Project St. Patrick

Please keep those studying for the religious life in your thoughts and prayers. Project Saint Patrick is a wonderful way of putting those prayers into action. Send your check, made payable to Hibernian Charity, to P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179. Mark the Memo section: "Project Saint Patrick."

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freedom for all ireland

By martin galvin, chairman

Because of the growing interest over the past two years and at our National Convention, FFAI is being expanded across the country. Tim Noonan, Chicago; Jim Sullivan, Florida; Jim Gallagher, Connecticut; and John Callahan, in Missouri, are joining the National Committee, on the recommendations of our National Directors and National President Danny O'Connell. They will be working with state presidents, counties and divisions to make FFAI more effective in the South, Midwest and New England. They join Brendan Moore, Jim McLaughlin, Gerry McHale, Bob Bolbach and me, with Malachy McAllister in an advisory role from Ireland.

Hibernian Freedom Grants

In a history making first, Hibernians across America got to see speakers representing 17 Freedom For All Ireland grant recipients talk about their projects and hear why AOH-LAOH Christmas Appeal donations are so crucial. The event is now posted on our AOH site (and can be watched by clicking on the photo in the online article.) In the past, only the FFAI Chair and those few Hibernians able to get to Ireland saw these presentations. It was inspiring to hear these leading representatives. Hibernians can take pride in these Christmas Appeal grants.

At the same time what they said was deeply concerning. Many of the recipients spoke of our grants being a lifeline for them because of the impact of Covid. For example, John Kelly, the leader of the Bloody Sunday campaign, said the Museum of Free Derry relies on paid admissions by visitors, which were wiped out. Brian Cawley, of Tyrone National Graves, said the funds they use to care for the patriot graves and memorials in East Tyrone, come from an annual fundraiser at Easter, which was cancelled. A number of other groups and centers were closed for months. The message seems clear. Our donations this year were crucial, but because the Covid crisis continues, they desperately need us to come through for them next year.

Christmas Appeal 2020-21

Later in the autumn we will begin the 2020-21 Christmas Appeal. Last year was a record breaking success with almost \$100,000 awarded to a total of 19 groups. A key part of our success came from bringing speakers to Ohio, Chicago, Virginia, Albany, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Hartford, New Jersey, Rhode Island and New York for Christmas Appeal tour fundraisers. This year we will not be able to bring speakers for a November tour. Divisions who hold annual fundraisers for the Christmas Appeal must cancel this year.

However, we are trying to bring more speakers to you via Zoom. It is not the same as having speakers here for our members to meet in person, but it will give Hibernians across the country a chance to hear these great speakers.

FFAI is asking every State President to support the Christmas Appeal within their state. States and county boards are encouraged to donate or combine donations to earn the award given for \$1,000 donors. We have more than three months until the final deadline on the 2020-21 appeal. Covid does not stop Boris Johnson and the British, who cavalierly discards promises on crucial issues like legacy justice and Brexit. The groups we support and their work for freedom for all Ireland must not be closed down by lack of funds at a time they are needed more than ever. Don't let them down!

Historic Launch

Relatives for Justice is launching a report into Britain's use of plastic bullets to attack Irish civilians, particularly during rallies for the H-Block Blanketmen and eventually the Hunger Strikers. Because AOH-LAOH donations help fund these reports, RFJ is considering having a joint event with the AOH-LAOH later this month. This would be another historic event for the AOH-LAOH. If it can be done I would urge everyone to be a part of it on our Facebook or Zoom webinar broadcast. Watch for details!



irish american heritage month

By neil cosgrove
chairman

Brothers, as I write this, I do so with a heavy heart. I have just read of another Irish American business, a pub, that has been forced to close its doors after being in operation for more than four generations. They had survived two world wars and the Great Depression, but it couldn't survive Covid-19. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident. Without straying into stereotypes, we should remember why those stereotypes were created; in past ages, when our forefathers did not have living rooms and meeting halls, these pubs were where they organized to effect change, whether it was forming the 69th or the nascent labor movement. They were where new births were celebrated and departed friends toasted.

Brothers, this is one example of how seismic changes are rocking our heritage and culture. Our Irish American community, which was facing significant challenges before this pandemic, is under threat; saying it is "endangered" is not an exaggeration. Unaddressed, there is a point of "no return" at which "endangered" become "extinct." Our heritage is under threat from not only Covid-19 but also a "cancel culture" agenda where the contributions of Irish Americans don't fit. Ironically, some of those whose statues are coming down kept the Irish contribution out of America's history books; now, the Irish are being exiled from America's school curriculums with them. As things stand today, it is highly unlikely that traditional St. Patrick's Day activities will be permitted or viable. That will sadly mean for many communities that there will be no recognition of the role of the Irish for two years.

Roll up your sleeves

The question becomes, what are WE going to do about it? There are two options: (1) throw up your hands and say that fading away is inevitable, or (2) rise to the challenge. Those in favor of option (1) can stop reading now along with those who are willing to hold the coat of others who pursue option (2). On the other hand, if the facts above "get your Irish up," let us roll up our sleeves and work together.

Irish American Heritage Month has been a national program since it was accepted by unanimous vote at the 2004 AOH National Convention. It has been a duty to embrace this program at every level of the organization; it is imperative this year given current events. We should be planning NOW as our Irish American Heritage Month activities will be the only recognition of the Irish in our communities this March and combine them into a greater celebration if conditions do permit our traditional parades and social activities.

With the start of the New Year, contact your state and local leaders to formally proclaim March as Irish American Heritage Month.

Reach out to your local cable providers and find out their rules for using public access/educational channels. Cable stations often provide studio and recording facilities. Can you put on a program celebrating Irish music, history and culture? Look to your local schools who may have the necessary technical talent you need. The national board will again in 2021 produce an approximately 1 minute IAHM video; see if you can secure commitments now for them to broadcast in March. Also, look to explore broadcasting on social media.

State, County and Division Historians: begin researching now a story on the impact of the Irish on your jurisdiction. Coordinate those stories early with your local newspapers. Certainly, a story of "The Irish Keep Their Traditions Alive" should be of interest given that the traditional parade coverage will be absent.

Not just for IAHM, but for every National effort, it is not enough to read a story on the National website, Facebook page or Twitter; we need you to like and share it. Given our membership, no item put out by the National should have fewer than 5,000 shares.

Brothers, for nearly 200 years, the Hibernians have been standing watch over our faith and heritage; we are needed today now more than ever. Never let it be said that on our watch, the flag was lowered.

Missouri



Pearse Division officers gathered fully masked at the conclusion of their August meeting, from left, Nick Latta, Mike Nash, Pete Lobdell, Division President Zach Daughtrey, special guest Jamie Dugdale, Secretary of the State AOH Dennis Murray, and Dan Joyce.

Smiling Again in Kansas City

After a long six-month wait, Padraig Pearse Division 1 members gathered again for a mid-pandemic meeting featuring social distancing, sanitizers and face masks. While

circumstances were not typical, the members were glad to be back to division business accompanied by the usual meeting catcalls and razzing.

At the meeting officers unveiled a new line of Hibernian clothing, which was well-received by the members and resulted in significant first night sales.

Meeting discussions focused on the exceptional job officers did in reviewing, revising, and salvaging the 2020 budget that was stressed from cancellation of the final three Lent Fish Dinners and the annual Ethnic Fest; both sizeable contributors to annual revenues. These actions will make it possible to continue funding four \$750 scholarships to the region's Catholic High School students in the annual essay contest. The scholarship contest was moved from the spring to the fall for 2020, and meeting discussion reviewed plans to promote the change and continue to grow the scholarship.

Reports were made of outcomes from the first (and hopefully last) virtual National Convention in July. The Pearse Division was disappointed the cancelled in-person convention squashed the Kansas City region's intent to pursue hosting the 2024 Convention; but members fully supported the National Board's awarding that convention back to Orlando and members voted to aggressively chase the 2026 Convention.

Plans were made for the September 4 tailgating and attending the St. Pius X and St. Michael the Archangel high school teams' gridiron battle for the AOH Crystal Cup.

The business meeting was important, but the evening highlight was having the Pearse Boys back together and ready to get back in action. At the meetings conclusion the officers stood for a picture where there is every reason to believe they were smiling, again, behind the masks.



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

Brothers, I hope you are all staying safe in these trying and uncertain times. As was noted in August, Covid-19 impacts immigration issues. Immigration to and from Ireland, complicated prior to the pandemic, has now ground to a halt. However, the Green Card Lottery opens on October 7. The annual diversity visa lottery registration period runs from October 7 until November 10 for those who are eligible to apply for a green card

to reside permanently in the United States. Only entries submitted during this period will be accepted and considered for selection in the lottery. Applications will only be accepted online via the U.S. Department of State official website at www.dylottery.state.gov. (Thank you to the Emerald Isle Immigration Center for providing this information! Please do not hesitate to contact the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, or an Immigration

Center near you for further information on filing for the lottery and tips on avoiding scams associated with the lottery.)

Covid-19 issues, along with the recent nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court, seems to have placed all legislative action in the U.S. Senate on hold. As was noted in the last Digest, an example of an immigration issue currently stalled is the E3 Visas for Ireland Bill, introduced by U.S. Representative Richie Neal. This Bill passed in the House of Representatives this spring, but still awaits action in the Senate. The E3 Visa provides Australian citizens with access to 10,500 U.S. work visas annually, but many visas go unclaimed. The E3 Visas for Ireland Bill

would grant the unused Australian visas to Irish applicants. Competition is also present for visas by way of the government of India. India's lobby is pressing a Senate Bill to gain visas, possibly at Ireland's expense! They already receive tens of thousands of H1-B visas a year. This is followed by attempts to convert these visas into Green Cards. As promised, the AOH National Immigration Committee will keep a close eye on both Bills! However, no action is currently contemplated.

Those who expressed an interest in serving on the Immigration Committee can expect to receive an email from me in the very near future. I apologize for the delay.

Hibernians present Freedom Grants

Freedom for all Ireland grants totaling almost \$100,000 were handed out in September to 17 applicants by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and the Ladies AOH. Leading figures from each grant recipient then joined in a Zoom webinar conference on September 19, telling Hibernians across the United States about each group's work and how much they count on American financial help. The grant checks were personally delivered in Belfast, Derry, Tyrone and Down by recently deported AOH member Malachy McAllister.

Each year the AOH-LAOH make a Christmas Appeal to award grants to groups working for complete and absolute independence, peace and unity for all Ireland. The categories include (a) supporting former Republican political prisoners, (b) truth and justice groups, (c) cross-community initiatives, (d) Irish culture, heritage and language, (e) preserving Irish Republican history, and (f) cross-border programs. Groups applying for donations from the FFAI Christmas Appeal must submit applications that include a question on how they promote freedom for all Ireland.

This year, grants were awarded to Relatives for Justice, Belfast National Graves, Pat Finucane Centre, Museum of Free Derry, Passionate Peace Centre -Holy Cross Ardoyne, EALU center for Tyrone Republican ex-political prisoners, Green Cross, Tyrone National Graves, Ballymurphy Massacre Families, Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Cairde Strabane, St. Patrick Centre, Duchas Oriall - South Armagh, Bridges Beyond Boxing, Down Patriot Graves, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, and the Witness Project.

History-Making First

Previous years' presentations were only seen by Hibernian officers and members able to travel to Ireland. In what AOH National President Danny O'Connell termed a "history making first," Hibernians across America watched speakers representing 17 grant recipients explain their work and why American help is needed. About half of the speakers assembled at the Felon's Club in Belfast, while others spoke from locations around the six counties.

Danny O'Connell opened the program, noting the long commitment of the AOH-LAOH to this work, followed by LAOH National President Karen Keane, who said "promoting freedom for all Ireland is one of the core reasons why the AOH and LAOH exist." Groups were introduced in turn by the respective Presidents and FFAI Chairs Martin Galvin and Dolores Desch.

Mark Thompson, on behalf of Relatives for Justice, said: "I have been on tours for the AOH-LAOH and seen the work and dedication behind these donations. The FFAI grants help fund RFJ reports into collusion and British killings and bring legacy justice and truth to families who have been fighting for decades. The donations come alongside the vital political and solidarity work which you do."

Brendan Bik McFarlane, speaking for Belfast National Graves, called AOH-LAOH help "absolutely crucial to the work of honoring the graves, legacy and memory of Ireland's patriot dead."

John Kelly, of the Bloody Sunday Families and Museum for Free Derry, spoke of how badly the museum was hurt by being unable to open for visitors this year because of Covid restrictions, and how welcome American help is at this time, saying, "America was always with the Bloody Sunday families and without you we would not be where we are today."

Frankie Quinn, of EALU, the Republican ex-prisoners center in East Tyrone, described the special needs of former POWs in Tyrone and surrounding counties and the special programs provided for them.

Brian McKee, speaking for Fr. Gary Donegan and the Passionate Centre at Holy Cross Ardoyne, described their work healing the legacy of conflict. John Teggart, of the Ballymurphy Massacre Families, spoke of the approaching inquest verdict into the massacre, and plans to mark the 50th anniversary with a special memorial. Sinead Walsh, of Green Cross, explained the special help the group provides to the families who lost loved ones in the war and acknowledged the work of Bobby Storey. Sean Murray, of the Witness Project, discussed the impact of his film "Unquiet Graves" broadcast on RTE television, and the need to allow people to tell their own stories about victimization under British rule.

Other representatives were Brian Cawley, of Tyrone National Graves; Fiona Johnston, of Down Patriot Graves; Daryl Simpson, of the Omagh Choir; Dr. Tim Campbell, of the St. Patrick Centre; Jarlath McNulty, of Cairde Strabane; Pearse McGeough, of Duchas Oriall; John O'Hagan, of Greater New Lodge; Eamon Daly, of Omagh Thunder Basketball; and Joe Lowe, of Bridges Beyond Boxing.



Malachy McAllister presented a check in Derry to Tony Doherty at Museum of Free Derry.



Former H-Block escapee Brendan Bik McFarlane speaking, top right, and alongside are Karen Keane, Danny O'Connell, Dolores Desch and Martin Galvin.

Malachy McAllister

Malachy McAllister, who delivered the checks, noted that seeing the work done by these groups first-hand gave him a "deeper appreciation of the work done by these groups and importance of continued American help." LAOH FFAI Chair Dolores Desch thanked everyone, noting that FFAI was becoming increasingly important to members of the LAOH and "events like this were another step in building an even greater interest and desire to help." AOH Vice-President Sean Pender said he took "great pride in what the AOH-LAOH did while he served as FFAI Chair and was proud of the FFAI work we continue to accomplish together."

AOH Freedom For All Ireland Chair Martin Galvin concluded by saying to the Irish grant recipients: "These contributions are made because Americans are inspired by you and your work for freedom for all Ireland. The AOH-LAOH are with you. We want to support you, and we take pride and satisfaction in being a small part of your tremendous efforts. We know that the coming year will present unprecedented problems for us in funding grants and in our political work for you, but our members are determined not to let you down."



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I am proud to report that our National Veterans Affairs Committee has commenced its work. I am honored to welcome Brendan Cooney of Virginia, Patrick Flaherty of Montana, Charles Hagan of Florida, Leo McGuire of New Jersey, and Daniel Regan of South Carolina, who have enlisted to join me and Jim Green on the committee. I thank them all and will be featuring more information about their service in future articles. We have already been able to engage in constructive dialogue on important information for our veteran community.

The schedule and agenda for our committee meetings have been sent to our seven committee members as well as the 35 interested members from the Convention. Meetings will be every third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Eastern Time, and held virtually on Zoom. Any member who is interested in our meetings is welcome to join; please contact me and I will be sure to get the calendar invite and details to you.

Veteran Services Spotlight: Veteran Records

Veteran records are the foundation on which all services and benefits for veterans and their families are built. Upon separation from the Uniformed Services, veterans will receive a formal discharge document, typically a DD-214 (Active Duty) or an NGB-22 (National Guard). A copy of these forms is also furnished to the State Veteran Agency (SVA) the veteran designates as well as the National Archives. To gain access to these

Along with expressing our appreciation for our Veterans, let us also commit ourselves to acts of service in support of our fellow Americans in a lifelong effort to build the type of country so many have sacrificed for.

documents, and other military records, veterans and their families have several options.

For most veterans, a copy of their discharge and complete military record is available through the National Archives and requests can be made through their website. Unfortunately, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973 destroyed millions of official records for Army and Air Force veterans who served between 1912-1964. Veterans are also encouraged to check with their SVA or local County Clerk or Recorder to see if they have a copy of their discharge document.

For most veterans who have served since 1993, they can work with a SVA or County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) to access their military record through the Defense Personnel Records Information System (DPRIS), a collaboration originally spearheaded by Ohio and Massachusetts. Links to the National Archives, DPRIS, SVAs and CVSOs are posted on the AOH VA website. Hat-tip to committee member Leo McGuire for emphasizing the importance of veteran records.

Veterans Day 2020

On Wednesday, November 11, 2020, our country will observe Veterans Day as our national commemoration honoring ALL who have served in the United States Uniformed Services. As throughout history, people of Irish descent have fought for many of the Western Allies through many conflicts and have continued to serve the United States and partner nations into the 21st Century. This year, this day will take place in the wake of a contentious political season for all Americans. Along with expressing our appreciation for our Veterans, let us also commit ourselves to acts of service in support of our fellow Americans in a lifelong effort to build the type of country so many have sacrificed for.

As always, I encourage all Hibernians to check out the veteran resources listed on the national AOH website under the "Veterans Affairs" committee tab: www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions you may have regarding the committee or veteran benefits. I wish you and your families a peaceful Holiday Season!

dannyeakins@hotmail.com / 614-893-8833
Garryowen!

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.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The 10th Annual AOH Connecticut Softball Bash was held at Memorial Field in New Fairfield on September 10. It was Danbury's turn to host their brothers from Bridgeport who were led by President Mark Ryan. The proceedings were ably chaired by Jay King whose is one of the founders of the event.

There was a fine turnout of Hibernians and friends from both the Danbury and Bridgeport Divisions as well as State Board members Brenden Walsh, Brian O'Neil and Frank Kearney Jr. Danbury President David Albright welcomed the participants after opening prayers by the Pastor of St. Edward's Church. Danbury Hibernian Piper Peter Hearty Sr. stirred the September air with several patriotic tunes as the players took to the field while Peter Hearty Jr. kept a bountiful supply of refreshments available for the hungry players and their fans.

This annual event is always a bright spot on the Connecticut Hibernian calendar but was especially appreciated and enjoyed in this year of disappointing cancellations.

The Hartford Division has found a way to cope with the shutdown. Here is what President Michael Enright Reports:

The Hartford Division continues to have monthly food drives to benefit the Food Pantry at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. The Division plans to work with Saint Augustine to help others for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The Division has held monthly meetings, both in-person practicing social distancing and in a virtual format. Dr. John Tully, chairperson of the history department of Central Connecticut State University, was the guest speaker at the August meeting and spoke on topics included in his book "Ireland and Irish Americans, 1932-1945: The Search for Identity." Our September speaker was Dr. Mary Burke, of the English department and Irish studies at the University of Connecticut, who spoke on her research of tensions between the post-Famine Irish and Scots-Irish and Anglo elites in Philadelphia.

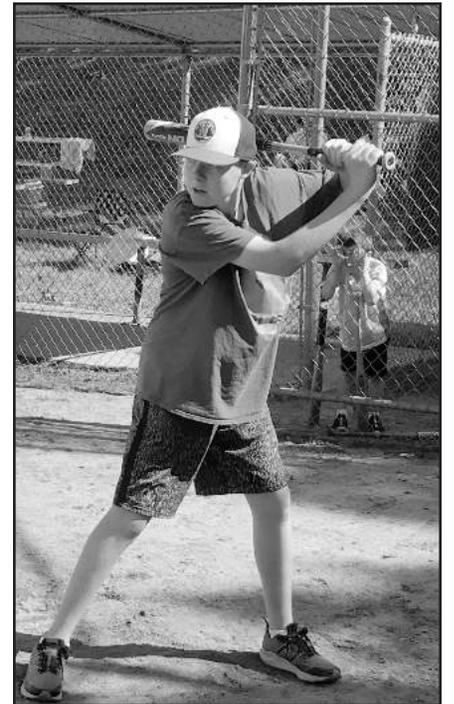
The Division was honored that new National AOH President Brother Danny O'Connell joined their September meeting virtually and addressed the group.

The lockdown has not stopped Hibernians from being charitable. At their August meeting, the John Holland Division of New London voted for an additional charity and missions' donation of \$100 each to Chaplain Fr. Mark O'Donnell, St. Joseph Church, Catholic Charities Diocese of Norwich, Gemma Moran Food Pantry, the Irish Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University, and the Garde Arts Center.

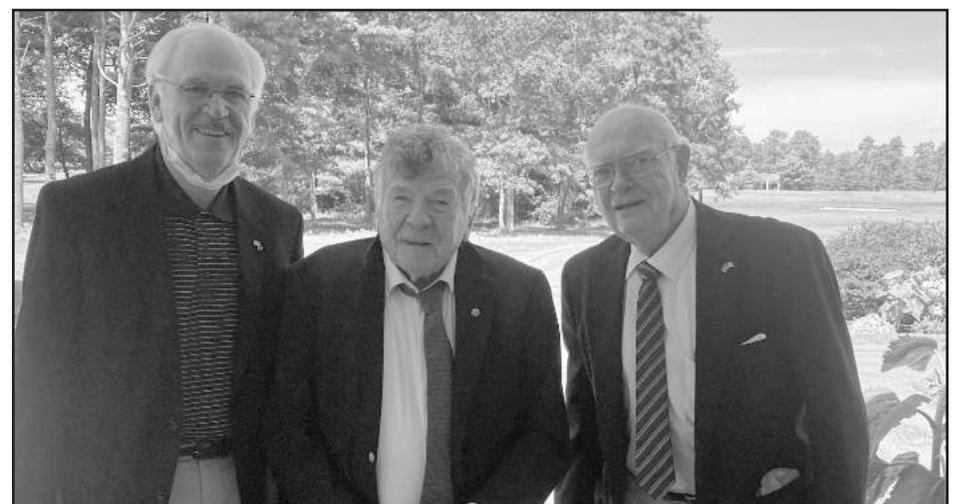
I am happy to report that the AOH halls in Waterbury, Danbury, Meriden and Stamford are once again open!

In early August, Leon Reilly and Owen McDonnell and I, of the John A. Gildea Division of Danbury, drove to Plymouth, Massachusetts, to attend the funeral of Past Division President and State Secretary Jack Lyons. Jack spent many years of his life in Bethel, Connecticut, and was a very active and productive member of the AOH. He was well known for his attendance at National Conventions, where he chaired the Connecticut Hospitality suite on several occasions. Jack was an outgoing and gregarious guy and his friends anticipate that he is already "having one standing" with his departed Hibernian brothers. One of my favorite memories of Jack is from the Ballyconneely golf links in Ireland, where a sea gull swooped down, picked up his golf ball and headed out over Galway Bay while Jack shouted in vain!

Jack left his mark!!
jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Third generation Hibernian, 14-year-old Aidan Hearty, prepares to strike a blow for Danbury at the 10th annual Connecticut AOH Softball Bash.



Celtic Cross Pipe Band President Owen McDonnell, Past National Director Phil Gallagher and Past Connecticut FFAI Chairman Leon Reilly gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, after attending the funeral of Brother Jack Lyons.



Irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

The 2020-2021 academic school year is like no other in recent memory with the pandemic that has engulfed the entire globe. International academic programs in the U.S. and Europe have been especially hard hit with many programs cancelled or limited until a vaccine is available. We know in time that all these international scholastic programs will resume and be back on track. The question is when this will occur? Hopefully, it will happen sooner rather than later. Thinking in the positive mode, we are looking at 2021.

Our Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarship information was recently updated on the AOH National Board website, and has a wealth of information on the 2021 Irish Way Program, as well as on our 2021-2022 Study Abroad Scholarship information for college students interested in studying in Ireland. We strongly encourage you to take a look at this information that has been provided and consider the opportunities the AOH National Board offers.

The Irish Way Program, which is under the auspices of the Irish American Cultural Institute, has announced the dates for next summer's program. The 2021 Irish Way Program will take place from June 28 to July 22, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 program will be limiting enrollment to 25 participants. With this in mind, if you are considering participating in the 2021 program, it is important to send in your application as soon as possible. The AOH National Board offers one \$1,000 scholarship for the Irish Way for a child or grandchild of an AOH member who participates in the program.

Are any of your children and/or grandchildren considering studying abroad at a college or university in Ireland anytime during the 2021-2022 school year? If so, your National Board offers scholarship opportunities for study abroad scholarships for study in Ireland. A Study Abroad Scholarship Application can be found on our website. Why not check out the AOH National website at aoh.com for more information!

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments, or your questions. I look forward to hearing from you! My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net

Michigan

Major donation to Angela Hospice

This past August, the AOH Stephen Walsh Division hosted its 20th Annual Larry Kelly/Kevin Brown Sr. Memorial Golf Outing. The successful outing was hosted at Glenhurst Golf & Country Club. We had a record 144 golfer's take part! Following golf, we were able to attend the socially distanced buffet dinner and raffle off great door prizes. We were able to donate \$3,500 to Angela Hospice of Michigan. From left, President of the LAOH Rose Kennedy Division Maureen Kelly, Michigan State President Mike Kelly, Angela Hospice of Michigan representative, President of Stephen Walsh Division Tim Derrig and Golf Outing Board member Frank Bush.



Kentucky

By Rob Fallahay

Members of the Louisville Division have been active in the local community despite the Covid-19 pandemic; while most events have been cancelled or gone virtual, it didn't prevent us from giving our time or making donations to some great causes in the Louisville area.

The annual St. Joe's Orphans Picnic was held virtually this year. In years past you would find the Hibernians managing the Little Debbie Snack Booth, so this year the Division made a donation in the amount of \$740 to support this great cause.

One of the Division's proudest moments came when members participated in the Catholic Cemeteries burial program for infants who would not otherwise have a proper burial. This past August more than 50 infants were laid to rest. It is with great pride that the Louisville Division has been able to donate in excess of \$3,500 over the last four years to such a wonderful organization.

On September 18, the Hibernians held their annual Irish for Kids Golf Scramble at Seneca Golf Scramble, benefiting Boys & Girls Haven. The scramble drew 108 golfers and raised more than \$9,600 for Boys & Girls Haven. I am not sure what is more enjoyable for the golfers and their families and friends, the scramble or the Hooley Party held at Molly Malone's afterwards.

The Louisville Division has donated more than \$70,000 to Boys & Girls Haven over the years from the scramble.

The Louisville Division is also proud supporters of the Freedom For All Ireland program. For the last five years — soon to be six years — the Division has reached their goal of a \$1,000. The Division is selling FFAI pins on our website, Aohloastore.com.

This article is dedicated to the memory of one of members, Bernie Fallon; rest in peace my brother, my friend.



John O'Dwyer, President of the Kentucky AOH, blesses the casket.



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history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

By the time this edition of the Hibernian Digest is published, Judge Amy Coney Barrett may well be the 115th Justice of the United States Supreme Court. If she has been confirmed, the High Court will now be comprised of six Justices who are Catholic or of Catholic background (Justice Gorsuch was raised Catholic and now is said to attend an Episcopal Church). The first Catholic Justice was appointed by Andrew Jackson in 1836. A second Catholic was not appointed to the Court until 1894. With a total of 14 Catholic Justices having ever served on the Court, having six (or even five) Catholics on the Court at one time is somewhat remarkable in a country that is only some 20 percent Catholic and has elected only one Catholic President.

One of the duties of the National Historian is to administer the Order's participation in the annual National History Day competition. National History Day® is national in scope, a "year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation and creative expression for 6th- to 12th-grade students." Students enter local competitions affiliated with National History Day, with winning entries progressing to state finals and then on the national final competition, conducted at the University of Maryland each June, where the top entries are judged over several days and category and overall winners selected.

The AOH and LAOH have a special role in National History Day, as sponsors of the "Irish or Irish American History" category prize. Two prizes are awarded by the AOH and LAOH in the junior or senior divisions for entries that demonstrate excellence in the study or presentation of Irish/Irish American History. This year's theme is "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." A student hoping to win one of the Irish/Irish-American specialty prizes would enter a local affiliate's competition and prepare a project focusing on this year's theme, but in an Irish or Irish/American context. Information for students wishing to participate is available at <https://www.nhd.org/students>. Now is the time for interested students to check the website, identify local affiliates and their entry deadlines and plan a winning project, hopefully with an Irish theme!

The National finals were conducted remotely in 2020 owing to Covid-19 measures. With any luck the 2021 finals will resume the traditional live presentation format on the University of Maryland campus this coming June. Please share this information with any student whom you think might be interested and perhaps we will see them at the finals!

With this being the last edition of the year, I take the opportunity to wish all of you and your families a blessed Christmas and a safe, healthy and successful New Year.



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

2020 has certainly proven to be a most trying and tumultuous year. It was even the year that the Good Lord above decided to call Santa Claus home.

As most reading this are aware, our current celebrations of Halloween evolved from Celtic and Irish traditions related to the Gaelic seasonal festival of Samhain. We now learn that the Irish and the AOH itself can also lay claim to Santa Claus, as he was one of our own.

Santa A. Claus sadly passed to his eternal reward on August 27, 2020, in Easton, PA. He was a member of AOH Lehigh County Division 1 and was also a Degreed Hibernian, having been conferred his Major Degree on April 30, 2000, at a Major Degree ceremony in Phillipsburg, NJ, exemplified by the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team.

The story goes that Brother Claus, through the assistance of a local politician, was successful in legally changing his name to Santa A. Claus in 1995 after a nine-year effort. When he presented himself as a candidate for his Major Degree, there it was, right on his driver's license. He served as the "Resident" Santa Claus at the Concord Mall in Delaware for many years in addition to other stints at the Lehigh Valley Mall, Mall of America in Minnesota and Monmouth Mall in NJ, doubtlessly bringing much joy to many a child throughout the years in the true spirit of Christian Charity.

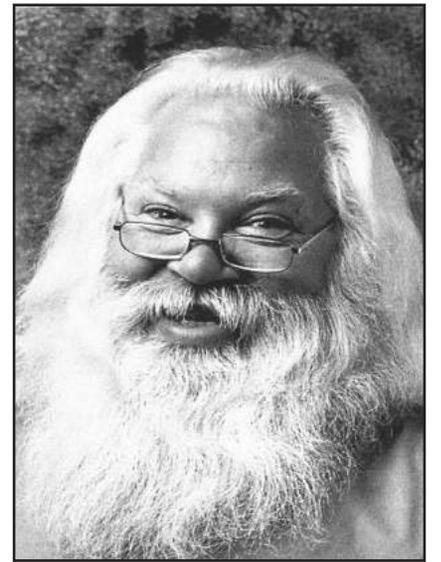
As the conferring of the Major Degree of the Order upon Santa Claus predated my joining the Isle of Erin MDT, I have been regaled on many occasions with the story. It is one of those stories that never seems to get old.

I relate this tale here in the Rituals and Degrees column since it emphasizes the benefits offered by attendance at our Major Degree ceremonies and the participation as a member of our Major Degree Teams. Similar to our conventions, it affords the opportunity to meet many of our diverse and interesting brothers from different divisions throughout the Order.

As is customary at this time of year with the occurrence of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, we take time to remember any of our Major Degree Brethren who may have passed during this past year and thank them for their service to the Order as Major Degree Team members.

Nollaig Shona Duit! May the upcoming commemoration of the Birth of the Christ Child and the Spirit of our departed Brother, Santa A. Claus, bring you and your families much joy and happiness this Christmas season.

We remain most hopeful that the dawning of the New Year will allow for the return of a full calendar of Major Degree Exemplifications in the coming year. Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!



Santa A. Claus, may he rest in peace.



A Protestant Bench for a Catholic People

By Daniel Taylor, National Historian

James Craig is often (mis)quoted as saying that the body that sat in Stormont until 1972 was a "Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People." (The actual quote was no better - "a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People."). Be that as it may, another branch of British government in Ireland - the Judiciary - in fact largely excluded Catholics from 1537 to 1829, a period of almost three hundred years. The Reformation was good to establishment lawyers in Ireland. When Henry VIII suppressed Catholic religious orders in Ireland, a confiscated Dominican friary in Dublin became the Kings' Inns, which remains the only source of Irish Barristers-at-Law today, in 1541.

A common device designed to eliminate Catholic judges and lawyers was the imposition of a required oath, recognizing the supremacy of the English monarch "in all spiritual or ecclesiastical things or causes, as temporal" and further acknowledging that "no foreign prince, person, prelate, ... or potentate, hath, or ought to have any ... authority ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this realm." Apparently not satisfied with broad references to "foreign princes," William and Mary chose to be more specific, requiring a "Declaration against Transubstantiation," in which a loyal subject wishing to practice law was required to affirm that "in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever, and that the invocation or adoration of the virgin Mary or any other saint, and the sacrifice of the mass, as they are now used in the church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous." While earlier oaths were equally offensive to "Dissenters" (i.e., Presbyterians), this new oath was specifically for Catholics.

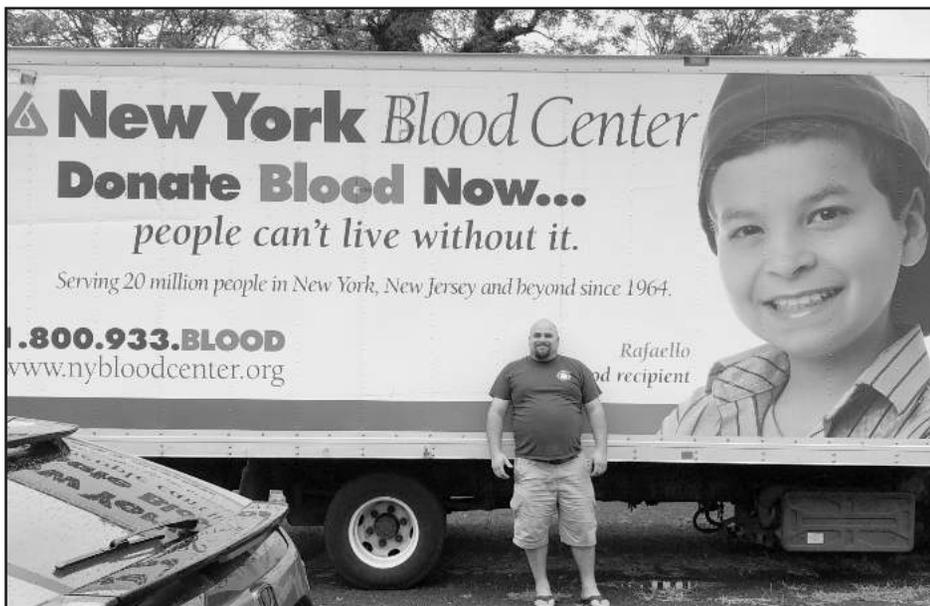
The title of a 1707 statute left no doubt as to the intent - "An Act to prevent Papists being Solicitors" provided an incentive to the citizenry to flush out Catholic lawyers. Anyone who suspected a lawyer of being Catholic could demand that the "suspected popish solicitor" recite the required oath, upon pain of paying a fine of 200 pounds to the informant. An earlier counterpart passed by the Irish Parliament was premised upon the rationale that "by experience in this kingdom it hath been always found that papist solicitors have been and still are the common disturbers of the peace."

The Irish Bench and Bar were still devoid of Catholic judges and barristers when our Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia in 1787. Our founders, well aware of the English "Test Acts" and Penal Laws, expressly rejected such practices in Article VI of our Constitution, providing that "No religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

The Catholic Relief Acts of 1792 and 1793 opened the door for Catholics to practice as attorneys, solicitor and barristers. One of the first Catholics to take advantage of the new laws was Daniel O'Connell, who entered Lincoln's Inn in 1794 and was called to the Bar in 1798. O'Connell quickly gained fame for his skills as an advocate, making a name for himself riding the circuit, defending Catholic defendants. O'Connell brought his skills to bear in the political arena in 1823, creating the Catholic Association to campaign for Catholic Emancipation. Emancipation came in 1829 and seven years later, in 1836, Michael O'Loughlen became the first Catholic judge in Ireland since King James II was deposed in 1688.

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to grow the AOH!**

New Jersey



Saving lives in NJ

Brothers from Vol. Patrick Torphy Division, in Middletown, NJ, hosted a blood drive on August 29. Fifty-one units of blood were collected, which will go to help save more than 150 lives. Hibernian Brother Jason Bossick coordinated the drive. — Submitted by Rich O'Brien.

Colorado

Carrigan Division has New Year's Eve plans amid Covid

The Joseph P. Carrigan division of Colorado hosts a New Year's Eve fundraiser each year to support charitable causes, and Covid-19 won't stop the effort — even though the fundraiser may look different this year.

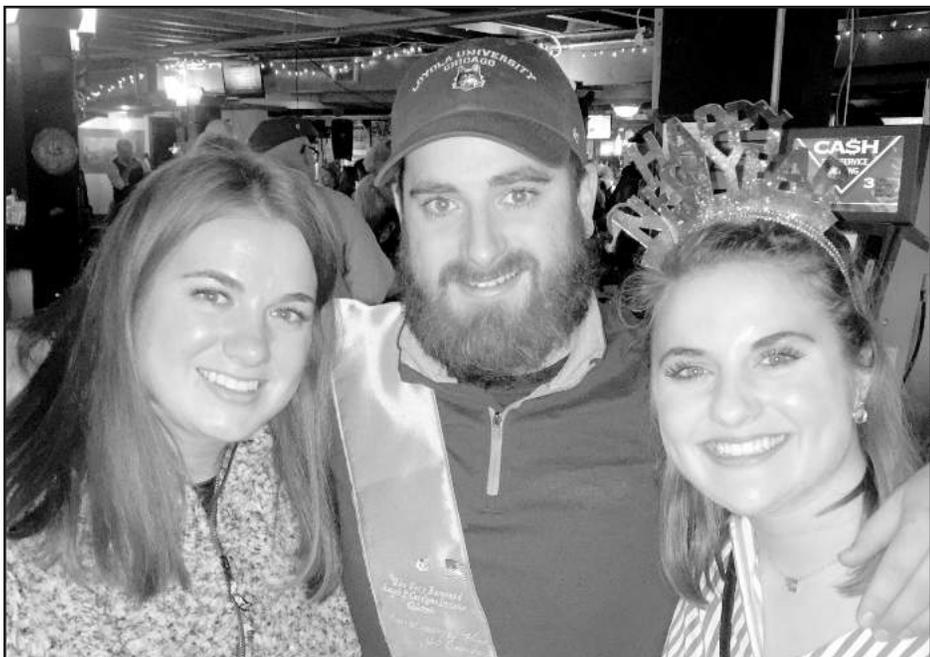
About 500 people attend the fundraiser in normal years where they are treated to live Irish music, bagpipers, presentation by speakers and step dancers. The event is typically hosted at the Celtic on Market (1400 Market St.), the group's headquarters, and Denver's favorite Irish pub. The event begins each year on New Year's Eve at 2 p.m. and then they toast the New Year at 5 p.m. MST — midnight in Dublin, Ireland.

The group is planning and hoping for an in-person celebration this year with everything being back to normal after Covid, but members understand most likely it won't be that way. The group is therefore making special provisions to have the event live-streamed so that Hibernians throughout the world can attend the event virtually.

The Carrigan Division has also made the live auction from the event which generates about half of the total proceeds online. The city is assisting the group in closing the street adjacent to the event where they will erect an enclosed tent that normally would hold 1,000 people. In Colorado, capacity for venues is restricted to 25 percent. If they can put 250 people in that tent they will make up the number of people that they lost from within the Celtic.

If the event has to be completely shut down because of a resurgence of the virus, the group will still be able to allow everyone to attend virtually. The group plans for there to be virtual greetings offered by many of the AOH national officers and from at least one of Colorado's U.S. senators and a special greeting and blessing by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap.

To learn more or if you would like to virtually attend and support this great cause visit them at their website @ Carrigan AOH.colorado.com.



Brother William Chappell with two of his sisters, Doris Kathleen Chappell, left, and Mary Catherine Chappell, at the 2019 New Year's Eve event. The two women ran the silent auction. Will's brother, Petty Officer Joseph Chappell, on active duty, and their dad, Jim, are also in the division.



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

Content that makes readers read

In the last issue I wrote that every article in the Digest should either instruct, inspire, inform (i.e., be broadly newsworthy) or motivate; hopefully, a combination of a few of those. When submitting content to the Digest — or to your local community newspapers or on your own Hibernian FB pages or websites — make sure you have first figured out why you are sending the article in. If your reason for submitting something is not to instruct fellow Hibernians on a better way of performing an AOH activity, inspire others to take actions consistent with our Motto, inform readers about news of broad (not just local) Hibernian interest, or motivate folks to recruit and retain members or live in the spirit of the Order, then why are you sending it in?

In this issue, the point I want to make is: Be Concise.

Shakespeare's Polonius wrote in Hamlet that "Brevity is the soul of wit." This wisdom has never been truer than in these days of shortened attention spans brought on by social media. People, generally, make less time to read anything, so coming upon a thick block of grey text will, like it or not, cause too many readers to turn the page in search of a bite-size, more easily digestible nugget to consume. That said, it is also true that some information demands a longer treatment, and that's fine.

And it is also true that "concise" does not mean "short." A 300-word article that repeats itself or is confusing can be way too long; and a 700-word article that's tightly crafted and builds fact upon fact presenting a clear, logical, fast-reading, interesting and informative piece that accomplishes a valuable purpose can be exactly the right length.

Pictures

In the next issue I'll write about photos, but for now just consider this when submitting articles: articles, reports and stories that have accompanying photos that illustrate the copy are read way more enthusiastically than blocks of text. So, try to take and send good pictures — with unambiguous, informative captions — with every submission.

Word counts

Digest articles submitted by national officers should be no more than 600 words. Articles submitted by state presidents or other state officers should be no more than 300 words. Division officers or other members should submit articles no more than 150 words. Exceptions can be made for good reason.

Sub-headlines

One last thing about article length. If you must write something more than 400 words or so, use subheads, which are small headline-like sub-section or paragraph titles, like the ones used in this article. Subheads, or subheds, help break up the text and introduce different parts of an overall theme.

Deadlines

At our national convention in July, it was decided to reduce the number of issues from six per year to five per year, which is one issue more than the four issues per year that the AOH Constitution requires.

The expense recovered from this one-issue reduction will help fund our online membership communication.

This issue you're now reading covers October, November and December. We are currently figuring out a schedule of issues for 2021 and I'll let you know more about that plan in the next issue.

Whatever plan that turns out to be, the next Digest deadline is January 1.

New York



Past presidents gather for Division's 74th anniversary

On October 6, St. Patrick's Division 2, in Babylon, Long Island, had a rare intimate gathering of past presidents along with current officers to toast the Division's 74th anniversary. The Division was founded and organized by Mike Rice on October 6, 1946. From left, front row, Past Presidents Jack Gerrity, Ed Cotter, Leo Murphy and Jim Dawes; from left, top row, Division Sentinel Mike Johnson; Past Presidents John Rattigan and Bob O'Shea; Division President Jim Killen; Division Marshal Frank Collins, Division Recording Secretary Jim McGrath; Division Financial Secretary & Past President Jerry Belmont; and Past President Bill Kelly. — Submitted by Jim Killen, Division President

in memoriam

Robert F. Burke, a member of Division 8 AOH in Lawrence, MA, for more than 50 years, died on July 28, 2020. Born in Lawrence, he was a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Boston State College. He proudly served in the United States Air Force and Marine Reserves.

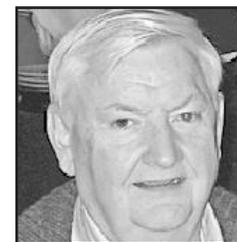


Bob had a strong work ethic and for many years worked two jobs as a TV repair technician and for 27 years as a teacher at Lawrence High School and later at the Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical High School.

A parishioner of St. Patrick's in Lawrence, as well as a dedicated member of Division 8 AOH, Bob took his Shamrock Degree on April 27, 1969. He served as Division 8's first webmaster from 2003 to 2018, and in 2006 was honored as Irishman of the Year. He was also a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mona; his two sons, Bob, and Tom, both of whom are members of Division 8, as well as his sons wives, six grandchildren, a sister and other family members. He was the brother of the late AOH National Director David R. Burke, who passed in 2009. A graveside service conducted by Division 8 Chaplain, the Rev. John Delaney, took place on August 11, at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence.

Peter J. Dugett, 72, of Washington Township, N.J., passed away on August 27, 2020, at Morristown Medical Center.



Peter was a member of the Ancient Order-Hibernians in Union County, and was a founding member of Thornsticks, an organization whose primary purpose was to propagate pride in one's Irish ancestry and help families in need. Peter served as a Commissioner for the City of Elizabeth on the board of Adjustment and Housing Authority.

Peter was born on November 6, 1947, in Staten Island, N.Y., to the late Joseph F. Dugett Sr. and Dorothy "Woods" Dugett. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, in 1966. He owned and operated Industrial Rubber Co. in Elizabeth, N.J., and he also owned and operated Pick's Irish Pub in Linden, N.J., until his retirement in 2019. He was known as a generous man who loved his family and his Irish heritage. Peter is survived by a brother, Joseph F. Dugett Jr. (Corinne); a sister, Susan Frenzel; nieces and nephews, Joseph F. Dugett III, Kelly Rolon, Kathleen Custer, Peter Frenzel and Mark Frenzel.

John 'Jack' W. Lyons, 87, of Plymouth, MA (formerly of Bethel, CT) died on August 10, 2020, at the Newfield House in Plymouth. He was a Past President of the John A. Gildea AOH Division of Danbury and a Past AOH Connecticut State Board Secretary. He was a founding member of the Celtic Cross Pipes & Drum Band, where he enjoyed playing the bagpipes with his friends.

Born in Boston on December 21, 1932, he was the son of the late John and Florence (Foley) Lyons. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Majeski) Lyons. Jack was a proud graduate of Boston College and served in the Army during the Korean War. For 30 plus years, Jack was a civilian employee with the Department of Defense as well as the CIA.

Jack was an active member of the Bethel community. He served as the Police Commissioner and was active in many fraternal organizations, including the Elks, the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Jack leaves behind his wife of 16 years, Paula Anne (Jaquith) Lyons, of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Jack was the beloved father of Sean Lyons and his wife Shannon of Naugatuck, CT. He was the cherished grandfather of Keeley, Adam, and Lilly.

John F. Troy, a member of Division 8 in Lawrence, MA, for more than 39 years, passed on September 27, 2020, following a brief illness. He was born in Lawrence in 1923 and was educated at St. Mary's Grammar School and was a graduate of Central Catholic High School Class of 1941.



One of the Greatest Generation, he entered the Army in June 1943 and proudly served his country as a Combat Medic in the 63rd Infantry Division. He remained as a member of the occupation forces in Germany, returning to the U.S. in April 1946.

Ever proud of his Irish heritage, John joined Division 8 on January 14, 1981, and took his Major Degree on April 27, 2008. As a member of the Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8, AOH, he was recognized as Irishman of the Year in 2007 for his many years of dedication and service.

John was predeceased by his loving wife, M. Constance (Carroll) Troy, and was also predeceased by his two sons, John and Thomas. He is survived by his son William and two daughters, Constance and Kathleen, and their spouses, his eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Dr. Michael Whitley, a founding member of the James Francis Powers AOH Division in Land O Lakes, Florida, passed away on April 28 following a brief illness.

Michael was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on February 11, 1950, to William and Shirley Whitley. He graduated from Calvert Hall College High School and Loyola University Maryland (both located in Baltimore). Michael attended Virginia Commonwealth University where he earned his doctoral degree in psychology.

Michael's service to our nation was vast. First, he served in the Army's Special Operations. Next, he served as a psychologist for the Navy's SEAL Team Six. Later, he spent 22 years in the CIA and ended his distinguished career as a Navy Reservist.

Michael met his lovely wife, Julia, while stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey. They were married on St. Stephen's Day (December 26), a popular holiday in Ireland called Lá Fhéile Stíofán. Michael and Julia were blessed with two sons (both of whom served our nation)

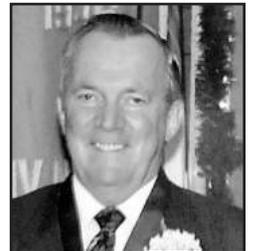
and three beautiful grandchildren.

During his career, Michael and his family lived in Germany, Egypt, Pakistan, Israel and South Africa. They also travelled extensively. Yet their favorite destination was Ireland. Michael's love of Ireland extended to his brothers in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He proudly served them as Division President and Historian. Michael also served his church and community guided by the Order's motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. He will be greatly missed.

William K. "Bill" Young passed away on August 29, 2020, after a long illness. Bill, who just turned 82, was an active, long-time member of the St. Patrick's Division 2, Suffolk County, NY. Bill was also a member of the Tara Court Major Degree team, a position he held for 25 years. Bill leaves behind his loving family; he will be missed by all who knew him.



Robert E. "Bob" Murphy passed away on September 29, 2020, after a long illness. Bob was both a Past President & Hibernian of the Year at St. Patrick's Division 2, Suffolk County, NY. Bob was a U.S. Navy veteran, who was stationed in the Philippines in the mid-1950s, then returned home to join the New York City Police Department. After 26-years in the NYPD, Bob retired with the rank of Sergeant. Beloved husband of the late Maureen. Loving father of Eileen (Matthew), Erin, and Robert (Patty). Cherished Poppy of Matthew, Mairead, Aidan, Deirdre, Maeve and Tommy.



William 'Bill' Powers

Bill Powers, a longtime member of the AOH Thomas W. Carrol Division 1, in Buffalo, passed away on September 4, 2020, after battling a series of illnesses. Bill is survived by his wife of 54 years, Susanne Glaser Powers; sons Michael (Jamie), Jonathan (Erin) and Patrick (Jenna); six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Bill's story began with his birth in Pearl Creek, NY on December 22, 1938. He attended Niagara University on an ROTC scholarship. After graduation, Bill served in the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant and was stationed in Germany. After his discharge, Bill moved to the Buffalo area where he met and later married the love of his life, Sue Glaser. While raising their family, and pursuing his lifelong love of travel, Bill soon began his involvement with many service organizations in the Buffalo area.

Bill joined the AOH shortly after Buffalo's Division 1 was chartered in 1980. A great association was begun! He was a proud Irishman who found a way to channel this pride into service to Buffalo, its Irish community and to the Buffalo Irish Center. Bill was a Past President of AOH Division 1. He helped to organize the AOH National Convention in 1986 and the New York State AOH Conventions in 1987 and 2017. All three conventions were held in Buffalo! Bill was later elected as NYS AOH District 2 Director. He was awarded National AOH Life Membership in 2018 and was awarded the prestigious Burns-Hayes Award in 2018 by the NYS AOH. Named after two Past NYS AOH Presidents, this is the highest award that can be bestowed on a NYS Hibernian! Bill was also awarded the John Barry Medallion by AOH Division 1 for his overall service to our Order.

Bill was also instrumental in the formation of the Irish Famine Memorial on Buffalo's waterfront. In addition to being a Past President of the Western New York Irish Famine Commemoration Committee, he served in many other capacities and would often maintain the grounds of the Memorial before the annual Mass. Bill was also honored by the Knights of Equity as Irishman of the Year in 2018. He received a similar honor from the Amherst Gaelic League in 2015.

On a personal note, Bill was the first Hibernian to reach out to me when my family and I moved to Buffalo almost 13 years ago. Over the years, Bill and I travelled to many AOH events in many locations. Bill introduced me to our AOH Brothers in Niagara Falls and Lockport while he was District Director. We also travelled to multiple NYS AOH State Board Meetings and Conventions, multiple National AOH Conventions, National AOH President's Testimonial Dinners and to the dedication of the Barry Gate at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 2012. This Memorial was named after Commodore John Barry, the U.S. Navy's first commissioned officer and a proud son of Ireland.

My lasting memory of Bill took place in the Buffalo Irish Center's kitchen after a successful Degree Ceremony where over 70 Hibernians from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport and Rochester received their Major Degrees. After helping to prepare lunch for all, including a lot of beef-on-weck sandwiches, Bill was in the kitchen washing the dishes. His comment was "District Director last year; washing dishes this year!" That was Bill: Irish pride, service to many and a sense of humor! I will miss him!

Tom Lambert, NYS AOH President, Past President, AOH Division 1 Buffalo



Bill Powers, center, with sons Patrick, left, and Jon.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Is iomaí laoch a bhíonn i measc sliocht na nGael. *There's many a hero among the children of Ireland.* Seo duine cáiliúil díobh. *This is a famous one of them.* Más sa Chór Muirí thú, níl amhras ach go bhfuil aithne agat ar mo dhuine cheana féin. *If you're a Marine, no doubt you know of him already.* Bronnadh bonn onóra na Stát Aontaithe air. *He was awarded the Medal of Honor.* Faoi dhó! *Twice!* Ní raibh ach beirt a fuair é faoi dhó riamh. *Only 2 people have ever gotten it twice.* Seo daoibh an maorsháirsint Daniel Joseph Daly (1873-1937). *I present to you Sergeant Major...*

Ba as Glen Cove, Nua-Eabhrac é, agus bhíodh sé ina chónaí in Oyster Bay. *He was from GC, NY, and lived in...* Tá an dá bhaile seo ar Inis Fada. *...towns on Long Island.* Tá a uaigh i Reilig Calvary in Woodside, Contae na Banríona. *His grave is in Queens.* De réir gach dealraimh, rugadh a thuismitheoirí agus a chuid deirfiúracha agus deartháireacha go léir i gContae Corcaigh. *As far as anyone can tell, his parents and siblings were all from County Cork.*

Fuair sé an chéad bhonn as eachtra i rith Éirí Amach na mBocsar, sa tSín, i 1900, agus é ina shaighdiúir singil. *He got his first medal for an event during the Boxer Rebellion, in China, while he was a Private.* Fágadh ina aonar é chun a fhód a sheasamh go dtiocfadh trúpaí athneartaíthe, agus rinne sé an gnó. *He was left alone to hold his position until reinforcements came, and he did.* Agus mharaigh sé dhá chéad den namhaid. *And he killed 200 of the enemy.* Fuair sé an dara bonn as eachtra in Háití i 1915, agus é ina sháirsint gunnadóireachta. *he got the second medal for an event in Haiti...when he was a Gunnery Sergeant.* Fuair sé maisínghunna ar ais a bhí ar chapall marbh i measc na reibiliúnach, agus mharaigh sé seachtar díobh le scian amháin. *He got back a machine gun from a dead horse in the midst of the rebels, and killed 7 of them with just a knife.*

Is iomaí eachtra eile a raibh sé páirteach ann. *He participated in many other actions.* Duine rí-chróga ab ea é. *He was extremely brave.* Bhí sé ina threoraí cáiliúil sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda, freisin. *He was a famous leader in WWI, too.* Bhí sé gortaithe cúpla uair. *He was wounded a couple of times.* Is iomaí bonn eile a fuair sé chomh maith. *He got many other medals.*

Níor phós sé riamh. *He never married.* Ba é an Cór a theaghlach iad, is dócha. *The Corps was his family, I guess.* Dílis go Deo! *Semper Fi!*

Dála an scéil, bhí ar a laghad sinsear amháin a bhí ina chónaí i gCorcaigh freisin ag an dara duine a fuair an bonn faoi dhó, Smedley Butler! *By the way, the other person who got the medal twice had at least one ancestor who lived in Cork too!*

Kansas

Kansas/Virginia Hibernian assists Irish unification efforts

Jay Hodges is a native Kansan and now a member of the Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division in Alexandria. In 2003, he first joined the Kansas Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division and that soon led to a growing appreciation for Irish political history. He would develop a keen interest in the stories of Bobby Sands, Terence MacSwiney, Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams stories.

In 2017, his passion for and skills in local political organizing came to the attention of the leaders of his Laborers International Union of North America and he transferred to Washington D.C. Jay still maintains his friendships in Kansas and the Division is proud to share him with its Alexandria Hibernian brothers.

While in DC, he has been active in Ireland reunification efforts, traveling with colleagues in 2018 to Dublin, having volunteered to train Sinn Fein party activists and organizers in techniques to achieve party goals, principally, a united Ireland. Over three days in South Armagh the labor union team trained more than 50 people in organizing techniques. It was the beginning of numerous trips and training sessions.

Through the Ireland experience, he developed friendships with Sinn Fein leaders. Talking to Ciaran Quinn, the Sinn Fein North American representative, led to creating a plan for Jay to conduct interviews of Sinn Fein officials as part of efforts to inform and educate North Americans about important Ireland issues. He has interviewed Danny Morrison, TD Mairead Farrell, MP Chris Hazzard and Senator Niall O'Donnaghaile on a variety of critical topics ranging from the Troubles to Brexit. The interviews are available on both the Facebook page or YouTube channel titled Friends of Sinn Fein.

Informing members of Ireland issues is a crucial role for the AOH. The Donnelly Division encourages all Hibernians to watch, learn and advocate support for a united Ireland.



Screen shot of "Friends of Sinn Fein" Facebook page. Jay Hodges, left, AOH, and Ciaran Quinn, Sinn Fein North American Representative.

Illinois

Successful Fundraiser

St. Clair County, IL. Division 1 was successful in holding the 6th Annual Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Bowling Fundraiser despite the COVID-19 pandemic. With masks and bowling gear, the competitors helped raise over \$3,600 for Division-sponsored charities. The Division also welcomed Hibernians from the St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri, Divisions who were able to attend.



Feeding the hungry

Members of St. Clair County, IL. Division 1 presented a Hibernian Hunger check for \$2,930 to Toni Muhammad, executive director, Diocese of Belleville Catholic Urban Programs, to help the CUP Food Pantry. From left, Robert Simpson, past Illinois State President; Mike Tiernan, Division President; Toni; Jim Kelley; Patrick Hume; and Robert Dixon, Division Treasurer. A generous anonymous donor matched the funds collected by the Division.

North Carolina

A Fest in the Forest

Every September, the Wake County, North Carolina, AOH Division 1 holds the Irish Fest in the Forest in Downtown Wake Forest. It is a family friendly day full of Irish music and dancing that the Hibernians and the community look forward to each year. In the spirit of the Irish Fest in the Forest, the division held a small invitation-only concert with Ewes Tree on September 19. Thanks to the Columbus Club for the use of the Knights of Columbus softball field, which easily allowed for social distancing for the event. A virtual event was also held, which included performances by numerous local Irish bands and dance schools. Many thanks to all who helped and performed for this event.



Dancers from Trigg Academy of Irish Dance performing a hard shoe number for the virtual event.

Remember

Be sure to log into the new roster editing system before Dec. 31, 2020, to make all your Roster changes.

Ladies hibernian news

President's Message

by Karen Keane

Season of Change

Autumn has always been my favorite season. Here in upstate New York, the change of the leaves creates a beautiful site. All the colors on the hill side are amazing. This is more dramatic than the flowers in the spring or summer. Flowers change only their small area, but the trees change the whole hillside. Just like the Hibernians, we change the whole situation when we work together on our issues.

For all of us, 2020 has had too much change already. Many people have been left unemployed and others are under extreme financial hardship. We are not gathering for our Irish New Year parties or tailgating at our favorite team's stadium. We are isolated from many of our older family members and from our friends that make life bearable.

What we have seen is a change in the way we operate as Hibernians. It was a great experience to see all the people our Freedom For All Ireland donations have a direct affect on. If you have not seen the video interviewing and visiting with the people from the different organizations in Ireland, please make time to view the video. You will see the representative from each organization and hear, in their own words how important our donations are. We are very privileged to have Dolores Desch as our Freedom for All Ireland Chair. She is working very diligently with AOH National Chair Martin Galvin to educate and motivate everyone on the Freedom for All Ireland campaign. Remember that Freedom for All Ireland is a fundamental part of the LAOH. Please try to consider increasing your donations in this year's Christmas Appeal.

Our Political Education Chair, Gail Dapolito, will be hosting a guest speaker, Mary O'Meara, Director of the DC Archdiocese's Office of Deaf and Disability Services. Gail is working on our contacts with the Irish Embassy and other Irish organizations in the Washington DC area. We need to have all voices heard on all issues of social justice, and Gail and her committee are working on this area.

Turning to the political side, please remember that the LAOH is a 501C3 charity and therefore we cannot support any candidate or political party in the upcoming elections. This is not negotiable. Just like your Priest, the LAOH cannot tell anyone how to vote. What we can and must do is to remind everyone, especially other women, to exercise their right to vote. This year is the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. Do not take that right for granted. Exercise your Right to Vote.

As I get to the end of this article, I want to thank the National Board's budget committee Chair, who, with her committee got an approved budget out to the membership in record time. Also, I want to thank the National Board of the AOH for their continuing support of the LAOH. Together Brothers and Sisters, we are stronger.

Vice President

by Marilyn Madigan

November is a time of Thanksgiving and the LAOH has much to be thankful for this year. Although we were disappointed that we could not attend in person the Convention and Hibernian Lecture, technology allowed our participation at both events. I am thankful that the Hibernian Scholarship is helping students to attend the University of Notre Dame. I was so happy to receive news that my good friend and Hibernian Sister Patty Lavelle's granddaughter Ellen a Freshman applied for the Scholarship. Ellen was successful and so deserving. The Lavelle Family are a wonderful example of an Irish Catholic family dedicated to faith, family, community and Irish Heritage.

Under the leadership of Past National President Carol Sheyer, a grant from the Irish Government was received to write the History of our Order for the 125th Anniversary. Thanks to the many hours of dedication of our Past Irish Historian Sandi Swift this History gathered from the States, Counties and Divisions has been edited into a book and published. This is the only book that has been published on our proud history. Every member should obtain a copy. The book titled "Celebrating Our History Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. A History of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in Celebration of 125 Years of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The Cost of the Book is \$20. Books will be available by contacting the following Officers: National President Keane, National Vice President Madigan, National Secretary Lubinsky and National Treasurer Swift. Proceeds from the book will be used for our next Historic Celebration: The Centennial of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument Dedication in 2024.

I would like to thank National President Keane for appointing me to Chair the Nuns of the Battlefield Centennial Committee. The Monument and its story has been a passion of mine since serving as National Irish Historian. The recognition of the LAAOH is on the back of the Monument. Most visitors do not go to the back of the Monument. The story of this remarkable achievement of our Order needs to be shared. At the 2016 National Convention, I presented a Proposal for the Monument that the LAOH sponsor a Wayside Monument for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument. The Marker would tell the story of the Monument, Ellen Ryan Jolly and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Proposal was revisited at the 2020 National Convention and was approved. Our goal should be that the Marker be complete by the 100th Anniversary of the Monuments in September 2024. The LAOH should also petition the National Park Service to name the Park where the Monument is located: The Ellen Ryan Jolly Park. This would honor the memory of a remarkable LAOH leader.

I am very thankful for a wonderful Committee: Ann Fisher, Gail Dapolito, Maria Humphries, Pat Lavelle, Maire Manning, Sara Benz, Maura McSweeney Tearnó, Kelly Hajek and Clare McManus Fulginnitti. A special thank you to the District of Columbia LAOH Members for all their dedication that the Sisters are remembered each May and that the Monument has been maintained.

Catholic Action

by Peggy Cornish

We are coming into the season of Saints. November 1st is the Feast of All Saints and is a Holy day of obligation. The Vatican has given the day of August 17th as the new feast day of Our Lady of Knock. It will be listed in the Roman Missal and has its own Memorial Mass. The 21st of August was already given to St. Pius X, the Pope of the Eucharist. The 21st of August will continue to be celebrated in Knock as that is the anniversary of the Apparition that happened in 1879.

Please continue to use the Project Saint Patrick Cards and complete the donation forms with complete info such as Name, State, County and Division names. This is an important project of the LAOH, we need more good priests now more than ever. Please continue to pray for our deceased members and the souls of all the departed.

California



The Ladies of California State held their first Zoom Retreat. It was a two-day event that included a movie showing of Hope, The lady of Knock story. It was attended by Ladies from all over the state and with a couple of friends from New York. This is a modern way of keeping in touch. The social hour and the retreat were enjoyed by all.

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

Indiana



Our Lady of Knock Memorial Mass in Indiana
Several LAOH Members celebrated Mass together on August 17, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Every year the LAOH, Our Lady of Knock, Div. 1, Marion County, Indiana celebrate a Memorial Mass for their deceased LAOH Members. This year was special with the Mass coinciding with the special Feast Day of Our Lady of Knock.

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in Massachusetts, the Division continues to meet virtually monthly using Zoom. Standing Committee Chairman Tim Doherty is heading up a committee of volunteers to assist members who are unable to venture out for their basic necessities due to the virus. Division 8 recently welcomed five members from the former Newburyport Division: Dan Cleary, Mike Ferrick, Paul Heffernan, Michael Volpone and Ryan Volpone. On November 1, the Division 8 will kick off their annual FFAI Fundraiser and Christmas Appeal, which is being headed up by FFAI Chairman Bob Collins.

On a sad note, John F. Troy, a 39-year member of Division 8 and the Division's 2007 Irishman of the Year, passed on September 27. May perpetual light shine upon him. [Editor's Note: See John Troy's obituary elsewhere in this issue of the Hibernian Digest.]

Division 14 Watertown

Division 14 is faring as well as other divisions and is looking forward to limited reopening of the hall for members pending appropriate precautions and state licensing. Dates of reopening and conditions are unknown at this time. The Division will continue its limited member meetings in the hall — distanced and mask compliant — to continue our good work as we can. In September, the division held its much needed blood drive, and in October will remember its deceased membership privately as group Masses are cancelled.

Division 36 Worcester

Division 36 will be starting their election process, as are other divisions across the state, using Zoom. The never-ending search for new ideas and brothers stepping up never seemed as important as it does during the current times. The pub continues to be closed, but weekly entertainment and meals have been provided outdoors thanks to the members volunteering time to setup, serve and participate. Thank you! We need and appreciate the support.

Division 1 Holyoke

Division 1 will meet this month to start the election process. While all events are being planned for 2021, the division members will continue Pete's calendar fundraiser as a main source of income while they continue to navigate these waters. Thank you for all of your support! The Division will be serving at Kate's Kitchen with appropriate precautions and limited numbers starting November 1 and December 1. Please take care of each other.

Easter Rising Monument dedicated

Laoise Moore, the Consul General of Ireland, dedicated the Easter Rising Monument in Scituate Harbor, Massachusetts, on Sept. 20. The President of the Fr. John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth, John P. Travers (pictured), was present for the dedication, as were many other Brother Hibernians, including Massachusetts State President Jack Lahey. The monument, made of Vermont granite, is six feet by four feet, and is the only one of its kind in the United States. It is sitting next to the site where every year the AOH and the Town of Scituate commemorate the Easter Rising. Division 9 members gave generously in support of this monument. There will be a more formal dedication of the monument on April 25, 2021. All are welcome. — John L. Sullivan



John P. Travers, President of Division 9, in Plymouth, attended the monument dedication with the Consul General of Ireland and with the Massachusetts State President

Pennsylvania

Project St. Patrick in Philadelphia

The September gathering of the Officer Joseph Friel Division 5, in Philadelphia, was to recognize the presentation of a Project St. Patrick certificate to St. John's in honor and memory of recently deceased parish resident and assistant, Fr. Robert Feeney. At the time of his death, Fr. Feeney had also been the Chaplain for Division 5 along with several other divisions in the area. The funds donated to Project St. Patrick in Fr. Feeney's name provided a partial scholarship for seminarian Nobel Pathang, who is a third-year student at our diocesan seminary, St. Charles Borromeo. When not directly involved in his studies, Mr. Pathang (a resident of

Bangladesh) resides at the St. John's rectory, where he assists our Monsignor with liturgical, community and maintenance duties.

Mr. Pathang provided heart-felt comments of gratitude that recognized both the AOH's and Fr. Feeney's contributions to the preservation and propagation of the faith and, to his own clerical development.

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



Members of PA Division 5, in Philadelphia, the Officer Joseph Friel Division, surrounded Division President Brian Monaghan, center; local parish pastor Monsignor Kevin Lawrence, of St. John the Baptist (Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissiwickon); and Seminarian Nobel Pathang.

Ohio

Did Your Mother Come From Ireland?

Washington County, Ohio, Division 1 has embarked on a Digging your Irish Roots quest. A bit like The Pogues song, Muirshin Durkin. The objective being not to dig for praties, but for lumps of Irish family history!

Division President Tom Binegar had an idea. "I've got a map of Ireland and what I'd like to do is to find out where in Ireland our members came from, and place a marker, in honor of their families, on the map." Tom feels the map will renew and strengthen the bond and reinforce Irish Pride, as well as link the Division back to its roots.

Calling it Covid Creativity, Tom knew who to call upon. He asked Division Organizer Pat Kelly and Division Sentinel Rob Brannan to undertake the task. Between Pat and Rob, who has expertise in questionnaire building, they have come up with a very simple and direct online questionnaire, which has now been sent to the Division membership.

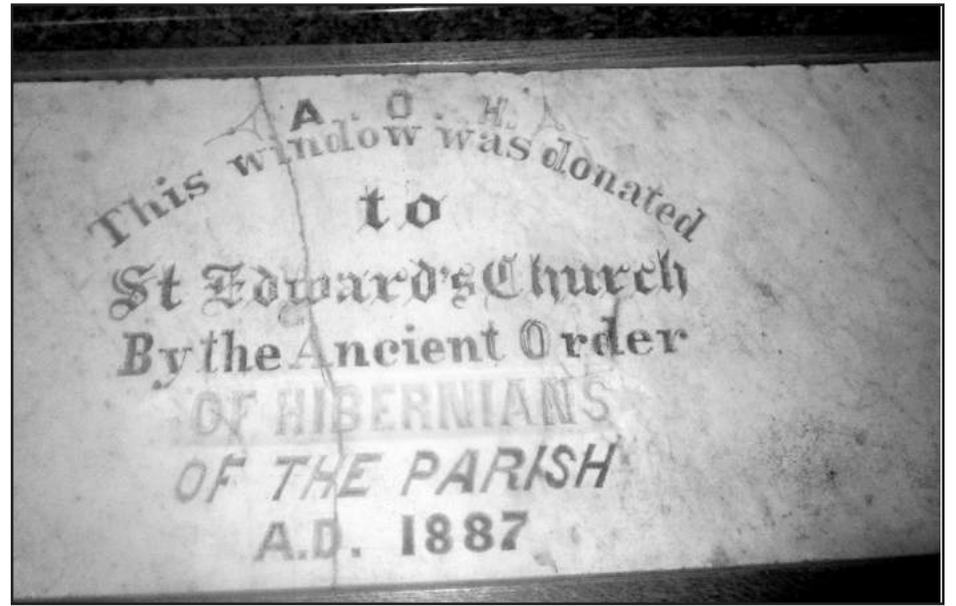
Among the first questions are "How long have you been a Hibernian?" and "Do you have any family members in the AOH?" The focus is on family history and tradition. Other aspects of the questionnaire include family stories, family characters and any prejudice the families may have encountered. Importantly, the last question asks, "What history and traditions would you like to pass on to family and friends?"

The questionnaire also offers limited assistance with family research. The object is to point out the direction and allow folks to set their sean-bhróga (old shoes) on the path!

The information, with the permission of the respondent, will be reflected on the Map of Ireland as well as within the contents of the Division Newsletter, The Turf and the Slean. It is also sure to spark conversations, and perhaps a toast or two, among our AOH division brothers when we get to meet in-person again.

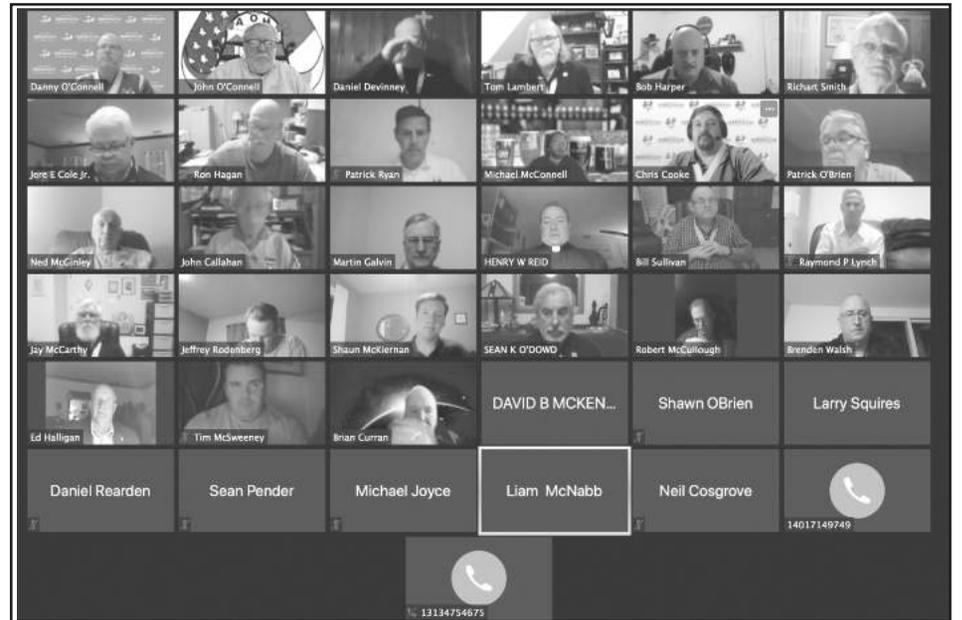
A bit of AOH history finds a home

A stone window lintel from 1887 has found a home with Akron's Mark Heffernan Division. Unfortunately, the window itself is lost. It was in St. Edward's Church on lower Woodland in Cleveland, dedicated by the AOH. The church is gone. It is believed the stone was cut by Captain James K. O'Reilly, the parish stonemason, who was a Civil War Veteran of Co. B, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (formerly the Hibernian Guards), in the Potomac Army. He left his sick bed to rejoin the unit as they fought at Gettysburg. —John Sullivan.



The 1887 lintel now with the AOH in Akron.

Zoom



Gathering for progress

The national board and state presidents met via Zoom in early October. For the first time, entire state boards were able to attend the meeting. Moving forward, all state board members and presidents at any level will be able to tune in.

**Deadline for
the next issue
NO LATER than January 1**




*Merry
Christmas
from your
National
Board*

New York



NY State AOH Pro Life Chairman Jack O'Brien, left, with Suffolk County Pro Life Chairman Patrick Spero. In 2020 there were more than 450 people from various faiths, races and all walks of life in attendance at the Stand Up For Life event. This included families with children, home-school families, Catholic high schools, and college-age students. Along with the AOH/LAOH, there were many other pro-life groups and individuals.

Respect Life Sunday

By Jack O'Brien, NYS Pro-Life Chairman & Nassau County AOH President

As a Hibernian, I have a lot of trouble accepting the more than 2,700 lives lost today...

Yes, almost 3,000 innocent children will be killed today. Tomorrow there will be 3,000 more, and 3,000 again the day after that, and so on. I urge each Hibernian to take an active role in preventing this from being acceptable.

For the start of Respect Life month, I organize an event called "Stand Up For Life."

It has grown to be the largest Pro-Life event in the area.

The main purpose of this event is to show everyone that it is OK to be Pro Life. It also educates and reminds everyone that there are other options and other solutions besides abortion for unplanned pregnancies. I organize the efforts on larger routes in the area, with thousands of vehicles passing per hour. For those in cars it gives them reason to think about respecting life and as a bonus the citizens who take part, knowing they are not alone, start to solidify their pro-life thoughts, practices and convictions.

We all know there is a need for men and women to stand up for life. I realize this is not a popular stance in today's world, but it is a duty as a Catholic and as a Hibernian. I am honor bound to take on the responsibility. I work with the parish, diocese and other Respect Life guidelines to spread the message. You, too, can organize or join the Respect-Life effort.

The only warning here is do not align with pro-life groups that are not 100 percent pro life.

This is not a political issue to be tossed about by Republicans or Democrats, this is not a Catholic or Religious issue alone, it is an unalienable right for all races and all beliefs.

Many pro-life people are already harassed for their belief and wary about voicing their opinion in public. Always make it a peaceful witness supporting the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. We hope to bring awareness about the horrible tragedy that occurs each day in our country and around the globe.

I want to thank the women and men of the Ancient Order of Hibernians who volunteered, attended and supported any Stand Up For Life experience. It was

encouraging to see an increase in attendance this year both among Hibernians and the general public. Events like this can successfully be initiated by our divisions, our parishes or other groups. Progress can continue to be made by those already dedicated and those who join the cause for Life.

Remember:

"Support of abortion by a candidate for public office, some of whom are Catholics, even if they use the fallacious and deeply offensive 'I am personally opposed but ...' line, is reason sufficient unto itself to disqualify any and every such candidate from receiving your vote."

— VOTE FOR LIFE: Bishop William Murphy, 2016, Diocese of Rockville Centre.



Nassau County Division 11 President Phil Baumgartner, Div. 11 Hicksville Charity & Mission Chair Member Tom Kennedy. This is the 23rd year of the Stand Up For Life event in Huntington, Long Island.

Long Beach dedicates Irish event to 'Essential Workers'

The Hibernians of Nassau County's Division 17, in Long Beach, held their 31st St. Brendan the Navigator "Irish Day" on October 3, in a non-traditional way due to the pandemic. The event began with a very well attended Mass at Sacred Heart Church in nearby Island Park. It was followed by a wreath-placing ceremony at Hibernian Plaza on Park Avenue, with an excellent dedication from Division 17 President Greg Schmalenberger. The day was dedicated to all the essential workers, with signs thanking them made mostly by children. There was a short march with the Division Color Guard & Pipers. Due to Covid-19, all other public festivities were cancelled.



Division 17 President Greg Schmalenberger.



"Irish day" was dedicated to all the essential workers who continue to help bring us through the pandemic.



Hibernian Plaza in Long Beach, Long Island.

Left: Park Avenue, Long Beach, NY.

Gaelic Mass Day continued from page 1

community groups, Emerald Isle, Aisling, Brooklyn Gaelic League, as well as people who traveled long distances to hear the Irish Language Mass in person.

The Mass

The ceremony began with Fr. Fitzgerald being led in by pipers Dermot Moore, Patrick O'Hara and Roger Slattery and prominent Hibernians, including National Director Tim McSweeney, representing Danny O'Connell, Ladies AOH President Karen Keane, New York State Vice President John Manning, State Treasurer Tom Beirne and LAOH national and state Freedom For All Ireland Chairs Dolores Desch and Joan Moore.

A special music program was provided by the Dawn Doherty School of Irish music with performers who included Dawn Doherty, Frankie McCormick, Bridget Feery, Molly Henry, Molly O Loughlin, Siena O' Brien, Maureen Rutledge, Rachel Cummins, Ellie Reilly, Lily Kenny, Maggie Feehan, Sarah Coughlan and Tadgh O Callaghan.

Readings in Irish were done by AOH Division 5 President Ray Leyden, Aileen Gaffney and Dawn Doherty.



LAOH National President Karen Keane, Dolores Desch, John Manning, Tom Beirne and Martin Galvin.

Westchester County Legislator David Tubiolo and entertainer Sean Ruane were also in attendance.

The Mass Rock

In his sermon, Fr. Fitzgerald said, "We are celebrating more than a language and culture. We are celebrating a tremendous gift of faith, handed down by generations who paid a price and suffered so that we could know this gift. We acknowledge the heroic sacrifice of our ancestors who gathered at Mass Rocks deep in the woods or forests, putting their lives on the line simply to hear Mass and pray in their own language in defiance of Penal Laws." The Mass ended with the singing of the Irish and American National Anthems.

Following the Gaelic Mass, Martin Galvin, president of Bronx County AOH, said: "Gaelic Mass Day in Woodlawn started as a local Bronx AOH event suggested by former New York State President Vic Vogel. In a few short years it has become a national event with AOH members across the country wanting to be a part of it. The parish, AOH and LAOH nationally, Irish government, local Irish community groups, Irish language clubs and musicians volunteered help.

The AOH exists to foster Irish traditions, ideals, culture and history. It is hard to imagine a ceremony that could embody everything the AOH stands for better than Gaelic Mass Day."



National Director Tim McSweeney, New York State Treasurer Tom Beirne, State Vice President John Manning and District Director Bob Nolan.

Pennsylvania

O'Malley Division changes scholarship name

Formerly known as the Hook O'Malley Scholarship, Division members have changed the name in honor of their late vice president, Kevin Shaughnessy, who passed away in May. It will now be known as the Kevin Shaughnessy Memorial Scholarship.

Kevin would have been the incoming President in 2021. He is deeply missed by his family and friends. Number 19 Kevin Shaughnessy will never be forgotten.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to two students from All Saints Academy, each equaling \$500. The Kevin Shaughnessy Memorial Scholarship will be utilized for their high school education, which for both students will be earned at Holy Cross High School.

Kevin was a charter member of the AOH Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division, the 2018 AOH Man of the Year, and the John Mitchell Man of the Year.



At the scholarship presentation were, back row, from left, All Saints Academy Principal Britney Krupski, Rob Sherry, John Fletcher, Mark McDade, Patrick Tobin, Kevin Donovan, and Bob Fletcher; middle row, from left, Bob McAndrew, Father Richard Fox of St. Patrick's Parish, Anna Tunney, Joseph Shaughnessy and Joseph Holland; front row, from left, scholarship recipient Evan Stabinski, presenter of the scholarships Peyton Shaughnessy, daughter of the late Kevin Shaughnessy, scholarship recipient Mia Lameo and President Patrick O'Malley



Life Membership for Jim Green
On Friday, August 7, 2020, at a lunch event at Riley's Pour House in Carnegie, PA, near Pittsburgh, Jim Green was presented with his Life Membership medallion by a group consisting of, from left, John Tarpey (Allegheny County AOH President), Ollie Jedlick (AOH Division 1 President), Jim Green (with antivirus face mask!) and AOH PA State President Patrick O'Brien.



Life Membership
Past Pennsylvania State President Joe Hosie was presented with his Life Membership medallion at a special event in Carbondale, his hometown, on August 22, 2020. From left, AOH PA State President Patrick O'Brien, Joe Hosie and his wife, Katie.