

Finucane to receive MacBride Award

Geraldine Finucane has been selected as the AOH-LAOH Sean MacBride Award recipient. The Award is to memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Sean MacBride, and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people. Geraldine will receive the award on October 16, 2021, in Youngstown, Ohio.

Geraldine Elizabeth Mawhinney was born in Belfast on February 10, 1950, to parents Elizabeth and John. She grew up in east Belfast, a traditionally strong unionist area and has one younger sister. Educated in Strathearn College until 18, she then went to Trinity College, Dublin, to study English, geography and philosophy; she graduated with honors in 1972.

It was there she met, through friends, a fellow student from Belfast, although he was from a part of Belfast she had never visited or known much about. His name was Patrick Finucane. They immediately fell in love, so much so that they married in Dublin in 1972.

Following graduation, they returned to make Belfast their home and Geraldine taught in secondary schools for many years. Parallel to this Pat became qualified as a solicitor and in 1979 established the law firm Madden & Finucane.

The firm was immediately busy, dealing with the many requests for its legal services as a direct result of the draconian laws and powers that operated in the north of Ireland at that time.

Geraldine and Pat also had three children by this stage, Michael, Katherine and John.

As Pat's practice continued to develop and dealt with a biased and oppressive legal system, Geraldine worked part time as the children grew.

On February 12, 1989, Geraldine's husband Pat was murdered, shot 14 times as he sat with her and their children at Sunday dinner.

As a wife, as a mother, she immediately had to deal with the brutal and graphic nature of the loss she suffered. Yet almost immediately she began asking questions about her husband's

murder. Why had he received death threats, via his clients, from the police? Why had a British government minister stood in the House of Commons and paved the way for his murder only weeks prior.

Geraldine then began what has evolved into an internationally renowned and respected campaign for truth and justice for her husband. Her campaign helped uncover and prove collusion between the British state and the loyalist killers who entered her home in 1989. This campaign has taken her to the corridors of power all over the world. She has met Irish Taoisigh, British Prime

Ministers, UN Rapporteurs, Members of Congress, Senators and U.S. Presidents. In 2012, the then British PM David Cameron apologized to her privately, and publicly, for the shocking levels of collusion which led to her husband's murder.

She and her children have testified before Congress on numerous occasions and she credits the overwhelming U.S. support as key to ensuring her campaign remains consistently relevant as Ireland emerges from conflict.

Geraldine Finucane has consistently stated that the murder of her husband represents the murder of so many others who lost their lives in similar circumstances. Her campaign for truth and justice is a

campaign that carries so many other families. The system and practices put in place to kill her husband were used widely.

She has put herself forward at personal cost and risk to ensure that there will be an independent and transparent examination of the policy of collusion. Geraldine Finucane has always spoken about the importance of ensuring that the pursuit of truth and justice is a common goal for all of us.

She has led and fought a campaign revealing that collusion was an accepted policy of the British government, and continues to fight for a full judicial inquiry.

While leading this campaign, she ensured all three of her children went to university. Michael is a lawyer in Dublin, Katherine is a counsellor, and John, also a lawyer, was Lord Mayor of Belfast and is the current MP for north Belfast. They have blessed their mother with seven grandchildren between them.



Geraldine Finucane will be presented with the AOH-LAOH Sean MacBride Award on October 16. Getty Images

Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal celebrates 25 years

By Ron Hagan, National Chairman

Initiated by an AOH Brother, Fr. James P. Burns in Minnesota, the Project St. Patrick seminarian and religious grant program began almost 24 years ago under Hibernian Presidents Kathleen Linton and Edward Wallace. This program has become a cornerstone of the Order, providing personal grants to major seminarians and religious students. These grants, although nominal, build the foundation of a potential lifelong relationship between those called to serve the Lord and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Grants are awarded annually to seminarians and religious from parishes that have a Hibernian presence. Please make the effort to assure your Division is represented in this year's Easter Appeal supporting our local seminarian and religious students.

Our goal this year is 100 percent participation. We are calling on every division to provide at least one \$500 grant, and divisions with over 85 members to have a goal of providing at least two \$500 grants. All \$500 donations are name-recognition donations and you can honor you chaplain or remember a deceased Hibernian or family member. You may also honor a major doner with a name

recognition grant. Remember, every donation small or large is critical to the success of Project St. Patrick.

This year we began our Easter Appeal on February 27th with a live Zoom meeting featuring keynote speaker the Most Reverend Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford & Lismore, Ireland, chair of the Council for Vocations of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. Joining Bishop "Phonsie" were Father John Keehner and Father James Patrick Burns, the current President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, both Hibernian success stories. The event concluded with two of last year's grant recipients, one seminarian and one religious. The event is available to view on the AOH YouTube Channel for all Hibernians to see. Your donation to the 2021 Easter Appeal will help assure another banner year for Project St. Patrick!

Please go to WWW.AOH.COM and click the forms link at the top. Select "Official AOH Forms" from the drop down menu. Project St. Patrick forms are the 7th section of the page. The two critical forms are the Project St. Patrick Donation Form and the Division Diocese Form. We hope to see each of these forms from

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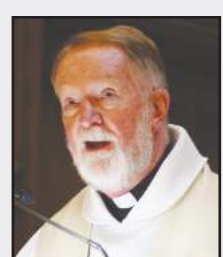
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each and every Hibernian Division this year.

Prayer Cards

In addition to the Easter appeal, we are happy to announce we have a new supply of Project St. Patrick Prayer Cards available. These prayer cards come three in a pack. I recently sent out some of these packets to a backorder of individuals and Divisions that had requested sets. Our goal is to send a notice to your State President requesting that they notify your state Catholic Action chairs to request packets for your up-and-coming state convention. You will then be able to obtain these prayer cards at your state convention. If any individual needs prayer cards before your convention I will be happy to mail one pack to you. Otherwise, you will be able to obtain cards from your Catholic Action Chairman after your convention.

It is critical that you use the prayer cards you pick up. Our largest expense of this project is the printing of the prayer cards. A prayer card donation is required once you utilize the card. These cards are a great supplement to the annual Easter Appeal.

How does my local seminarian get a grant?

First, you must fill out a new diocese contact form and turn it into me each and every year. We need you to verify the name and email of both your vocations director and Bishop. We are asking you to please complete this form during the first weeks of May so we can notify the bishops and the vocational director or directress about the scholarship process. Application is only distributed through diocesan vocations directors and in limited cases orders who have a Hibernian Chaplain as a member. Visit the Project St. Patrick Forms page on WWW.AOH.COM today!

For additional information, I am always available at rhagan@haganpcpa.com. Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2021 Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal.

Florida

Parade On in Melbourne

The 31st annual Downtown Melbourne St. Patrick's Day Parade resumed this year, under the direction of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Division, Brevard County, President and Parade Chairman Todd McDonald. Last year's parade had to be cancelled.

For the first time in many years the parade started promptly at 11 am. Joining the division this year were National AOH Organizer and New York State Director Timothy McSweeney, National Director for Florida and State President Ray Lynch, and AOH members of Indian River and Orange County Divisions. Ladies AOH members from Brevard and Indian River counties also participated.

Melbourne Police Department members were a considerable help and even participated with hand-outs of green necklace beads with their Police Dept. logo and phone number.

— Submitted by John E Fox, Div. 2, Brevard County.



National AOH Organizer Timothy McSweeney, left, and National Director for Florida and State President Ray Lynch.



St. Patrick rides in the 2021 Melbourne parade.

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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The National HIBERNIAN Digest

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

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JOHN O'CONNELL National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
KIM DePEAUX Assistant Editor (LAOH) laohnationnews@gmail.com
JEFF NISLER Online Editor editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

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president's message

By *Danny O'Connell*

Brothers,

Congratulations on an incredible Irish American Heritage Month. Brilliant job by Neil Cosgrove and Dan Taylor providing us with great content that will be useful well into the future. We continue to ask all Hibernians to visit our YouTube page. Simply go to YouTube and type Ancient Order of Hibernians in the search bar. It would also help us if you subscribed to this page. Once we get enough subscribers, our page will begin showing up more in internet searches, etc.

Compliments to the many divisions and boards who did not let the pandemic stand in their way as they made the most of IAHM commemorations and our St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Special thanks to National Chaplain John Keehner who celebrated our St. Patrick's Day Mass from the Cathedral in Youngstown, Ohio, live for all members to enjoy.

It is good to know that when times are tough, we can count on the Hibernians to step it up and move things forward. This rings true not only for IAHM but for our fundraising efforts for both the Label program supporting our charitable efforts such as Hibernian Hunger or study in Ireland scholarships, and the FFAI Christmas Appeal; both fundraisers have set new performance records. It is great to be part of this incredible organization.

With the state convention season upon us, we will see a combination of face-to-face conventions and virtual conventions. The national board is working hard to provide content to use during your convention. It is critical that every chair has a quality report and presentation during your convention. We know this is difficult for smaller states and that some of our projects, such as the scholarship program, are not represented with local chairs. Your national board will be providing you with a video of each national chair. These will be a brief executive version so as not to interfere with the local reports. You may use these as you wish during your event. These will also be made available to our smaller states who may not have a convention to share with their membership.

Our goal will be to have a video report in the hands of every member by the end of the convention season. We will also have the opportunity for states to invite National Chairs into their convention live via a Zoom connection. This can be done live, where you display on a large screen or during a virtual convention where they can join your Zoom session. We do not want any report to simply be on the table as the convention report is the responsibility of every chairman.

I want to remind you how important it is to share your event summaries with the national board. Charity events, Hunger events, Festival events, Steak fries, Lunch Bunch, everything and anything you do. This will help us help others by obtaining critical grants to help us move our programs forward. These grants help support our financial awards for hunger projects performed by divisions as well as our national membership growth awards. A fine example of one such event was the Albany / Rochester recent virtual 15 K for Hibernian Hunger. Twenty-eight thousand people were fed by the \$4,250 raised; 28,000 people + the participants + the workers. WOW. One event, almost 30,000 people involved and impacted. Great work, Brothers!

I ask that you, and every Hibernian, help us also finish strong with a great effort on the **Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal**. Supporting our clergy is a founding principle of our Ancient Order. During our humble beginnings we were formed to protect our clergy from physical harm. Today, we protect our clergy by supporting those called to serve the Lord through a very healthy process of discernment during their time in the seminary or religious studies. This program, founded under Past President Ed Wallace, is approaching its 25th year. Let's try to make our mark, finish strong with 100 percent division participation during this milestone anniversary year. Our goal is a \$500 scholarship from every division and two \$500 scholarships from larger divisions and boards. Each scholarship can be a name recognition to honor the work of your Division or Board Chaplain or possibly a deceased member or friend of the Hibernians.



treasurer's report

By *Liam McNabb*

Special Report

Why have a State Convention?

As last year brought us a National Convention, though virtual, 2021 is a State Convention year. That means states, large and small, will schedule and organize conventions for the purpose of conducting the important business of the Order.

If your state does not normally have a convention, I hope you'll seriously consider taking steps toward finding a host site and a committee to make this a reality. The benefits to the membership and organizers far outweigh the work and challenges of pulling an event together.

The business of the Order at the National, State, County and Division levels has continued during COVID and we hope conventions will be another way to demonstrate this critical work as we invest in our future. At state conventions, the board convenes a general session for discussion and decisions, as needed. It is also an opportunity for



vice president's report

By *Sean Pender*

In February the National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was thrilled to announce a new partnership and sponsorship with our good friends from Irish Central. The Irish Heritage Tree, this exciting venture will give our members the opportunity to connect with and be a real part of Ireland.

The initial project was launched last December by Irish Central and the Tree Council of Ireland. It offers what Irish actor Liam Neeson, an early supporter of the project, has called "an excellent idea that allows members of the Irish Diaspora to plant a tree deep in the soil of Ireland for loved and remembered ones."

We are excited to offer this to our membership. Irish Central has extended a 10 percent discount to our members with a portion of the sales to go to the AOH National Board to continue the good work of our Order, for that we are very thankful. Simply apply AOH10 at checkout to receive discount. For more info, visit <https://www.irishheritagetree.com/>

So far many of our members enthusiastically have taken advantage of this offer. There is of course the heritage connection but there is also a strong positive environmental aspect to this project, which appeals to many and helps us all. What always impresses me about our members is whether they were born in Ireland or if their parents were born in Ireland or if many generations removed, they are so proud of their Irish heritage. This is a great opportunity to connect to Ireland and offers a very special and emotional way to celebrate, recognize and memorialize loved ones. More information also on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2khm7RUtbk>

Let's hope that with Easter celebrated, spring here and vaccines in arms we can get back to a more normal schedule of events, meetings and progress. Thanks to the leadership of our Order, we now have more content than ever before on our website and YouTube page. Please make sure our division leadership use these tools to promote our heritage, faith and beliefs locally.

Thanks to all who contributed to the 2020-2021 Label Program; a full recap in my next Digest article. Special thanks to all who added notes regarding the program and ideas for the future evolution of this important fundraiser.

www.irishheritagetree.com
USE: AOH10 at checkout

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

committee chairs (History, Charities & Missions, Hibernian Hunger, etc.) to share their respective work with the group.

One of the most popular features of all state conventions are the "breakout" committee meetings where the chairs host and facilitate discussions related to the topic (Pro-Life, FFAI, Political Education, etc.). This is great opportunity to meet Brothers with similar interests as well as hear from committee chairs who are likely experienced with specific topics.

Of course, as with all important business, new board officers are nominated and elected at the convention. Even if the convention is one day or one afternoon, there are opportunities for socializing at lunch, dinner or while enjoying music later in the evening.

All in all, conventions bring us together in more ways than one and fosters true Brotherhood and camaraderie. The benefits are countless once someone has participated in one convention, he will always be a "convention goer."

Members can attend other state's conventions to not only enjoy the experience but to see how they operate. If you or your state is interested in exploring organizing a convention and need help or more information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly to get you started.

Stay healthy, there are better days ahead.



secretary's report

By JERE COLE

The Year Ahead

We are now well into the new year of 2021. I am happy to report there are fewer than 30 divisions that have not paid their per capita as of this writing and while that is sub optimal, it is a vast improvement over last year. A quick reminder if you are one of those who still need to pay: you will owe the full \$16 per member, as the discount for prompt payment is no longer available. And very importantly if you have not paid your per capita you will not be permitted to participate in your state's convention this summer.

Hopefully by now you have noticed and have had the opportunity to use our expanded online roster tool, which now permits the updating of Division Officers (Form 9). There is no need to send a Form 9 in to the office.

In April, this Form 9 capability will be expanded to include County and State Boards so they too will not need to forward paper forms to the National Office.

Important reminder!

We receive the occasional request to change an address directly from a member. While we are happy to accommodate, remember it is the responsibility of the Division Financial Secretary to make all such changes. Please be sure to notify your financial secretary of any changes to your record and he will be able to change the record in the national database.

Ordering supplies, medallions, lapel pins, etc.

Now with the convention season approaching is the perfect time to review your inventory and see if you need to order any pins, medallions or supplies for your division. The easiest way to order supplies is to download our ordering form from AOH.com and then complete and either mail or email to us in the National Office. Please include your check for materials purchased. Many ask if there is another method of payment and unfortunately at this time the answer is no. We are working to facilitate alternate payment methods and hope to have something later this year.

Please note that there is a flat \$7 shipping and handling charge for each order.

Please be specific when ordering officer medallions and ribbons. The blue ribbon denotes Division, the Green is for County the white is for a State officer, and lastly "Gold" denotes National Office.

Always include your check with the order. Most orders are filled within 48 hours, many sooner.



Director's report

By ED HALLIGAN

It is great to see many Divisions and State Boards meeting consistently; some virtual, some in person and others in a hybrid format. This may be the future of all our meetings. Combining a virtual with an in-person meeting saves time and travel. It has the capability to reach members that have too far to travel, that do not want to drive at night, that may be sick or incapacitated or are not motivated that night.

If you are one of the few Divisions that have not taken advantage of any aspect of the virtual meeting, at least try. It will not be perfect in the beginning. Your first virtual meetings won't get nominated for a Golden Globe award. We started with our National Convention and have continued through the present and will into the future.

The downside of virtual is that camaraderie takes a hit. Hopefully, as we come into State Convention season, we will see gatherings that will lift our spirits. Soon I will be receiving my second Covid shot. I hope that most of us will be vaccinated in the next couple of months. I am looking forward to attending State Conventions and any belated St. Patrick Day events.

National, and you

The National AOH has been putting out webinars, meetings, events and information to all the members. Past webinars can be found on YouTube. During Irish Heritage Month great ads for the AOH were initiated and many interesting topics were covered along with beautiful Masses. If you did not know about them or did not have access, get together with your Division President. He should be aware of all National online events and webinars. If he is not receiving, he should find out why. There could be several reasons. Your State Board may be able to help.

Charity and recruiting

The past several months hurt many of the ways we used to run our charitable events but did create new types of charity drives. Many Divisions are online combining charity and recruiting drives. Some ideas include drop-off donations of coats, gloves, blankets, diapers, baby formula, slightly used clothing and collection of toothpaste, soap, lotions, deodorant, etc. Advertise what you are doing and list the division contact who will return calls and emails of all prospects.

Update

As we continue to try and contact every member, please make sure that your email is up to date with National. When you finish reading my article, think about messages you should have received from the National Board. If you do not remember receiving any, more than likely the Secretary's office does not have your current email. Ask your Division Financial Secretary to update your contact info.

Lackadaisical websites

It is a shame that so many Divisions are active, but their websites are not. In these waning days of Covid19 get together with or find a webmaster that can update your websites. Many applications are coming through the National website. If your Division has an active and more importantly an updated website, you will attract more attention than you are now.



national chaplain's report

By REV. JOHN KEEBNER

Easter, a time of renewal and rejoicing

What a difference a year can make. Last year, we celebrated the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord in empty churches. The pandemic had a negative impact on so many aspects of our lives, including our ability to come together as a people to celebrate the Paschal Mysteries.

This year, as I celebrated the Sacred Triduum—those three days beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ending with the Evening of Easter Sunday, I was filled with a renewed sense of gratitude, a renewed sense of what it means for me to be a priest and pastor, and, indeed, what it means for me to be a Christian. Celebrating these sacred liturgies with a crowd of the faithful (albeit, smaller, socially distanced and masked crowds) helped to renew in me a sense of wonder at the mysteries of God's love for me and for all of us. Our experience of suffering, illness and death over the last year — death for so many of our members due to the coronavirus, the death of parishioners and friends, even the death of my own mother in November due to other reasons — proved to be a poignant reminder to me not only of the reality of the Cross of Jesus but also of the great hope we have in his resurrection.

In my homily on Good Friday, I stated: "As we endure the Cross of isolation, the Cross of boredom, the Cross of fear of the unknown in these uncertain times, perhaps we might consider the Cross of Jesus in a different light. Perhaps we might consider how our isolation over the last year especially has allowed us the opportunity over the last year to let go of those false idols of our lives — how it might allow us to begin to understand once again what is important and what is not. As we endure the Cross of fear, perhaps we might choose instead to embrace the hope for which the Cross of Jesus stands, giving witness to the light, the life, the eternal kingdom which is our hope as sharers in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by virtue of our baptism. Perhaps we might take the time consider how we have taken one another for granted, how we have taken the Eucharist for granted, something we can see only after a prolonged deprivation of being able to gather together in our churches to share in the body and blood of Christ physically."

My prayer for each of us as we continue to celebrate the Season of Easter, this month of Sundays, is that we will recognize the death and resurrection of the Lord in the context of our own lives and that in doing so we will be sources of renewal not only for our Order and for our families but also, perhaps more importantly, for our world — a world which is starving for God's love — a world which yearns for the hope and the healing that we find only in the person of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you.



Director's report

By RAY LYNCH

Brothers, as we recently passed through Irish Heritage Month, it was great to attend most of the offerings our National Board had on the calendar of events. I was also privileged to walk in the Brevard County Division's annual St Patrick's Day parade in Melbourne FL with fellow National Director Tim McSweeney representing the National Board and the State Board of Florida.

During the past few months, I was invited to attend both North Carolina and Georgia's State Board Zoom calls. It is an awesome way to stay connected with our Brothers across the States with Zoom, but I am very anxious to get past this "lock down" and to be able to visit the States in my region. Communicating by text, email and phone is great, but I cannot wait to get out and shake some hands. Hopefully, with all the new vaccines out there, this will come to fruition sometime in the near future.

I will be traveling up to East Durham, New York, for the New York State annual golf outing and State Board meeting at the end of April. There will also be a testimonial dinner for the New York State AOH and LAOH Presidents during the weekend as well.

In closing, I am sending prayers for continued safety and health rolling out of pandemic mode, and I am looking forward to the months ahead with the challenges of growing and strengthening the Order.

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....

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."



Director's Report

By *Tim McSweeney*

The Spirit of St. Patrick was not diminished in New York despite many events being cancelled due to COVID-19. Many divisions were still able to hold Masses and host scaled-down celebrations. With covid restrictions loosening up daily, many events are being rescheduled to later in the year.

NY Hibernians are slowly getting back to business; many divisions are beginning to finally meet in person.

Many divisions continue to feed the hungry in their communities throughout the pandemic. Many divisions have continued to volunteer man hours at local food pantries and soup kitchens, as well as assisting at large scale food distribution sites run by Catholic Charities.

The enduring tradition of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade did not waiver to the pandemic. Brothers in New York County proudly carried their banner, in a scaled down parade up 5th Avenue as they have since the 1800s.

The New State Spring Meeting is scheduled to be held on May 1st at 10 a.m. at the Shamrock House in East Durham, in the Catskills Mountains. The following day, State Chaplin Fr. Henry Reid will celebrate Mass at the Mass Rock on the grounds of the Michael J. Quill Irish Center in East Durham. The Mass Rock is maintained by and was donated to the Irish Center by Greene County Division 2.

The New York State AOH/LAOH State Convention will be held July 8-11 at the Syracuse Downtown Marriott in Syracuse NY. For information on room and package reservations, please go to www.nys2021syr.com



In front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, from left, Sean Claffey, Kevin Grennen, Tom Bernie, John Fisher and Matt McFarland.



Director's Report

By *Bob Mehrens*

Recruitment and retention!

The number one priority of our Order is recruiting new members and retaining the ones we have. We have just wrapped up Irish American Heritage Month and this is always the time of year we receive the most interest in membership. Now the most important part of this is follow up. I have learned over the years the importance of getting the application into the division and installing those new members before the summer when business slows down. We tend to overthink recruitment, if every member of every division recruits just one new brother we can continue to build the future of the AOH. Out here in the west we have seen a great interest in the AOH, not only from existing divisions and states, but we are currently working to plant our roots in some new areas in the western states. I would like to thank all of our brothers in the west for their diligence in recruitment and the continued hard work you do for the good of the Order.

The most exciting part of the summer is planning and attending State Conventions. The time and effort put in by the State Boards and their committees, as many of you know, is at times difficult, but when it all comes together extremely rewarding. Again, thank you all for your efforts. Along the lines of State Conventions, the Montana State Board will have a bigger venue than normal this year as we plan to have a Major Degree team installed. National Vice President Sean Pender, along with Ritual and Degrees chairman Jack Schneider, have tasked Montana's Mike O'Connor and myself with forming a Major Degree team in the west, and my fellow brothers in Montana are rising to the challenge. The Montana State Convention will be held in Butte on September 17-18 at the Copper King Hotel.



Director's Report

By *Richard Thompson*

Another St. Patrick's season has passed and again we had to endure cancelled parades and activities or subdued or abbreviated events. Yet that has never stopped us as Hibernians from reveling in our Irish Heritage. Many Divisions have had take-out corned beef and cabbage dinners, held online events and met in small groups where permitted. The National Board did its part with a huge online presence during the month of March.

In late February, the Massachusetts State Board held their quarterly meeting virtually and made many noteworthy charitable donations. Some of the recipients were the FFAI Christmas Appeal, Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, a donation to Catholic TV, and the renewal of sponsorship to the Boston Irish Tourism Board. The Board is still in discussion with the LAOH State Board regarding the upcoming State Convention. At this time, it appears the Convention will be going virtually as it is scheduled for the first weekend in June. The Connecticut State Board also held their meeting in late February and it was also conducted virtually. They are happy to report that all Divisions in the State were able to contribute to the FFAI Christmas Appeal this year, something that had not been done in a few years. Many Divisions have been reaching out to their political representatives in an effort to build up a rapport.

Division 1 Newport Rhode Island held elections for officers and would be installing them in late January. Division 1 (Manchester, New Hampshire) has helped out at a local food pantry/ soup kitchen throughout the pandemic and, unfortunately, their St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Our Hibernian Family suffered a great loss: Past Immediate Massachusetts State President Paul Hogan passed away after suffering a stroke and other related complications. Paul was an important part of the Western Massachusetts Irish Community as well as a major part of the Massachusetts State Board; his presence will be missed by many around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

I was able to attend, at the invitation of Hartford, CT, Division 2 President Mike Enright, a Commemoration of the 400 Irish Immigrant Canal Workers in Windsor Locks that dug that canal along the Connecticut River in 1820s and '30s. Many of them rest in an unmarked graveyard. It is Division 2's plan to make this an annual event and to erect a permanent Memorial.

Many Divisions in the region have heard the message from the National Board to remain as active as you can under your local restrictions. Many Divisions continue to hold food drives, blood drives and support their parishes. It is what we do as Hibernians. It always makes me proud when I see the good work our Order does for others.

I continue to filter membership applications down to the State Organizers and Divisions as I received them from the National Organizer's Office. I thank those Brothers who have assisted me in this work.

The vaccinations seem to be picking up and I hope this means a return to something that resembles normal. We have state conventions on the horizon, immigration issues beginning to move in the new administration, The Brits and Brexit, our continued monitoring of legacy issues in the North and the ultimate goal of Irish unity.

Continue to be safe and healthy, please check on a Hibernian Brother or Sister you have not heard from or seen in a while. We are all in this together after all.



Director's Report

By *Sean O'Dowd*

Irish American Heritage month, St. Patrick's Day and Easter Sunday were wonderful celebrations, and now I'm looking to spring and what could be an exceptional time for the AOH. There seems to be a lifting of restrictions and as the economy opens up we have an opportunity to look at how we have conducted business in the past in order to make improvements going forward.

The key to our continued success is that officers and members know the goals and objectives of the AOH. For starters, review the 2020 edition of the Blue Book, our handbook with officer's duties and suggestions on how to properly run a meeting. It's important for our general membership to assist their President and Officers in running productive, informative and fun meetings while the group is gathered. Interesting meetings, discussions and participation leads to continued attendance and membership retention.

Our Order has a large umbrella with many facets. It may not be possible or probable for every member to participate in or get behind everything we support. However, ask yourself "What is it that drew me to our noble Order?" Act on that! Divisions across the country are looking for current and new members to step-up and chair a committee, volunteer at a Division-sponsored event and spread the word of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians throughout the community. Think about what skill set you could bring to your Division (I.T., event planning, community outreach, partnering, fund raising, social media, PR, membership networking, etc.). All contributions of your talents and expertise, big and small, are very helpful.

Did you know, there are 14 official National committees, such as Freedom For All Ireland, Immigration, Veterans Affairs and Catholic Action. Each Division technically also has these same committees, but many are in name only and are not active. I invite you to contact our National Committee Chairmen (see AOH Officers List on page 5 of this Digest) and see how your division can assist them in achieving their goals. Our Worthy President, the National Officers and the Committee Chairmen have a lot of irons in the fire and are counting on your help in making these projects successful.



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Rev. John Keehner..... Chaplain..... jekeehner@yahoo.com
Rev. Michael Healy..... Chaplain..... hibhealy@hotmail.com

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

Daniel J. O'Connell..... President..... djoconnell@ysu.edu
Sean Pender..... Vice President..... paddyspeed@yahoo.com
Jere Cole..... Secretary..... jcole4838@gmail.com
Liam McNabb..... Treasurer..... liammcnabb@hotmail.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Timothy McSweeney..... National Director NY..... newjack12007@yahoo.com
Raymond Lynch..... National Director..... irishyankeenut@yahoo.com
FL, GA, SC, NC, TN, AL, LA
Edward Halligan..... National Director..... emhalli2@comcast.net
PA, NJ, DE, OH, WV, MD, DC, VA
Sean O'Dowd..... National Director..... seanodowd@aoh.org
IL, MI, IN, WI, MN, IA, MO, KY
Richard H. Thompson..... National Director..... rthomp521@comcast.net
MA, ME, NH, VT, CT, RI
Robert E. Mehrens..... National Director..... meetah2@hotmail.com
MT, WA, OR, CA, NE, CO, AZ, NM, TX, OK

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Daniel Taylor..... Historian / Archivist..... dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Timothy McSweeney..... Organizer..... newjack12007@yahoo.com
John O'Connell..... Editor Hibernian Digest..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin, Esq..... FFAI Chairman..... mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
Patrick Ryan..... Charities and Missions..... patrick@rivierstad.com
Ron Hagan..... Catholic Action..... rhagan@haganpcpa.com
Larry Squires..... Pro-Life..... lsquires@descomm.com
Dan Deviney..... National Legal Counsel..... dpd@devineylaw.com
Neil Cosgrove..... Political Education..... ncosgrov@optonline.com
Danny Eakins..... Veterans Affairs..... dannyeakins@hotmail.com
Tom Lambert..... Immigration..... tomlambert12@aol.com
Chris Cooke..... Digital Coordinator..... chris@chriscooke.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Jack Schneider..... Rituals & Degrees..... jack1515@aol.com
Bill Sullivan..... Hunger - Irish Way..... williamjsullivan@verizon.net
Study Abroad Scholarships
Keith Reynolds..... Deputy Organizer/Online apps..... hiberniancop@gmail.com
Mississippi, Arkansas
Joe Casey..... Deputy Organizer/At large..... qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Kansas
Pat Lally..... Deputy Catholic Action..... lally8404@hotmail.com
open..... Deputy PEC Irish American Heritage.....
open..... Deputy PEC Anti-Defamation.....
Jim Green..... Deputy Veteran's Affairs..... seamus.green317@gmail.com
Jeff Nisler..... Deputy DC/Webmaster..... jeff.aoh@nisler.com

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Judge James McKay..... Immediate Past President..... jfmaoh@me.com
2016-2020 / Oversights
Brendan Moore..... 2012-2016 / FFAI Committee..... brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle..... 2008-2012 / Political Education..... shayboyle@gmail.com
Jack Meehan..... 2006-2008 / NA..... meehanaoh1@aol.com
Ned McGinley..... 2002-2006 / Political Education Committee..... nedaoh1@aol.com
Edward J. Wallace..... 1994-1998 / Catholic Action Committee..... ewallac2@twcnr.com
George Clough..... 1990-1994 / Veterans Committee..... BookODays@aol.com
Nick Murphy..... 1986-1988 / Constitution Committee..... upkerry@optonline.net

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Judge James McKay..... Oversight Committee Chairman..... jfmaoh@me.com
Dennis Parks..... Oversight Committee..... dparks@yahoo.com
John Wilson..... Oversight Committee..... johnj_wilson@yahoo.com

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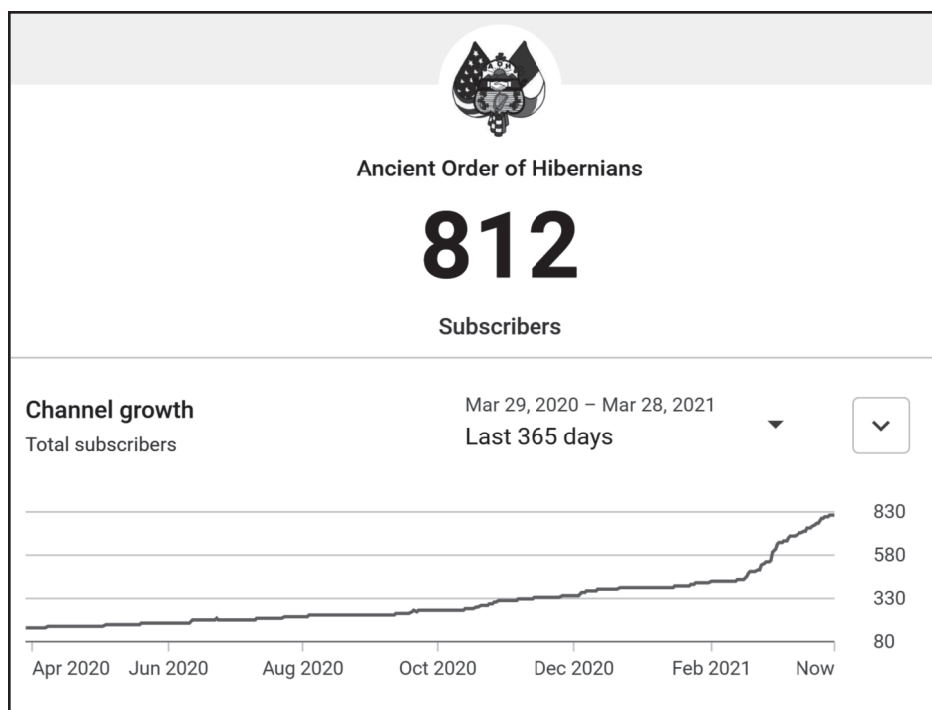


Digital Coordinator

By CHRIS COOKE, Chairman

At the beginning of January 2020 our YouTube channel had just reached 100 subscribers. With the shift toward virtual events over this last year we have been focusing on building our YouTube channel and set a goal to reach 1,000 subscribers by the end of this year. Thanks to the success of our Irish-American Heritage Month Program, we are already well on the way of meeting this goal with more than 250 new subscribers in the month of March alone. If you missed any of the presentations they are available to watch on our YouTube channel or on our website at <https://aoh.com/IAHM2021/>

If you have not already subscribed to our YouTube channel please do so at <https://www.youtube.com/c/AncientOrderofHibernians> by pressing the subscribe button and clicking on the bell to receive notifications. Similar to liking our page on Facebook, this helps YouTube know to show you the videos we publish and helps increase the ranking of our videos. If you find a video particularly interesting and would like to let others know about it, you can use the Share button to share it through Facebook, Twitter or email.



Beware of online fraud!

Internet fraud comes in many forms. The FBI reported 791,790 complaints of internet fraud in 2020, with losses exceeding \$4.2 billion. All individuals — from the rich and famous to retired elderly individuals — have been targeted. Organizations are not immune from attack either. The perpetrators of these crimes are becoming shrewder so we, their potential victims, need to be more vigilant.

The type of fraud depends on the intended target. Most are designed to get you to divulge personal information or send money in some form or another. Some of the more common types include the romance scam, phishing scams and ransomware scams. Phishing is the most common, probably because it is the most successful. It is done in the name of organizations asking for donations to a cause and individuals asking for help for a trusted friend.

Keys to possible phishing include wrong sender e-mail addresses, typographical errors or misspellings and defects in organization trademarks or logos. The email may contain an impersonal greeting like "Dear Customer" or "Dear [your email address]." It may ask you to click on an attachment leading to a false website designed to capture your personal information. Often the communication will convey a false sense of urgency.

The cyber-criminal is looking to take advantage of the victim's natural tendencies and emotional reactions to act first and think later. The techniques they use have become more sophisticated and the message may appear to come from a trusted person — like an AOH officer. So, the first thing you should do if you encounter a suspicious email is to slow down. Consider if this is the type of email the sender would normally send. Is the sender an individual who would send an email asking for financial help or would you expect a personal call? If it purports to be from an organization, have they ever asked for donations using mediums like gift cards, PayPal or Venmo before? It is always a good idea to verify the email and its content with the sender. You may be saving yourself, the sender and others a great deal of trouble. Remember the old mantra: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

The Officers of the AOH will never ask you to send gift cards or money to them via email.

Also protect your personal information by remembering computer basics.

Avoid unfamiliar websites and links with a short URL. Keep your firewall on and your antivirus software and anti-spyware up to date. Use VPNs and avoid public WIFI. Lastly, turn your computer off when not in use.



pro life

By LARRY SQUIRES, chairman

Jesus Christ is risen, Alleluia!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is a great opportunity to consider our rich Hibernian tradition of protecting the clergy and religious, as well as church buildings, and, therefore, being Pro "Spiritual" Life. Through his resurrection, Jesus shows his disciples that there is in fact life after death. During the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, there was no clear Jewish doctrine on afterlife. This is apparent as we hear from St. Paul in Acts 23:6-8, "Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; [I] am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three."

In Luke, chapter 10, we hear Jesus give instruction on eternal life. "There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" The scholar said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

And when asked who is my neighbor, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. We all know the story of the Good Samaritan, but the story also has an appropriate application for our neighbors who have fallen into harm's way and are in grave danger of suffering eternal spiritual death. Just like the man who was beaten and robbed in the story of the Good Samaritan, our neighbors are as close as arm's length, we need to stop and show them care and compassion, administer first aid, provide transportation and lodging, and develop relationships with them.

When we volunteer for Pro Life prayer vigils, the women we see entering abortion clinics are in many ways like the man who was beaten and left for dead. But instead of being physically abused and abandoned, the women looking to abort their babies have been abused with lies about abortion and spiritually abandoned, and are likely to suffer spiritual death, without intervention from people who want to bring them to the light of goodness, truth and life. This is what drives pro-lifers to volunteer their time on the sidewalks across our country and the world. They are not at all condemning women seeking abortions, but gravely concerned about the death of their unborn babies and the danger of their spiritual consequence. In addition to prayer vigils and sidewalk intervention for spiritual support, women in troubled pregnancies frequently have critical temporal needs, and like the Good Samaritan, pro-lifers provide resources and are always ready and able to step in and help. If you Google Mary's Place or Women's Shelter, local homes for women in need will be listed and the types of support they need. Caring for our neighbors isn't just a good idea, it's a requirement for our eternal life.

If you are not getting our monthly Pro Life newsletter, please send me an email at: lspittcmf@gmail.com and I'll put you on the list. May God bless all of you and your families! Happy Easter!



catholic action

By RON HAGAN, chairman

As we continue through the spring season after Lent and Easter, we are starting with a fresh outlook on our thoughts, actions and goals toward life and how we can be helpful in our parishes and community. As Hibernians we are always there to help a Brother or Sister in time of need.

As part of our National President Danny O'Connell's goal is to have Hibernian Brothers and Sisters express their activities that they are involved within the parish and community to other Brothers and Sisters through all sources of communication, including the Hibernian Digest, as part of our Catholic Action awareness. Thus, spreading the good ideas that our Brothers and Sisters are doing will inspire others to step up to the plate and act in similar ways.

Please keep this thought in mind when you have a special project that you are working on with your parish or community that could be extremely helpful to others. We would love to hear from you. It even could be a novel idea that could be an article for the Hibernian Digest. Enjoy the spring season.

Note from the Editor...

As much as we wanted to use every item submitted for this issue, space constraints prevented us from doing so. If your article didn't make it in, please re-submit it by June 1 for the next issue, unless it will be seriously out of date by July.



freedom for all ireland

By MARTIN GALVIN, chairman

Ballymurphy verdict will test British justice

Beginning at 4 a.m. on Monday, August 9, 1971, 3,000 British troopers swooped across the north, battering through the doors of those picked by the crown for internment. More than three hundred were taken the first day, to be held without charge or trial. Some were hooded and tortured.

Thirteen people would be shot down by British troopers in Belfast between the 9th and 11th of August, and another in Armagh. The murder victims included two children, 14 and 15, a Catholic priest administering last rites, and two women.

In Ballymurphy alone the paratroop regiment killed 11 in the "Ballymurphy Massacre." The British then whitewashed these murders by rubberstamping the killings and smearing the victims. Like Bloody Sunday, they made the dead guilty and the killers innocent.

The AOH will be watching the verdict closely and studying what the verdict says about British troops and British justice.

For 50 years, these families have fought to have their loved ones exonerated by an inquest, with eyewitnesses and cross-examination of anyone claiming these killings were justified. They have suffered repeated delays, jibes about "innocent victims" from DUP head Arlene Foster, and the deliberate cutoff of inquest funding. These courageous families have overcome every roadblock and now, at last, hope to get the justice and truth they have been so long denied.

On May 11, Justice Keegan will announce the findings of the inquest. The Ballymurphy Massacre is a fundamental test of Britain's ability to give legacy justice. If victims cannot get justice, where 11 people, including a Catholic priest and mother of eight children, were killed by British troops, how can we expect justice in any killings or collusion murders where British forces were involved?

Since August 1971 the Ballymurphy Massacre families maintained that 11 people, including Fr. Hugh Mullan, and Joan Connolly, mother of eight, were murdered over a three-day period. While the inquest will make findings about the 10 victims who were shot, an eleventh victim, Paddy McCarthy, died of a heart attack caused by being brutalized.

The AOH stands behind these families in their courageous battle for justice. Our current and past National Presidents, Danny O'Connell and Judge Jim McKay, personally visited Ballymurphy to be briefed by campaign leader John Teggart and other victims' relatives. A 39-member AOH delegation attended sessions of the inquest. We hosted a national American tour by campaign representative Carmel Quinn, and we have been a part of other American visits by campaign representatives.

The AOH will be watching the verdict closely and studying what the verdict says about British troops and British justice.

Americans hear Legacy Justice appeal

By Martin Galvin

More than 3,500 family members, fighting for truth about loved ones murdered during the conflict, appealed for Irish American support on a live webinar hosted by Hibernians. The event was highlighted by two family representatives, Poinlin Quinn and Jim Clinton, joined by Sinn Fein Policing and Justice spokesperson Gerry Kelly and Relatives for Justice Director Mark Thompson. Leading members of Irish American groups, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ad Hoc Committee to Protect the Good Friday Agreement, Irish American Unity Conference, Brehon Society and Irish Northern Aid backed the appeal.

The Speakers

Mark Thompson said that the open letter signed by 3,500 family members when published in newspapers, was now joined by more than 4,000 children — not even born when family members were murdered — who were demanding justice.

During decades of conflict, British forces had impunity and those with family members killed by British forces or agents had a fear of being targeted if they dared to speak out. Families began to campaign, or use inquests or other legal avenues to get the truth, but were deliberately blocked. The British changed the rules and moved goalposts to keep a lid on the real nature of the role of its forces during the conflict.

"Six years after an international agreement between the Irish and British governments, Britain wants to renege. These families are today appealing for American support to make Britain keep its word."

Tyrone

Poinlin Quinn's brother, John Quinn, was murdered at Boyle's Bar, in Cappagh, County Tyrone, with Malcolm Nugent, Dwayne O'Donnell and Thomas Armstrong on March 3, 1991, with weapons linked to a number of other collusion murders in East Tyrone.

She and other family members want to know "why their relatives were targeted for

continued on page 10

Our Preamble

Let's recall and reflect on why we became Brothers in this noble Order. We are the Ancient Order of Hibernians, not just an Irish club and not just a Catholic club. We are one voice, the voice of Irish America. Take a minute to remind yourself, what we stand for:

Here is the Preamble to the AOH National Constitution.

It is hereby declared that the purpose of this Organization, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., is:

To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community.

To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace with justice and unity for all Ireland.

To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people.

To promote Irish culture.

To encourage civic participation.

To encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration policy.

To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practices for the people of the world.

To protect all life born and unborn.



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

A sincere thanks to all Divisions who submitted their Hibernian Hunger awards applications. We received 33 applications from 14 states, and from the applications received, we can say that Divisions are doing a tremendous job using various approaches to tackle the problem of hunger in their communities. The Hibernian Hunger Committee reviewed the applications and found it exceedingly difficult to select the seven recipients of the 2021 Hibernian Hunger Recipients, because there were so many deserving Division Hunger Projects going on despite the pandemic. As in any award program, there can only be so many recipients. Here is a list of this year's award recipients.

Highest Award

Division 5 of Bucks County, Pennsylvania was selected as the recipient of the \$1,000 Hibernian Hunger Award.

Division 5 began a food pantry six years ago in a building donated by four members of Division 5. The food pantry was named HOPE 101. HOPE 101 is used as a food storage facility and a venue where Division 5 AOH and LAOH members prepare and serve dinner to the local homeless and needy. The homeless and needy are brought to HOPE 101 in buses facilitated by the Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need. (AHTN) A core group of 30 plus Division 5 members work at HOPE 101 performing various tasks. During the pandemic due to government regulations, boxed meals were either prepared or purchased and the AHTN picked up the meals and delivered them to the needy. Food is delivered to local food banks on the first Wednesday of each month.

To help fund HOPE 101, Division 5 annually runs a golf outing with AOH Division 2 of Newtown, as well as a Fall Irish Fest. The proceeds from these events are used to purchase non-perishable food for distribution to local food banks and for meals made at HOPE 101. Donations are also made to HOPE 101 by three other AOH Bucks County Divisions. They are: Division 1, Bristol; Division 2 in Newtown and Division 3 in Doylestown.

Outstanding Divisions

Six other Divisions were selected to receive \$500 grants each. They were the Father Donnelly Division of Johnson County, Kansas; the Father Abram J. Ryan Division of Louisville, Kentucky; the Saint Patrick Division 2 of Babylon, New York; the Monsignor John J. Lee Division of Elmira, New York; the Father Flanagan Division 1 of Omaha, Nebraska; and Division 39, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In future Hibernian Digest articles, we will share how each of these Divisions are tackling hunger in their communities.

Our sincere congratulations and thanks to the officers and members of the seven Divisions who received our 2021 Hibernian Hunger Awards; to the Divisions who filed their Annual Hibernian Hunger Reports; and to Divisions who are attempting to combat hunger in their local areas.

A perfect Division project

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards will involve Division Hibernian Hunger Projects that will take place between January 1 – December 31, 2021. Reports on these projects must be filled by February 15, 2022. Now would be the perfect time, if you have not already done so, to plan and implement a Hunger related activity for your Division before the end of 2021. Your project just might well be one of the recipients next year!

In future Digest articles and Web Blasts, we want to highlight your Division's efforts to fight hunger. Please email me a short article on an activity your Division is doing or has done. When available, photos are most welcome, too.

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



from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

National Director Sean O'Dowd makes an important point in his column in this issue. He urges us to remember that we all have something to contribute to our Hibernian meetings and, indeed, to our Division's activities.

There is a tendency in any organization to let the officers do all the thinking, make all the plans, come up with all the ideas... and do all the work. That's how organizations wind up with a small percentage of the membership doing 100 percent of the activities. Those few members may eventually get burned out, start "sitting in the back" or not coming to meetings anymore. Worse, newer members, having never been asked to use their talents and expertise to make the meetings, programs and activities better, are then left untrained, unmotivated and without the experience to lead. So brothers, you will enjoy your membership in the Order a lot more if you participate in your meetings, volunteer ideas for fundraisers and good works, and be one of the Hibernians who live your friendship, unity and Christian charity.

National Treasurer Liam McNabb also has a valuable column in this issue. It's about the importance of attending your state convention. New Hibernians naturally think their Division is the AOH, and they're right in the sense that the Division level is where the grass roots work of the Order gets done. Division leadership motivates, recruits, trains and inspires every member. But I am a big believer in the benefit that all Hibernians, from new to Life Members, derive from attending state (and national) conventions, being with their brothers from all across their state, listening to what other Divisions do and how they develop and achieve their goals. The social aspects of conventions and state board meetings are fun, and the opportunity to learn from committed state leaders in all areas of the Order reveals a wider scope to our activities. Our pride in being a Hibernian grows ever stronger the more we realize how broad and deep the AOH is. Please consider attending your state convention.

Hibernians 101

In a few places in this issue — and in every issue for the foreseeable future — you'll see information labelled Hibernians 101. These articles provide some basic knowledge about what it means to be a Hibernian, some of the benefits of being a member, the purposes and history of the Order, info about our many committees, and the meanings of some of the jargon we use. I'll soon include what I'm calling The Hibernian Glossary. The Hibernians 101 articles are mainly for new brothers, although even more experienced Hibernians will benefit from the reminders. Feel free to write to me about topics you think should be included and explained for new members. Email editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com



irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

With spring here and summer just around the corner, the 2020–2021 academic year will soon pass into the history books. What a year it was! Certainly, schools and colleges worldwide have had to deal with challenges never before seen due to the pandemic. Though the vaccination process taking place has been slower than we all had hoped with its ups and downs, there is light at the end of the tunnel when life will return to a new normal. Travel will resume to and from Ireland and elsewhere. The question is when will this happen? Whenever travel restrictions and other issues are behind us, our scholarship initiatives will offer a once in a lifetime opportunity to our membership's children and grandchildren.

The AOH National Board offers one \$1,000 scholarship for the Irish Way Program. This year's dates are June 28 – July 22, and this summer's program and the 2022 program are limited to 25 students each. Naturally, the question arises, will the 2021 summer program actually take place? As this issue of the Digest goes to press, the Irish American Cultural Institute's Irish Way Coordinator tells us that they are still accepting applications and remain hopeful that the program will take place. Naturally under the present set of circumstances there are just too many unknown factors at this time to give a definitive answer. A decision on whether this year's IW program is a go or not is expected to be made in May.

Study Abroad

Due to the pandemic, the application deadline for submitting a scholarship application for our Study Abroad Scholarships has been extended and will be open until filled. We realize that many prospective Study Abroad applicants might be hesitant and undecided about traveling outside the U.S. for various reasons, and we totally understand. There is a strong possibility international study and travel in the spring of 2022 will be back on track, and some might want to study abroad then. By extending our application deadline, this will give prospective applicants more flexibility to apply for our scholarships. We are here to work with them to help make a study abroad experience possible. These scholarships are available for undergraduate and graduate studies in Ireland at a college or university.

Check out our website

Please check out the AOH National Website at aoh.com for more information on all National Board Scholarship opportunities. Among the items you will find is a direct link to the Irish Way Program website, various educational information sites on studying abroad in Ireland, and links for the Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarship applications.

Better days are ahead. Please stay safe, well, strong and POSITIVE! 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



anti-defamation

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

It is sad to report that even as our celebrations of St. Patrick's Day and our public expressions of pride in St. Patrick's Day were curtailed, sadly, the defamation of our proud heritage continued.

The prize must certainly go to Amazon, which continues to sell their "F(expletive) St. Patrick's Day" apparel along with items such as "I'm an Irish Girl, I speak Fluent Drunk," "Irish Today, Hung Over Tomorrow," etc. Remember that this is coming from a company that loudly bangs its chest as a "virtue warrior" and has removed hundreds of items that other heritages find objectionable. Frankly, we should be engaging in some introspection as to how these other groups can remove these items while Irish America accepts their heritage being defamed. The clear answer is they are calling, they are tweeting, and we are not.

Another sad example is that the Massachusetts Historical Society is running a presentation on Political Cartoonist Thomas Nast that also included a presentation on C-Span American History TV. The program extolled Thomas Nast as "the Father of the Political Cartoon," the creator of the elephant as the symbol of the GOP, the imagery of Columbia as a symbol of the United States, all of which is true. However, conspicuously absent was any mention of the fact that Thomas Nast throughout his life was a virulent anti-Irish, anti-Catholic bigot. In a bit of irony, this glowing tribute to Thomas Nast was going on contemporaneously with the announcement that several books of Dr. Seuss were being pulled from publication for using stereotypes of Chinese characters depicted with conical hats, their hair in queues, and with chopsticks and African characters portrayed as if in blackface. So think about that for a second: we are pulling books because Asian Americans are being depicted with chopsticks while lionizing a man who depicted Irish Americans as apes and is the father of many of the negative stereotypes of the Irish to this day.

Finally, on St. Patrick's Day, NBC Today Show personality Al Roker thought it appropriate on the day when many Irish Americans were saddened not to be able to recognize the day with their traditional celebrations of pride in their heritage to do his weather forecast while holding a pint glass of Guinness and putting on a Lucky Charms accent. To put it bluntly, it was "green face" and the lowest form of stage Irishmanism. Can you imagine if on this coming Cinco de Mayo he were to do his weather forecast talking like Speedy Gonzales while drinking a Corona? He likely would not be doing weather forecasts on TV for some time.

Accepting things like this does not show that you "are bigger" or have a better "sense of humor" than those who stand up for their heritage; it's a sign of a lack of self-pride and apathy. There is much to object to with Cancel Culture, but perhaps its most significant threat is that when you freely remove items objectionable to other groups while leaving only negative, defaming stereotypes targeting the Irish, you are then giving it a seal of approval and magnifying its negative message. In a culture where we freely remove objectionable things when we leave something objectionable because the subject is Irish, then the implication is it must be true.

We should strive to be remembered as the heritage that has produced nine signers of the Declaration of Independence, hundreds of recipients of the Medal of Honor, thousands of first responders, the heritage that built our railroads, tunnels and bridges. Or we can be the one heritage that it is safe to defame and denigrate. We can see St. Patrick's Day as a celebration of our faith and of the accomplishment of Irish American men and women, or let it be a time of street carnivals. The choice is up to you and your actions.

Hibernian Digest Staff Profile:

Digest Assistant Editor

Jerry Lonergan

Jerry Lonergan is proud to have served as President of Padraig Pearse Division 1 and is honored to be chairman of the region's committee seeking to bring the 2026 National Convention to Kansas City. In retirement, he writes, takes fine art classes and an occasional consulting contract. He recently ended full-time employment as the principal research economist at the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, a privately funded, CEO-led organization focused on enhancing the region's global competitiveness. Previously, in Topeka, Kansas, he successfully operated a research and consulting practice for six years, was president of Kansas' economic development think tank, and served as executive director of an electric utility consortium that, among other things, secured grants for and led efforts leading to the first public mapping of Kansas' wind resources.



He was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate from the University of Kansas MPA program in 1989, and has spoken at national conferences, taught college-level economics, and is a graduate of the FBI Citizens' Academy. With his wife, Nancy, a retired elementary teacher, Jerry is active in Prairie Village and the Queen of the Holy Rosary parish. In 2017, he completed the Marine Corps Marathon and now stays in shape chasing five grandchildren.



irish american heritage month

By Neil Cosgrove
chairman

For a second straight year, many of us were once again asked to forego our public celebrations of St. Patrick's Day out of concerns for public health. This was a matter of great concern, as the only time in many of our communities that there is discussion of the vital role that the Irish have played in our nation's story is during those celebrations (something we need to change!). Thankfully, with the support of worthy President O'Connell, the Ancient Order of Hibernians stepped up and put on one of our most comprehensive and far-reaching Irish American Heritage Month Campaigns to date.

We put out two videos for Irish American Heritage Month: one at the start of March, the other at the beginning of the week of St. Patrick's Day. The first video was viewed by 30,000 people, the second by 70,000! We significantly expanded our feature of profiling notable Irish American men and women, expanding to publish a profile every weekday; these reached thousands bringing much-needed attention to the history and stories that our schools often overlook. Finally, we had live webinars every weekend with prominent authorities speaking on topics from the life of Michael McGovern, "the Puddler Poet," to the role that Irish Americans played in the American Civil War. If you missed them, these videos are available for viewing on the National AOH YouTube Channel; please click the Subscribe option in the upper right of your screen to be notified of future events.

We should also recognize the creativity of many Divisions in thinking out of the box to celebrate Irish American Heritage Month within the constraints of COVID guidelines. A tip of the hat must go to the brothers of the Paul Hook O'Malley Division who staged a free drive-in movie of the The Quiet Man and Rudy, celebrating not only St. Patrick's Day, providing some a desperately needed, family-friendly night out during this time of social distancing. The brothers in Louisville created a promotion that supported their local Irish American businesses struggling to stay open; I am sure their efforts shall be remembered by the community long after Covid is a memory. Another example was a virtual parade by Div. 4, Suffolk County, NY, which not only celebrated our Patron Saint but was an effective recruitment and fundraising vehicle (proof that fulfilling our duty to our heritage also comes with tangible benefits!).

Finally, many States and Divisions did their best to "turn the U.S. map green" by having their states issue their own Irish American Heritage Month proclamations in support of our President's Proclamation.

2021 has to be our most effective implementation of Irish American Heritage month to date, yet we cannot be complacent. I don't think I need to detail the cultural upheaval currently going on in our society; the simple truth is if you think anyone else other than the Irish American community itself will remember and pass on our history culture to future generations, you are sadly mistaken. As Hibernians, we have a sworn obligation to promote our heritage, and Irish American Heritage Month is a national program unanimously adopted at our 2004 national convention. Yet, it is very disappointing to note the number of State, County and Division websites and social media assets that had no mention of Irish American Heritage Month or the extensive series of events that the National Board organized. Recognizing Irish American Heritage Month is not just the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do. The number of views and shares of our videos and Irish American profiles shows there is a tremendous interest in our heritage; those are potential members. We cannot look forward to a new generation of Hibernians if we do not instill pride in being of Irish heritage in the next generation.

As we enter State Convention season, I ask you to raise the issue of what your state leadership did to recognize and encourage Irish American Heritage Month and what their plans are locally to build upon our national program's success.

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."

HIBERNIANS 101

The Division

The division is the basic functioning unit of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. It is referred to as a division (not a chapter, assembly, group, district, lodge, etc.). A division is comprised of no fewer than 16 members. Each division has eight elected officers (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Standing Committee, Marshal and Sentinel). The National Constitution contains the officers appointed by the division president. The division president may appoint additional officers as he sees fit. (e.g., fundraising, parade, sports, ad hoc, etc.).

Should a division close for any reason, all funds and properties become the immediate superior board's property by virtue of the national constitution. All members of a closing division shall be assisted in securing admission to another division of his choice by transfer or be invited to become an at-large member if there isn't a division close to him.



political education

By neil cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, we currently have multiple Political Action initiatives. We have made requests of the new administration for the appointment of a Special Envoy for Northern Ireland; it is desperately needed as the situation in the north of Ireland deteriorates due to Brexit, imperiling the Good Friday Agreement. Several loyalist paramilitaries have recently renounced the GFA, and multiple sources report that they are being called on to act. This, combined with partition's upcoming sad anniversary, could set up a "perfect storm" scenario. Let us not forget our history: it was loyalist refusal to acknowledge the constitutionally enacted 1912 home rule bill and their creation of the first paramilitaries that set Ireland on a path of nearly 80 years of violence. It was the baton charging of the RUC and the failure to enact voting legislation in the north of Ireland that is the accepted bedrock of democracy that led to "The Troubles." Now it is the refusal of loyalists, who were ardent Brexit supporters, to abide by the Northern Ireland Protocol, a side effect of Brexit, that is imperiling the peace. If there was ever an example of history repeating itself, this is it. We as Americans can take just pride in facilitating the Good Friday Agreement and must make sure the history of violence does not reoccur. We need the boots on the ground that a Special Envoy provides.

However, this and other legislative changes, such as Right to Life and Immigration, cannot just be a National Board effort; there has to be action at every level of the Order and specifically at the State level. We were pleased to see a resolution in the Senate supported by Senator Menendez (D) and Senator Collins (R), indicating the Senate's support for the Good Friday Agreement and calling for its full implementation. This is important legislation. However, there is one issue: it was sponsored by only 14 senators, most from the Northeast coast. Where are the other 86? Are they saying that they feel peace in the north of Ireland and the GFA are not important? How much more powerful would this resolution have been if it showed strong support from Senators on both sides of the aisle representing the South, Middle America and the West? What a strong message it would send to Britain.

Where was your Senator? Did they sign? Did someone reach out in response to the call for action from the National Vice President?

Brothers, as Hibernians, we take pride in being the largest Catholic Irish American Organization in the United States. We should be able to deliver more than 14 senators on a resolution showing support for the Good Friday Agreement or any other initiative of the Order. We often get partisan comments by email and Facebook on why we work with "this legislator" or "that one." Here is my challenge: have you delivered yours? Do you take the 5 minutes to call your legislator on behalf of the Order when the call goes out? Has your state board developed a working relationship with your state senators?

By the time you read this, you will likely be preparing for your state conventions. It is critically important that we renew the commitment at every level of the organization to work together; our strength comes from that unity.



immigration

By tom lambert, chairman

Brothers, as was noted previously in this column, changes appear to be on the horizon regarding immigration. President Joe Biden made immigration reform a major issue in the recent election. True to his word, the comprehensive U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 was sent to Congress in February. However, the future of this massive proposal is far from certain. In the meantime, a piecemeal approach to immigration reform seems to have taken hold.

On March 18th, the House of Representatives approved HR 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021. This Bill looks to provide green cards as well as possible eventual citizenship to those who entered the U.S. as minors. The House also approved HR 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021. This Bill would grant legal status to farmworkers living in the U.S. without authorization. Both bills were sent to the Senate for further consideration. However, much like the comprehensive U.S. Citizenship Act, the fate of HR 6 and HR 1603 is less than certain. Other facets of immigration reform may very well need to be addressed in a similar piecemeal approach.

As is noted in the Preamble to our organization's Constitution, one of the goals of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is to "encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration Law for Ireland, and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy..." To this end, members of the AOH National Board, including our Worthy President Danny O'Connell and your Immigration Chairman, have met with former Irish Teachta Dala (TD) and Special Envoy to the U.S., John Deasy, in an ongoing effort to promote legislation which would rekindle immigration to and from Ireland. In addition to Mr. Deasy's extensive Irish political roots, the former Special Envoy has an equally extensive background in the goings on within Washington, D.C. This unique background allows Mr. Deasy the ability to open many doors in Congress. This ability to open doors can and will help shore up political support for AOH efforts to obtain an "equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland." For this reason, John Deasy has been hired by the Ancient Order of Hibernians to lobby for the passage of such a Bill.

In the coming months, there will be an urgent need to enlist the help of many of our AOH Brethren to contact their Representatives and Senators as an expected Irish related Immigration Bill is introduced. We will have the chance to begin the process of reversing the downward trend of legal Irish immigration over the last 50 years, as well as pursuing a goal outlined in our Constitution. I look forward to reporting on the successful adoption of this expected legislation.

LEGACY continued from page 7

murder. The British government had provided nothing but smokescreens, bad faith and dishonesty."

Ormeau Road

Jim Clinton's wife, Teresa, was murdered in their home off the Ormeau Road in Belfast in April 1994. Jim was upstairs when he heard loud bangs. He ran downstairs and found Loyalists had thrown a concrete block through his window, then shot Teresa at point blank range. The killers sped away but the Royal Ulster Constabulary, instead of following the killers, stopped outside his door.

Even today his children and grandchildren are grieving for their lost grandmother. It was very difficult to speak but was doing it because it was important for his family and all of the families to get the truth.

Gerry Kelly

Gerry Kelly noted that in December 2014 the British and Irish governments entered into the Stormont House Agreement, which offered bereaved families hope of legacy justice. They agreed to four new legacy bodies, including a Historical Investigations Unit, which could investigate controversial conflict killings, including those by British forces or collusion killings. It also proposed an Independent Commission on Information Retrieval, an Oral History Archive and an Implementation and Reconciliation Group.

None of these promises were kept. Kelly said, "the British know the truth, they just do not want to tell it," and asked Irish America to back the families.

The AOH

Former Congressman Bruce Morrison said that the Good Friday Agreement did not end with establishing a Stormont Assembly. It included a framework to resolve other issues, including legacy issues, and his committee would be working on that very closely.

Former Irish Senator Billy Lawless said it was important for everyone to hear and understand the stories of those seeking legacy justice. Peter Kissel of the Irish American Unity Conference pledged support.

The Ancient Order of Hibernian National Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin said:

"Some of these families have been fighting for the truth for more than 50 years. They think that Irish America is crucial to help make Britain keep its word on legacy justice. We must not let them down!"



Hibernians joined other leaders in support of 'Legacy Justice' in a January webinar, 'The Time for Truth.'



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.

Spotlight On At Large members

By Joe Casey

As mentioned in the last edition of the National Digest, men who live beyond a 60-mile radius of the closest division are able to join the Hibernians as At Large members. Our hope is that once they become members they can assist us in getting a division started in their county.

As an At Large member is initiated, I ask that they send me a short bio on themselves, including their Irish heritage and what drew them to the AOH. Here are two more At Large members, both brought in last November.

Christopher Labadie

Joined Nov. 6, 2020; Houston, Texas

"I am a native Michigander now living in Houston, Texas, with my wife and infant son. Growing up I was always proud of my maternal Irish heritage and dreamed of being able to visit my ancestral home. Following college, at the University of Notre Dame, I was blessed to be able to live in Ireland for a year and really come to know the hospitality of the Irish people and grow in my appreciation for Irish culture.

"I joined the Hibernians because I think it is important to promote this culture (as it truly is, not the commercialized version) in the United States. I also want to do what I can to continue the cause of a united Ireland. I look forward to helping grow a Houston/SE Texas division in the coming years."



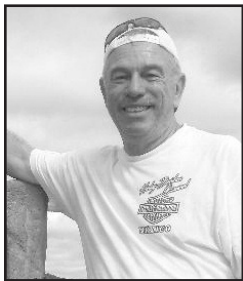
Steve McPhillips

Joined Nov. 13, 2020; Cape Coral, Florida

"Born in Providence, Rhode Island, I attended secondary school in Rhode Island, and earned a B.S. in accounting from San Diego State University, San Diego, California. I retired as Chief Investigator Southern Division, Investigation Division, California Department of Insurance, San Diego. I am married to Cindy Stewart McPhillips. Three adult children. I relocated to Southwest Florida in 2017.

"I am also a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1996, active as a Council officer, and in both the California and Florida State Councils.

"My Irish ancestors emigrated from Ireland many years ago. As with many Irish-Catholic immigrant families of the time, they faced hardship, bigotry and unthinkable challenges to make a life in this wonderful country. It is difficult to even imagine the fear, anxiety and heartbreak that they felt to step off their native soil, into steerage, and on to a distant land, never to see many loved ones or their homeland again. My Irish Catholic heritage is a source of deep pride; knowing I am a descendent of such brave and strong persons of Catholic faith. I joined the AOH to learn more about and develop a closer connection to my ancestral homeland."



Tennessee

Nashville's St. Patrick's Day contest winners

The Sons of Erin Division 1, in Nashville, started a St. Patrick's Day coloring contest three years ago. This year's first place winner was Jesica Shaar of Holy Rosary Academy. Second place winner was Sawyer Swisher of St. Joseph's School, and the third place winner was Joanie Robinson of St. Henry's School, all in the Diocese of Nashville. All winners received a school tuition voucher and shamrock rosary beads.

— Submitted by Mark Austin



Second Place Sawyer Swisher.



First Place winner Jesica Shaar.



Third Place winner Joanie Robinson.



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I hope that you were all able to enjoy a safe, if limited, Saint Patrick's Day as well as a blessed Easter Season. The rate of COVID-19 vaccinations continues to increase and there is hope that we can soon put this pandemic behind us. We also have a new Secretary for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, who previously has served as White House Chief of Staff and Deputy National Security Advisor. I wish him the best as his success will translate to improving services for our veteran community.

Amidst that hope it is appropriate to take stock of the toll this last year has taken on us and those we care about, especially from a behavioral health perspective. A great resource for veterans in many communities across the nation is your local Vet Center operated by the VA. Vet Centers employ talented and capable behavioral health professionals, many of whom are veterans themselves. It is ok to not be ok, and all Brothers are strongly encouraged to seek support if needed. The AOH Veterans Affairs website at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs includes a link to help find Vet Center and other VA facility locations near you.

COVID-19 & Vaccinations

Among Veterans Health Administration enrolled veterans, the VA reports a reduction of new COVID-19 cases as well as a significant reduction in nationwide active cases to just above 3,600 as of March 26 (10,500 were reported in the previous Digest). VA facilities distributing vaccines will contact local veterans directly as they become eligible to receive the shots or they may operate open vaccine clinics where veterans can walk in. It is worth checking with your local VA clinic to find out how they are distributing shots in your area. You can also find more information on the VA's COVID-19 website and most VA facilities have published local vaccination details on their websites.

On March 24, President Biden signed H.R.1276, the SAVE LIVES Act of 2021. This legislation expands VA vaccination authority to include all veterans eligible to receive care through the VA and their spouses as well as certain caregivers of VHA-enrolled veterans. As of this writing, the VA is still determining how to integrate these newly eligible veterans, spouses, and caregivers into their vaccination operations.

VA Pandemic Relief for Veterans

The VA has initiated two programs to better support veterans who may be facing financial difficulties because of the COVID-19 pandemic: forbearance for VA-subsidized home loans and waiver of copayments for VA healthcare services.

Veterans Benefits Administration has issued guidance that through June 30 of this year, you can make an initial request for COVID-19 forbearance on payments towards a VA-subsidized home loan. The VA expects your mortgage company to approve your initial request for up to six months and, at your request, an additional six months if needed. This is combined with a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions through June 30. More details can be found on the VBA website at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.

The recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 commits \$100 billion to the VHA to waive and eliminate all copayments charged to veterans for accessing healthcare services and medications between the dates of April 6, 2020, and September 30, 2021. Veterans who have already paid out copayments for charges incurred for care received during that period should receive a reimbursement directly from VA with no additional paperwork. Any charges incurred prior to April 6, 2020 can be deferred until October 1, 2021.

Special thanks to Brother Thomas "MUGGS" Daly of New York for contacting me about the importance of the Vet Centers, and VA Committee Member Charles Hagan of Florida for sending me information on the VA's copayment and forbearance programs. VA Committee meetings are held online on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Please contact me for details if you would like to participate. Best wishes for a warm spring and a commemorative Memorial Day.

— dannyeakins@hotmail.com / 614-893-8833

Kansas

By Seán Thomas Kane

Governor declares 'Irish American Heritage Month'

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Hibernians in Johnson County, Kansas, were instrumental in advocating to Kansas Governor Laura Kelly that she sign an official declaration naming March as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of Kansas. Governor Kelly signed the declaration on March 1st, honoring the more than 340,000 Kansans of Irish descent who "have played a vital role in shaping Kansas's history and culture." The Donnelly Division President, Zach Kittle, led the effort in contacting the Governor's office in Topeka, and received the physical proclamation from the Governor, which was announced at the March meeting of the Donnelly Hibernians in Overland Park, Kansas.

This proclamation not only honors the memories of Irish immigrants and their descendants who settled in Kansas, but also will help promote the causes of the Irish American community in the state, including the growth of the AOH in cities across Kansas.

This proclamation comes at a time when the Donnelly Division has been working with prospective brothers throughout Kansas at founding a number of new divisions in the state in cities like Lawrence, Leavenworth and Wichita. Historically, Kansas was home to as many as 12 Hibernian divisions, though most of them closed down in the years after World War II. The Donnelly Division was founded in 2002 and has represented the Irish community in Kansas as well as in the bi-state Kansas City metropolitan area.



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

This edition of the Digest finds us on the far end of our second Irish History Month of the pandemic era, with the reasonable prospect, God willing, of a return to normal well in advance of St. Patrick's Day 2022. While we look forward to resuming the meetings, conventions, parades and the like that have always held the Order together, we do so with appreciation for the innovations the pandemic has engendered. It requires no stretch of the imagination to envision future AOH Historians noting that the first online AOH National Convention, with remote participation by Brothers across the country, occurred in August of 2020. The rapid and exponential expansion of the Order's online content, as envisioned and fostered by our National President, likewise has been nothing short of historic.

Case in point, our Saturday series of Irish Heritage Month 2021 webinars, presented live each Saturday in March, are now available for viewing on the AOH YouTube channel. Those of you who were able to tune in saw Ruan O'Donnell discussing the role of Irish America in the Easter Rising in Ireland, Jim Fahy and Leo Finnigan sharing their research on the life of IRB man and "Labor Poet" Michael McGovern, and Damien Shiels describing the previously understated extent of Irish participation in our own Civil War. Niall O'Dowd rounded out our Saturday presentations with his findings on President Lincoln's many relationships and interactions with the immigrant Irish, a heretofore understated and unreported aspect of the much-examined life of our 16th President. We even snuck in a Sunday edition of our Saturday programming, with Patrick Cooney, James Connolly Heron and architect Seán Antóin Ó Muiri describing efforts, aided by the AOH, to preserve the historically significant Moore Street terrace, to which the GPO garrison evacuated during Easter Week, 1916.

These outstanding presentations complemented a steady stream of content published throughout the month of March by Irish Heritage Month Chairman Neil Cosgrove and others and can be viewed at any time on the AOH YouTube channel.

As we move forward, we intend to continue producing quality on-line content, embracing the widespread reach of the internet, while enjoying the resumption of in-person activities. History demands it!

John Devoy, the 'Greatest of the Fenians'

By Daniel Taylor, National Historian

Eighteen-year-old John Devoy took the oath of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1861, in a Dublin classroom in which he had been taking Irish language lessons. Just three years earlier, on St. Patrick's Day 1858, James Stephens, a veteran of the Rebellion of 1848, had created the IRB, a secret organization dedicated to bringing about an Irish Republic. Here in the United States, like-minded individuals led by John O'Mahony, another veteran of 1848, had associated themselves as the "Fenian Brotherhood," a predecessor of the Clan na Gael. Devoy would spend the next 67 years of his life, the last 57 of them here in America, working for the cause.

Having joined the IRB, Devoy resolved to develop appropriate military skills and set out for France, where he was sworn into the French Foreign Legion on May 2, 1861. Upon his return, Devoy was ordered to the town of Naas in County Kildare, not far from the village of Kill, where he had had been born, to be an IRB organizer. Devoy rose rapidly in the IRB and by 1865 was tasked, among other responsibilities, with the dangerous work of recruiting Irishmen serving in British units in Ireland to take the oath and commit themselves to rise against the British when the time was right. Having orchestrated IRB leader Stephens' escape from prison in November 1865, Devoy was himself arrested in February 1866.

Devoy was released from prison in 1871, on the condition of removing himself from Ireland and the UK. He and four other Fenians, including Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, arrived in New York in late January to a hero's welcome that went on for weeks, reaching its zenith when the exiles were greeted by President Ulysses S. Grant at the White House. The British, thinking they were ridding themselves of Devoy, had unwittingly sent to these shores the man who, more than any other, would form Irish America into the stalwart ally Irish republicans had long needed.

During Devoy's prison stay, the American Fenian movement had been divided, a substantial factor in the poorly organized, failed Fenian raids into Canada. Devoy recognized that the movement needed a success that would excite the imagination of Irish America. When a letter from a Fenian wasting away in the British penal colony in Australia reached him, Devoy convinced Clan na Gael leadership to authorize an audacious rescue plot. Devoy purchased the Catalpa and saw it off from New Bedford on April 29, 1875. Arriving in Fremantle 11 months later, the Catalpa took on six Fenian prisoners, defied a pursuing gunboat by running up the Stars and Stripes and arrived triumphantly in New York on August 19, 1876. London was furious, Devoy and Irish America had their victory and the movement was energized on both sides of the Atlantic.

Devoy was a committed physical force republican, but controversially advocated in 1878 for a "New Departure," in which traditional Fenians might find common ground with constitutional nationalists, as then embodied by Charles Stewart Parnell. Devoy edited the Gaelic American newspaper from 1903 until his death and was instrumental in marshalling American support, both moral and material, for the Rising in 1916 and the Irish War of Independence. Devoy, however, clashed with DeValera and supported the Treaty in 1921, circumstances which may have caused his contributions to be undervalued or overlooked. When he died in 1928, the body of the man Pearse is said to have called "the Greatest" of the Fenians was returned to Ireland, where he is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery under a Celtic Cross bearing his name and the simple inscription, "Fenian."

Massachusetts



Plymouth Hibernians living the Order's motto were, from left, John Sullivan, Frank Costa (kneeling), Steve Cohan, Steve Kerr, John Travers, Brendan Burke, Tom McTigue and Kevin Lynch (kneeling).

Honoring Patrick through charity

The Fr. John Murphy Division 9, in Plymouth, held a St. Patrick's Food Drive on March 13, outside their Hibernian Hall. The Hibernians had a great response from both local supermarkets and the public, who dropped off dry and canned goods, which Division 9 donated to local food pantries and shelters. "We continue to remain busy even during these challenging times due to the coronavirus," said Division Recording Secretary John L. Sullivan. "Our spirits have stayed strong, and we continue to support one another, and those less fortunate than we."



Lawrence Massachusetts Mayor Kendrys Vasquez presents a proclamation to Division 8 AOH President Bill Sullivan and Division 8 LAOH President Anne Marie Nyhan-Doherty on March 1, 2021 marks the 150 Anniversary of the founding of Division 8 AOH

West Virginia



Proclamation in Wheeling

Mayor Glenn Elliott, of Wheeling, proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month. The Irish helped build the National Road to Wheeling in 1818 and B&O Railroad in 1851. Irish is the second largest ethnic group in Wheeling and also in West Virginia. On hand to celebrate the designation are Vice Mayor and Hibernian Chad Thalman and, front row: Div. 1 President Tom Connelly, Div. Chaplain Jeremiah McSweeney, Wheeling Heritage's Chris Villamagna, local historian Peg Brennan, Div. Sentinel Doug Hennen. Not pictured Div. FFAI Sean Duffy, proclamation author.

The AOH and St. James Catholic Church

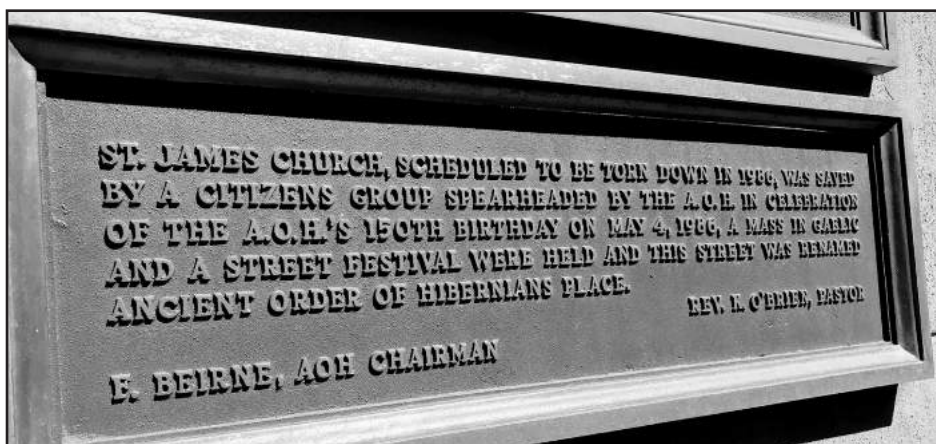
By Tom Beirne, Treasurer, NY State Board

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was organized in the spring of 1836; having their first known meeting at St. James's Church in lower Manhattan. They were also organized in the Coal Fields of Pennsylvania at the same time. One of the reasons for the AOH being founded was to protect Catholics, Irish immigrants and Catholic Churches that were being attacked by the Nativists in various cities, including Philadelphia, Boston and New York. In 1831, Nativists set fire to St. Mary's Catholic Church, on Grand Street on the Lower East side of Manhattan. St. Mary's Church was damaged, but not destroyed and continued to serve the community. Archbishop John Hughes encouraged an AOH Division to be formed in every parish. The AOH defended churches against various attacks and prevented destruction of Catholic churches in NYC; most notably their defense of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral [the subject of a future Hibernians 101 article].

St. James's Church was constructed between 1835 and 1837. The first Mass was said in the basement in 1836, and Bishop Dubois formally dedicated the church in January 1837. St. James parish faced many challenges and continued to grow and serve immigrants: initially mostly Irish, then Italians and Chinese. The priests of the parish tended to the newly arriving immigrants on the overcrowded, unsanitary "coffin ships" during the famine years. In 1847, Fr. Mark Murphy was in charge of tending to the immigrant patients at a quarantine station and died of "ship fever" (typhus). Fr. John Smith was pastor at St. James from 1842 to 1848. In 1847, Fr. Smith contracted typhus and died from it in February 1848.

NYS Governor Alfred E. Smith was born on December 30, 1873, to Thomas and Catherine (Mulvihill) Smith. The Smith family lived on Oliver Street, the block directly behind St. James Church and adjacent to the rectory. In 1973, the Alfred E. Smith House was designated "A Registered National Historic Landmark." Al Smith was an altar boy at St. James, a lifelong parishioner, and received his sacraments there. He attended St. James School through 8th grade, his only formal education. At 14, after his father's death, he went to work at the fish markets to provide for his family. Al Smith became a four-term Governor of New York State, and was the first Roman Catholic nominated by a major party for President of the United States. The Nativist biases and strong anti-Catholic and anti-Irish prejudices were on public display against Al Smith.

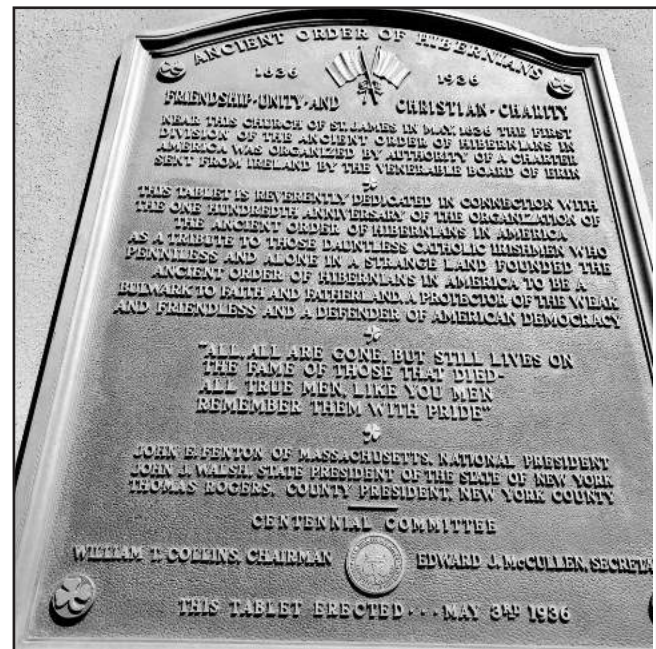
In 1983, New York City officials determined that St. James Church was structurally unsafe and ordered it closed, fearing the roof would collapse. The Ancient Order of Hibernians funded the restoration of the church, spearheading a group of concerned



citizens that raised the funds and allowed it to reopen. The AOH Chairman, past NY County President Francis Beirne, worked with Pastor Fr. Kevin O'Brien. In 1986, in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the AOH, James St. was renamed by the City of NY Ancient Order of Hibernians Place.

In addition to the street name there are bronze plaques installed on the front of St. James Church relating to the AOH. The first plaque installed in 1936 recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the AOH and states: "This Tablet is reverently dedicated in connection with the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Organization of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Irish as a tribute to those dauntless Catholic Irishmen who penniless and alone in a strange land founded The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America to be a bulwark to faith and fatherland, a protector of the weak and friendless and a defender of American Democracy

The second plaque recognizes the AOH saving the Church in 1986 at the 150th Anniversary of the Order.



Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Hope springs eternal

Our Worthy National Vice President Sean Pender and I share a common passion for the great game of baseball. At this time of year, as the winter winds wane and spring training is underway in sunny Florida and Arizona, and, at the time of this writing, Opening Day is within sight, optimism fills the spring air. All teams are undefeated and we can all find reasons why our team will still be playing well into October.

With the ongoing pandemic resulting in the Order's Major Degree Program being shut down for one long year, we too find ourselves longing for signs of hope and optimism. Upon the arrival of Irish Spring and the annual commemoration of the Feast of St. Brigid, we shortly received news that our patience and prayers were soon to be rewarded.

On February 20, I received a formal application to form a new Major Degree Team from our Brothers out in Montana. This represents the first such request and commencement of such an endeavor in half a dozen years or so since Brothers in the Pittsburgh, PA, area embarked on a similar journey eventually culminating the successful certification of the Tri Abhainn MDT of Allegheny County in 2019.

We certainly wish our Montana Brothers much luck and success as they pursue the ambitious goal of achieving certification in time for the Montana State Convention in mid-September. If successful, the new Montana Team would be the first team in the Order west of Ohio and thus, be in a position to bring the Lessons of the Order to currently underserved areas out west.

Within a week of that good news, our Brothers on the Innisfail (Florida) Major Degree Team had the honor of exemplifying the first Major Degree of the Order ceremony since the onset of the pandemic almost a year to the day since the last Major Degree was held. The Degree ceremony was held in Sarasota, FL, on February 27, and through the efforts of the Innisfail MDT, 18 Brothers were welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernian Brotherhood.

Also this year, we have one of our more veteran Major Degree Teams celebrating a significant milestone. The Tara Court Major Degree Team of Suffolk County, Long Island, will mark the 50th anniversary of the certification of their fine Major Degree Team. We feature Tara Court and their storied history in an upcoming article later this year. Worthy Vice President Pender and I greatly look forward to visiting with our Long Island Brothers at one of the Major Degrees later this year to mark the occasion and milestone.

Best of luck to all Major Degree Teams in their re-emergence to bring the Lessons of our Order to worthy candidates at various State Conventions this summer and fall.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order:

New York State Convention. Syracuse, NY. July 7-10, Marriott Downtown Syracuse, 100 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY. Cu Chullain Celtic Warrior Major Degree Team exemplifying. <https://nys2021syr.com/>, <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/syrmc-marriott-syracuse-downtown/>

Pennsylvania State Convention. Treose, PA. Sat., July 31; Time TBD. Radisson Hotel Treose, 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Treose, PA. <https://www.aohpastate.org/2021-state-convention>, <https://www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-treose-sesame/deals/2021-convention-committee>

Tentative - Montana State Convention. Butte, MT. September 16-18. Copper King Hotel and Convention Center, 4655 Harrison Avenue, Butte, MT, 59701, <https://www.guestreservations.com/copper-king-hotel-and-convention-center/>

North Carolina

Memorial Garden Spring Work Day

The brothers of Division 1 (Wake County, North Carolina) took part in the Spring Work Day at St. Catherine of Sienna Memorial Garden in Wake Forest. This year the brothers helped install a new Pietà statue in the center of the garden. The statue depicts the body of Jesus on the lap of Mary after being taken down from the cross. The division participates in these work days in honor of Brothers John Ryan and Jeremy Gould, who are both laid to rest there.



Brothers Chris Cooke, George McEvoy and Kevin Murray with the foreman for the day, Ray Scherzer.

Hibernians celebrate Irish Arts and Culture

The NC Guilford County, Na Cara Division 1, in conjunction with the High Point Arts Council, celebrated Irish Cultural Month, with a special, Irish Arts and Culture Day performance. Performances included Irish step dancing, from the Lismore Dance Academy, performance by State President Christopher Cooke, with Al Guecia, (Standing Committee) on the Bodhran, Brothers Rick Boedicker (guitar) and Steve Ilderton (harmonica) performing Danny Boy.

Opening the event was Kevin Neary, Division president. Presentations by Jim Keane, (Irish history), John McKinney, (Irish language), John Pierce, (help from Choctaw Indians), Christopher Cooke, (music in Ireland and influence on American music). Grand finale, included all presenters and performers, along with Sharon Pierce on vocals and Al Guecia on keyboard, "May the Road Rise to Meet You." The event drew a capacity crowd at the High Point Arts Council at Centennial Station.



The Division Team.



Christopher Cooke, right, and Al Guecia.



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Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

An bhfuil a fhios agat gur chaith Frederick Douglass tréimhse in Éirinn? *Did you know that FD spent time in Ireland?* Duine an-tábhachtach é is ea Douglass i stair na tíre seo, dar ndóigh. *D was very important in this country's history, of course.* Daor de bhunadh na hAifrice a rugadh is a tógadh i Maryland ab ea é. *He was a slave in...* Uair amháin, agus é ina sclábhái fós, bhí sé ag obair i longcheárta, agus mhol beirt Éireannach dó teitheadh (bhí siadsan ag obair ansin freisin). *One time, while he was still a slave, he was working in a shipyard, and 2 Irishmen recommended that he should run away.* Ocht mbliana ina dhiaidh sin, rinne sé amhlaidh. *8 years later, he did.*

Bhí léamh agus scríobh aige, a mhalairt le móramh na sclábhaithe. *Unlike most slaves, he could read and write.* Scríobh sé a dhírbeathaisnéis in 1845 agus leis an mbrabús as, d'íoc sé go dleathach as a saoirse. *He wrote his autobiography...and paid for his legal freedom with the profits.* Ach ní raibh sé slán do dhaor a teitheadh, fiú ina chás féin. *But it was not safe for an escaped slave, even in his case.* Moladh dó dul go hÉirinn, agus chuaigh. *He was advised to go to Ireland, and he did.* Bhí sé ansin ag tús na drochaimsire, aimsir an ghorta. *He was there at the start of the famine times.* Thuig cosmhuintir na hÉireann go maith cás na sclábhaithe, mar is ar éigin a bhí siad ní b'fhearr as. *The poor there understood well how it was for slaves, since they weren't much better off.*

Bhraith Douglass go raibh sé slán gan bhagairt in Éirinn. *D felt that he was safe and unthreatened in Ireland.* Níorbh eisean an t-aon iar-sclábhái a chuaigh go hÉirinn, ach oiread. *He was not the only ex-slave to go there, either.* Bhí na hÉireannaigh cineálta dó agus do na teifigh eile. *The Irish were kind to him and the other refugees.* Bhí meas ag Douglass ar na hÉireannaigh chomh maith. *D also respected the Irish.* Fuair sé aithne ar Dhónall Ó Conaill, agus bhí siad mór lena chéile. *He got to know Daniel O'Connell, and they were friends.* Feachtas síochánta a bhí ar siúl ag Ó Conaill, agus thaitin sin le Douglass. *O'Connell's campaign was peaceful, and D liked that.*

Thug Douglass óráidí in Éirinn, agus tá leaca cuimhneacháin in áiteanna mar gheall orthu (in Ostlann Imperial i gCorcaigh, mar shampla). *D gave orations... and there are plaques in places on their account (Hotel...in Cork, for example).* Scríobh sé faoin am a chaith sé in Éirinn, agus tá leabhair ann faoi. *He wrote about his time in Ireland, and there are books on it.* Chuaigh sé go Sasana ina dhiaidh sin, agus ansin ar ais go Meiriceá. *He went to England afterwards, and then back to America.* Ach ba thábhachtach dó an tréimhse dá shaol sin in Éirinn. *But his time in Ireland was important to him.*

Virginia

In late December, Virginia Hibernians of the Cunningham Division wrapped several hundred sweat-outfits for the veterans in the Martinsburg Medical Facility. On January 23, members of the Cunningham Division, the Virginia LAOH Daughters of Erin Division, the Knights of Columbus and the VFW presented Ken Allensworth, director of the medical facility, and his staff, 452 sweat-outfits along with \$4,725.

This project has been a collective effort for 15 years. Due to Covid, we were limited to the number of volunteers allowed on the premises. Once again, this year's effort was led by Brother Hibernian Tim Melia (seventh from left in the picture) who is currently the Division Treasurer for the Cunningham Division. Tim's enthusiasm and passion for this project made it the great success it was.

As acknowledged by Ken Allensworth (shown with paper in hand), "the outpouring of support by our local community means a lot to those residing at the facility, given the lock down since late March 2020. Thank God our lockdown procedures and precautions have resulted in zero Covid-19 fatalities! Know that all at the facility, including the staff, truly appreciate your generosity and acts of kindness."

Submitted by Jay McCarthy, AOH VA State President



Hibernians Jay McCarthy, VA State President, Margie McCarthy, LAOH Daughters of Erin President, Tim Melia - Cunningham Division Treasurer, Cole Slattery - PDP Cunningham Division and Army Veteran, and Bob Neiman - Cunningham Division Brother, join members of the Martinsburg Medical Facility at the presentation of the sweat-outfits.



In continuing to live our motto, Roanoke Division Recording Secretary Roger Vest, left, Vice President Paul Miller and Sentinel Tom Huck packaged, wrapped and delivered 3,000 pounds of food supplies donated by large food suppliers, to Heavenly Manna Food Bank in Franklin County, Virginia.

Irish American Heritage Month in Fredericksburg

General T. F. Meagher Division celebrated Irish American Heritage Month with articles in local print media, with support from the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, the Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade. One of the articles published in the Fredericksburg newspaper described multiple waves of Irish immigration in the 18th and 19th centuries. It reminded readers that 17 U.S. Presidents, 10 Supreme Court Justices, seven Speakers of the House and 253 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients claim or claimed Irish heritage.

The Central Rappahannock Regional Library highlighted IAHM on their website and blog, featuring materials supplied in part by the Division. The Colonial Tavern, in partnership with the Division, proudly displayed Division placards and posters used in past IAHM activities. These visual displays chronicle the history of Ireland, including the Easter Rising, the social evolution of the Irish in America, and critical societal and political roles that Irish and Irish Americans occupied throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. There were also large genealogical displays depicting the Gaelic, Viking and Gallowglass origins of some Irish surnames and locations where specific surnames are prominent. At a socially distanced IAHM celebration at the Colonial Tavern, LAOH sister Trish Little Taylor, a professional genealogist and Mary Ryan Division (Richmond) historian, was the guest speaker. After her presentation she answered questions and provided hand-outs identifying 15 helpful websites for genealogical research. To capstone the month, a Division brother solicited and received the Virginia governor's proclamation that March 2021 is Irish American Heritage Month in the Commonwealth!

Fr. Mychal Judge Division holds 3rd annual coloring contest

Three hundred children from three parishes, St Francis of Assisi, Holy Family and All Saints located in Prince William County, VA, participated in this year's annual event sponsored by the Fr. Mychal Judge O.F.M. AOH Division. Each of the 16 winners received a T-shirt, St. Patrick holy card and their framed entry. Judges selected First, Second and Third Place winners for each of the five grades (K-4) as well as one Grand Prize winner.

This year's event was the third year for the contest which was started by the Division after learning about it from the Louisville, Kentucky, host Division at the 2019 National Convention. Our success with the program is due to the great support from Louisville AOH contest coordinator, Bill Moriarity, said Brother Harry Flynn, coordinator for the Mychal Judge Division's event.

We hope to have additional parish schools and religious education programs participate next year, when the pandemic restrictions are behind us. The children look forward to the contest in hopes of winning a coveted T-shirt and the grand prize.

Program directors are encouraged to teach the students about St Patrick. Each participant signs their name on the entry that they did all the coloring, which helps promote integrity and honesty for all the participants.



Fr. Ed Guilloux, Kelly Division Chaplain, congratulated Anne Lima for having her St. Patrick Coloring Contest entry selected as the grand prize winner. This was the 3rd annual St. Patrick Coloring Contest, sponsored by the Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M. Division, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, AOH Division 3, Triangle, Virginia.

New Hampshire

Michael Dolphin named Hibernian of the Year

The Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1 in Manchester, New Hampshire, named Michael Dolphin as its 2020 Hibernian of the Year for his tireless dedication to the Order and his outstanding contributions throughout an extremely difficult year.

Brother Dolphin served the Division as Recording Secretary during 2020. He was also the coordinator for our Soup Kitchen volunteer program, and a regular volunteer at division functions. Mike also serves as an active member on the Manchester Saint Patrick's Parade Committee, and undertook a leadership role in repairing and restoring the flagpoles at a local monument honoring the Irish Civil War veterans of New Hampshire's Sheridan Guard, allowing the banners of the United States and Ireland to fly proudly over the memorial once again. In addition, Mike stepped up and took charge of the Division's Freedom For All Ireland efforts, as well as championing Right to Life activities.

Brother Dolphin's commitment to Hibernianism, his passion for its causes and his willingness to work hard to achieve its goals are a shining example to Hibernians everywhere, and in Manchester we are proud to call him our Brother.

In ordinary circumstances, the Hibernian of the Year is announced and awarded at the Christmas Hooley in December, but last year's hooley was cancelled due to the pandemic. Brother Dolphin was announced as the recipient of the award at the Division's February General Meeting, which was conducted via Zoom, but it was not until an impromptu gathering on March 30 that Brother Dolphin, the award, and several officers were together in the same place to make a formal presentation.

— Michael Farley, President



Rev. Wm. J. Shanahan Division 1 President Mike Farley, right, presented the Division's Hibernian of the Year Award to 2020 honoree Michael Dolphin, center, during a brief ceremony at a recent gathering. Looking on are, from left, Brothers Brian Cronin (Division Vice President), Skip Hebert, Bill Biser and Colin Glennon (Division Financial Secretary).

New Jersey

Middlesex County Div. 1, South Amboy

On Ash Wednesday at our fish fry, our division received a customized award in recognition of raising \$1,000 or more for the AOH Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal. The award was the 1916 Proclamation laminated on wood direct from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. The plaque was made by EALU, an ex-prisoner group from Tyrone. EALU is based in Dungannon. EALU is Irish for "escape." The award was presented by National AOH Vice President Sean Pender to Division President Mark Hurley, right, and Division Vice President Mike O'Hara, left. The FFAI Christmas Appeal enables the AOH to provide financial help to groups that assist in our goal of achieving complete and absolute independence, peace and unity for all Ireland.



**Deadline for next issue of
Hibernian Digest
no later than June 1**

Florida

Hibernians support Women's Care Center

Indian River County Division 2 visited the Women's Care Center in Vero Beach on March 25 for the purpose of donating \$500 to aid them in their work with pregnant women. We were given a tour of the facilities and were asked if we wanted to bring the Division members back for a tour and lecture on what they do.

Division 2 has supported this Center for the last four years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. As President of Division 2, Jim Sullivan asked his Division Pro-Life Chairman Paul Gallagher and State Pro-Life Chairman Bob Farrell to accompany him there.

"When we arrived we were greeted by Director Gerri Krempel-Rorik," said President Sullivan. "She took us around the site, explaining what occurs in each of the rooms, including the sonogram room, where these women can see their live babies and, to quote the director, 'Where many lives are saved and mothers saved because of your support'. We are looking forward to setting up a Division tour of this Center so our membership can see, in person, what our Order does with the monies we collect," Sullivan said.



At Division 2 presented a \$500 check to the Women's Care Center. From left, Division President Jim Sullivan, Director Gerri Krempel-Rorik, Assistant Director Lizette Bohler, State pro-Life Chairman Bob Farrell, and Division Pro-Life Chairman Paul Gallagher, who took this photo.

South Carolina

Pipes and prayers in Charleston

On a beautiful, glorious springtime St. Patrick's Day in Charleston, SC, while wearing their best Irish-themed face masks and following the CDC social distancing guidelines, the members of Manning Division 1 met at St. Lawrence Cemetery to celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland's Feast Day.

A marvelous time was had by all who attended. The Charleston Pipe Band was no doubt the highlight of the afternoon. The 12 members of the band, dressed to the hilt in their kilts, filled the air with the wonderful sound of their pipes. The music they played lifted everyone's spirits. There is no doubt that the permanent residents enjoyed the concert as well.

Why a cemetery? Two reasons. First, St. Lawrence Cemetery is home to an Irish War Memorial that was erected years ago to honor all the Irish who served and died fighting for the United States. Prayers for their souls were recited and the band played Amazing Grace to lift the prayers to heaven. Second reason, no one in residence was going to complain or be concerned that we were gathering to pay tribute to St. Patrick, as well as enjoy some long delayed fellowship. It had been over a year since many in attendance had seen one another.

Guinness and other libations were served, along with sandwiches and pizza that was actually delivered to the festivities. After enjoying being with one another for close to two hours, the group disbursed and headed to various pubs to continue the day's celebration.

— Submitted by Louis Hems, President, Division 1, Charleston.



The Charleston Pipe Band gathered at St. Lawrence Cemetery on St. Patrick's Day.

Helping with critical work

Missions and Charities activities of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division are alive and well in the Low Country of South Carolina. Despite the curtailment of the Division's fund-raising activities over the past year, it was able to recently award financial support to help continue the critical work of the St. Gianna Respect Life and the St. Vincent de Paul Societies of St. Gregory the Great parish in Bluffton.



Frank Thomas, president of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division, presents a check to Julie Latham to help support the activities of the St. Gianna Respect Life Society in the Low Country of SC.



Frank Thomas, president of the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division, presents a check to Lawlor Quinn to help support the activities of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Low Country of SC.

New York

Allegany Hibernians practice Christian Charity

Allegany (NY) Division 1 made significant donations to help the needy in their community. These donations were made possible by their annual AOH Island Park Car Show in September in conjunction with the Immaculate Conception Church's Fun Fair Chicken BBQ. "We had 185 cars and trucks show up to support our fundraiser and purchase take away BBQs from our Immaculate Conception Church, which was their only fund raiser in 2020," said Division President Matt Cannon. "Our local AOH Division is planning to have their annual Irish Road Bowling Tournament in June as well as the car shows in May and September 2021."

The Division has done the car show fundraiser with social distancing, wearing masks and with guidance and assistance from the Town of Wellsville, who has supported the AOH local efforts as they hold the car show annually in Wellsville Island Park. The car show fundraiser was President Matthew Cannon's idea and they have expanded the show each of the last five years and plan continue to grow it.

"Our small but enthusiastic AOH Division in rural Allegany County has worked hard to reduce hunger in our very poor county," Division Recording Secretary Brian Cannon told the Digest.



Allegany County AOH President Matthew Cannon, right, and Division Financial Secretary Tim O'Grady presented Immaculate Conception School in Wellsville Business Manager Kate Rahr a \$1,000 donation.



Division President Matthew Cannon, right, and Financial Secretary Tim O'Grady, left, presented Jim Campbell, Manager of Catholic Charities Wellsville Food Pantry, with food gift cards to help replenish their food stocks for needy families. They serve more than 1,250 families in Allegany County, NY.

Syracuse Hibernians help needy in Onondaga County

The brothers of Division 2 in Syracuse didn't let the pandemic stand in the way of their annual Christmas charitable activities. Each year food and toys are collected from local merchants and given to families in need. This year, Covid required Past President Steve Leyden, left, President Jim Egloff, center, and Program chairman and Past President Dan Case to observe mask and social-distancing protocols. Brother Dan Walsh once again led the Division's participation in the Salvation Army's annual "Old Newsboys" fundraiser, which gives away gifts and food to needy families in Onondaga County during the holidays. AOH brothers raised \$20,000 of the total of \$54,000.



Division President Matthew Cannon, right, and Financial Secretary Tim O'Grady, left, presented Jim Campbell, Manager of Catholic Charities Wellsville Food Pantry, with food gift cards to help replenish their food stocks for needy families. They serve more than 1,250 families in Allegany County, NY.

Wreaths Across America

Dec. 12, 2020, marked the 4th anniversary of when Bronx County AOH Francis Beirne Division 9 and The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, NJ, brought Wreaths Across America to the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in NYC, where they recognized our veterans buried in the crypt and graveyard there. The Catholic graveyard has veterans from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War, right up to the present by way of cremation. Some notable names include John Eckert, Brevet Brigadier General and Chief of Union Telegraph Bureau in the Civil War, and Valentine Derry, who had been exiled from Ireland for his role in the 1798 Rising.

"We are grateful to those veterans and others who helped pave the way for Irish Catholics in America," said Division 9 member and organizer Bill Duggan.



William C. Duggan, Jr., left, of the Francis Beirne Division 9 of the AOH and Trustee of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County NJ & site coordinator for Wreaths Across America; Thomas Beirne, NY State AOH; Dennis Grogan, NY County Board President; and brothers from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County NJ and The Rory O'Moore Pipe Band; together with members and New York county AOH members.

Please support Project St. Patrick!

Snowbird Hibernians celebrate

The "Snowbird Event Committee," made up of Tim Myles, Jim Sullivan and Frank Corcoran, and supported by LAOH State President Louise Sullivan and AOH State President Ray Lynch, along with Palm Beach County Division 2 President Charlie Hagan, put on a fabulous day of music, food, drink and, of course, speeches. The event was held on February 25 at Finnegan's Irish Pub, in Del Ray Beach, Florida. Old friends had the chance to meet and laugh over a pint and some fish and chips. Members of the AOH/LAOH from up north, down for the winter, met with members that finally made the move down to Florida. Of course there was the craic and some good old Irish songs that kept everyone in great spirits. Collections were taken for the National Board and Sullivan, not to be denied, made his pitch for some Confirmation money for the Florida State FFAI. All were pleased to give. A special thanks should be given to Tim Myles for it was his dream that this event exists at all.



Among the Hibernians who gathered for the social were Charlie Hagan, AOH President of Palm Beach County Div. 2; Tim Myles; Frank Corcoran; LAOH Florida State President Louise Sullivan; and Jim Sullivan.

Washington, D.C.

By Keith Carney

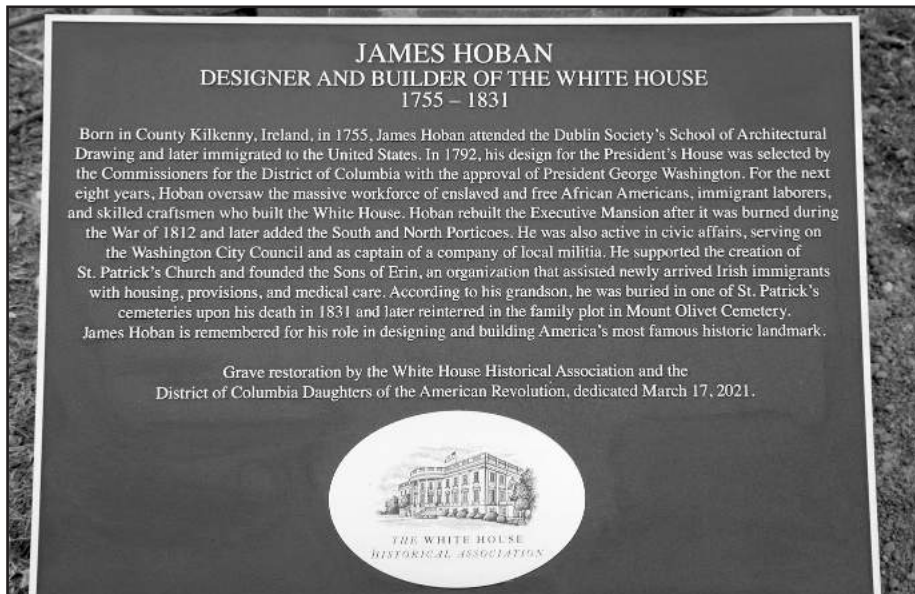
Hibernians honor James Hoban, architect of the White House

Members of the Washington, D.C., AOH joined the White House Historical Association on St. Patrick's Day as they organized an historic plaque dedication in honor of James Hoban, Irish born architect of the White House, at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Washington. The event was the first annual wreath-laying at the historic grave site of the Hoban family, which will be planned each St. Patrick's week going forward.

The event was emceed by Stewart McLaurin, President of the White House Historical Association, with remarks provided by Denise VanBuren, President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and His Excellency Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. The invocation and final blessing were offered by His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Ms. VanBuren mentioned that not only was Kilkenny-born Hoban Irish but many of the builders of the White House whom he hired were also Irish emigrants. To assist his Irish workforce, Hoban helped establish St. Patrick's Church a few blocks from the White House site. He designed and financially supported the construction of the church and was eventually buried in one of St. Patrick's graveyards. As the city of Washington grew, the Archdiocese created a large Catholic cemetery on the outskirts of the city and moved all the parish graveyards to the new location. That move included the family gravesite of James Hoban and his family members.

Speaking to those assembled, Ambassador Mulhall noted that this was his one and only in-person St. Patrick's Day event this year. He said that even the Irish decedent President Joseph Biden will be on a virtual shamrock presentation event with the Taoiseach this year. He also said that James Hoban would have grown up in the same neighborhood as Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, and most likely would have known him and his quest for Catholic rights in Ireland at that time. The Ambassador mentioned the attendance of the AOH in the audience and was happy that he sees members of the Order wherever he goes throughout the U.S. The White House Historical Association presented the Ambassador with a newly published history on James Hoban in a bound leather case. He was the second to receive a copy; President Biden, the first.



AOH members in front of the Hoban burial site monument and the newly installed historic plaque. From left, Brian Curran, DC AOH State Board President; Father Andy, Pastor, St. Patrick's Church in the Nation's Capital; Danial Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the U.S.; Jack O'Brien, DC AOH Historian; and Keith Carney, Past National Director

Montana

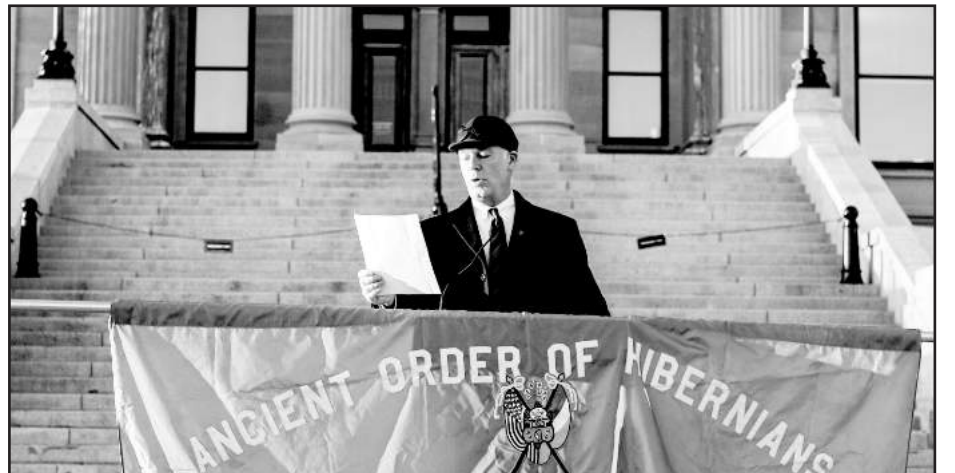
By Mike O'Connor

Our St. Patrick's Day festivities were like many of your own. Of course, no parades because of health concerns. We did have some new twists this year. The rotunda of the State Capitol in Helena, Montana, could not be used for the reading of the Irish American Heritage Month Proclamations. Another new twist was that the proclamations by the city, county and state were read outside in the newly recreated Meagher Plaza. The Meagher Plaza is in front of the State Capitol where the statute of Thomas Francis Meagher sits. Thomas Francis Meagher was the creator of the current Irish Tricolor; he was an Irish patriot, American Civil War general and Montana governor.

One of the traditions we have in Montana is to have Montana's governor raise the Irish Tricolor on St. Patrick's Day in honor of Thomas Francis Meagher and all the Montana Irish who have gone before us. We have been doing this tradition for more than 30 years.



Hibernians and the Montana governor. From left, Mark Sweeney, John Thomas, National Director Bob Mehrens, Governor Greg Gianforte, Past National Director Mike O'Connor and Pete Lorello.



Montana's Governor Gianforte reading State of Montana Proclamation

Project Care

The Anaconda AOH collected record numbers of both food and money this year for Project Care. Over 7,000 pounds of food and \$3,400 dollars. The Anaconda Hibernians tie in their food drive with the Division's annual St. Patrick's Day race. Committee Chair Joe Mehrens, along with the representatives from the food bank, were overwhelmed at the amount received this year, as we have all struggled through the pandemic.



Hibernians, from left, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mark McDonald, Joe Ungaretti, Hank Walsh (back right), Jim Schimming, Mike Beausallei and Jim Corrigan.



The local schools within the Anaconda, Montana, community also have a contest for most items collected and the winning class receives a pizza party.

Louisiana



Hibernians still protecting the Clergy

Members of the Louisiana State AOH gathered for their annual Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond at the St. Louis Cathedral on February 17. The Hibernians have regularly attended this Mass for the past 15 years to protect the Archbishop, Clergy and Catholic Faithful from protesters who hold up banners and use bull horns to harass the faithful as they leave Mass at the Cathedral. (Because of the cold weather and the Covid pandemic, the protesters did not show up this year and were not missed.)

Man of the Year

The Louisiana Ancient Order of Hibernians attended mass on St Patrick's Day, March 17, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New Orleans. This annual celebration is held to honor the Irish and demonstrate our faith to the community at large.

BJ Eckholdt, Hibernian of the Year, spoke to express his gratitude and thanks. A reception was held next to the church. As they say in Louisiana, "A good time was had by all."



BJ Eckholdt Jr., BJ Eckholdt III and Jay Eckholdt. BJ is Man of the Year for both 2020 and 2021.

Hibernians donate to historic St. Patrick's Church

The Archbishop Philip M. Hannan Division, in Orleans Parish (County), donated to a worthy cause this 2021 year.

St. Patrick's Church has been the spiritual home to the Hibernians and our Irish brethren for many years. The Hannan Division found it only fitting to be able to make a donation to help maintain that beautiful place of worship for many more years to come. Just as fitting, the donation was made on St. Patrick's Day.



The Rev. Fr. Garrett M. O'Brien, JCL, Pastor of St. Patrick's, accepted the donation from Division member Jimmy Walsh, Division Treasurer Pat Sens, State President Sean Kennedy and State Secretary and Division Vice-President Matt Toups.

Hibernians place wreath at Celtic Cross

The morning of March 17, 2021, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians assembled to lay a wreath at the Celtic Cross situated in West End New Orleans. The Celtic Cross is located in the median of Canal Boulevard. The street is aptly named because this is where the New Basin Canal was dug.

The New Basin Canal was to link the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. This greatly enhanced commerce. Irish immigrants provided the majority of the labor for this project.



Celtic Cross and wreath in New Orleans' West End.

Hibernians collect toys, funds for Christmas

Louisiana's newest Hibernian Division has been active since its founding in 2019. The St. Bernard Parish (County) Division of the AOH is located downriver from New Orleans and was the site of the famous Battle of New Orleans as well as suffering terrible devastation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Despite the ongoing rebuilding process, the Hibernians have been active in carrying Christian Charity to those in need.

Partnering with local with businesses throughout the parish, the St. Bernard Hibernians donated 30 bags of toys with the help of many elves and a masked-man dressed curiously in red. Many businesses put boxes in their shops, and their patrons filled them with toys, which were then collected and distributed to less fortunate families through Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches. In addition, the St. Bernard Hibernians donated \$400 to each church toward their Angel Tree Christmas Program.



St. Bernard Hibernians donated 30 bags of toys with the help of many elves.

**Make it your job
to grow the AOH!**

Pennsylvania



Supporting the clergy
Division 1, Lycoming County, Pa., made a \$500 donation to Project Saint Patrick in the name of our Chaplain, Fr. Brian Van Fossen. Father is pictured here receiving the PSP certificate from our members. From left, John Comerford, Div. President; Fr. Brian; Chris Norris, Past Pa. State President; and Jim Foran, Div. Vice President.

Fr. Fox named Man of the Year

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 has chosen its Man of the Year. The AOH presented Fr. Richard Fox the Man of the Year sash on March 6, at a Mass held at St. Patrick's Church in West Scranton. Fr. Fox is the chaplain for the division, and he gives so much back to the parishioners in these trying times due to the pandemic. It is the Division's honor to present a sash to such an honorable man.

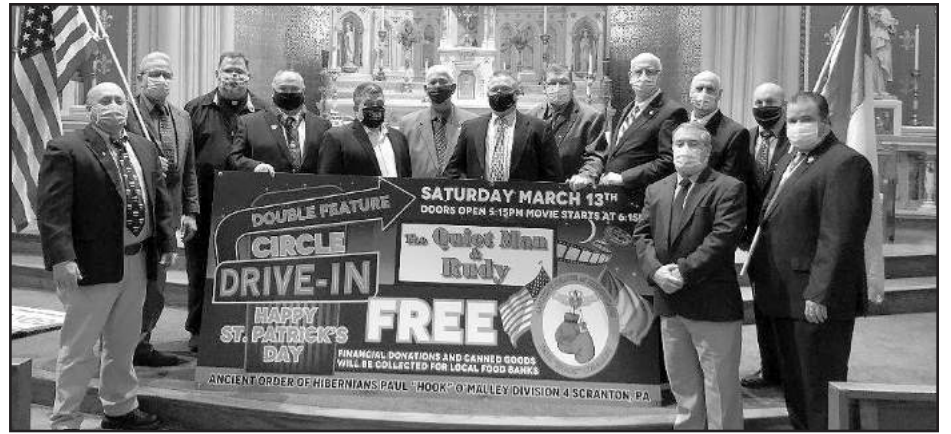


Division 4 Hibernians, from left, Rob Sherry, John Fletcher, Bob McAndrew, former PA AOH President Joseph Hosie, Mark McDade, Man of the Year Fr. Richard Fox, Kevin Donovan, Keith Oleski, Joseph Holland, Michael Robinson, Jerry Murray, Rob Fletcher and President Patrick O'Malley.



Hibernian Food Project

Notre Dame Division 1 Past President Mark Ryan with students from Holy Family School in Phoenixville, Montgomery County, PA. The students collected over 4,000 food items for the Annual Hibernian Food Project of the Notre Dame Division. The Notre Dame Division has a total of five schools involved in this project that helps others in need. The food helps fill the pantries of the Patricians Society in Norristown who distribute the food items.



Free Movie Night!

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 presented a free-movie night at the Circle Drive-In on March 13. The Quiet Man was followed by Rudy. From left, Rob Sherry, John Fletcher, Father Richard Fox, Bob McAndrew, Dave Castelli (general manager of the theater), Mark McDade, Kevin Donovan, Keith Oleski, Joseph Holland, Michael Robinson, Jerry Murray, Rob Fletcher and President Patrick O'Malley.



Helping families in need

The AOH Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 presented two \$100 checks to Saint Patrick's Church in West Scranton for two needy families. Since the pandemic hit, the "Hook" O'Malley Division has been giving out numerous checks to charitable organizations to help in this incredible time of need. From left, Hibernians Mark McDade, James Connor, President Patrick O'Malley presenting the check to Fr. Fox of St. Patrick's Church; and Treasurer Joseph Holland.



AOH Irish Thunder Pipes & Drums, standing from left, Drum Major Pete Hand, Pipe Sergeants Michelle Moloney, Mike Brown and Joe Cassidy, with Lt. Colonel William Bonelli.

Celebrating WWII veteran's 100th birthday

One of the best stops the Hibernian Irish Thunder Pipes & Drums band members may ever have had on Saint Patrick's Day was honoring WWII veteran Lt. Colonel William Bonelli on his 100th birthday at Mission BBQ in King of Prussia, PA.

Bonelli survived the attack at Pearl Harbor where he was an aircraft mechanic for the Army Air Corps. He returned to the states to be trained as a pilot to fly B-17 Flying Fortress. Once trained, he was transferred to Foggia, Italy, where he piloted 30 sorties over Axis territories. Twenty one of his sorties were as squadron or group lead pilot. He was promoted to Captain. After the war he continued his service in the Air Force to pilot several other aircraft and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel.

The members of Irish Thunder escorted Lt. Colonel Bonelli into the event and took part in the celebration of this American hero.

New York

The "AOH 15K To Fight Hunger" was a joint effort to raise money to fight the hunger crisis in New York State by the Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5 of Albany and the Col. Patrick O'Rorke Division 7 of Rochester.

The race was the brainchild of current Division 5 and former Division 7 member Adam Reimer who worked closely with both Division Presidents, Ciaran Geraghty of Division 5 and Mike Tobin of Division 7.

According to Feeding America, more than two million New Yorkers are struggling with the hunger crisis and almost 700,000 of those are children. The pandemic has made the dire situation even worse for individuals and their families.

Adam also saw March, being Irish American Heritage Month in the U.S., as a perfect time to implement this virtual race. Realizing that a 15K (9.32 miles) race might not attract many people not used to running this distance, Adam devised it as a Three Day Race, where participants could complete it however they wanted to. They could run, walk, hike, bike, swim or even row 9.32 miles! Participants also had the option to do the race all at once or break it up over the three-day period – making it accessible to nearly all Hibernians and the public.

The race took place March 26 through March 28, and attracted many members from both divisions and a wide array of public support. In the end, a runner in Hawaii and another in Portland, Oregon, took the titles of farthest away participants. At 79-years-old, Jack McCarthy, a Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5 Life Member, took the title of the oldest Hibernian to participate (and conquer it with ease!). At less than a year old, Callan Tobin, the son of Col. Patrick O'Rorke Division 7 President Mike Tobin and his wife Mindy, took the title of youngest participant.

The race had more than 130 participants of all age levels from six states; Hawaii, Portland, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida and New York. The AOH 15K To Fight Hunger raised more than \$4,000 that will all go to local food pantries in Rochester and Albany, NY. All participants received a special commemorative race shirt, and the first 100 participants to sign up also received a special medal to commemorate the event. Adam looks at the event as a smashing success that extended far beyond his expectations. He was so happy to also receive support from Albany County Legislative Chairman and Division 5 member Andrew Joyce, AOH National President Daniel J. O'Connell, AOH National Treasurer Liam McNabb, AOH National Director Tim McSweeney, New York State AOH Vice President John Manning, New York State AOH Treasurer Thomas Beirne and New York State AOH Director Tim Tobin.

A very special thank you to John McCarthy, Tim Wekler, John Levendosky, Mike Hogan and Jeremy Hughes of Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5 out of Albany for assisting Adam on the race committee. Another very special thank you to all those who participated and donated to the cause. It is estimated that every \$1 raised will feed up to 10 families, so imagine how many people will now be helped with more than \$4,000 raised.



At the AOH 15K To Fight Hunger were, from left, Jeremy Hughes, Adam Reimer, Andrew Joyce and Mike Hogan.



Jack McCarthy, a Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5 Life Member, took the title of the oldest Hibernian to participate.

Babylon recognizes Irish American Heritage Month

After receiving a formal letter of request from St. Patrick Division 2, the Long Island Town of Babylon recently held a celebration to announce that March 2021 has been designated Irish American Heritage Month in honor of "the countless contributions of Irish Americans to the Town." This announcement also honors St. Patrick Division 2, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year in the Babylon community.

"We are proud to declare March 2021 as Irish American Heritage Month to represent the hard work and contributions Irish Americans have made within the Town of Babylon," said Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer. "The AOH has been imbedded in the fabric of the Babylon community for 75 years, and this recognition acknowledges those Irish Americans who embody the blue-collar roots of our town."

The ceremony was held on March 2 at Town Hall, where Supervisor Schaffer read the official proclamation alongside AOH St. Patrick Division 2 President Jim Killen, current Division officers, past Division presidents, Brothers and Suffolk County President Chris Thompson. President Killen thanked the Town officials on "behalf of all ladies and men at our Division, and all AOH members nationwide."

St. Patrick Division 2 is the only AOH Division in the Town of Babylon (approximate population of 300,000). The Division is extremely active in the Town of Babylon, and assists with various food drives for all nine parishes in the town, plus various food pantries and Veteran homes.

In celebration of Irish American Heritage Month, Division 2 has planned several events throughout the month. These include music and dance presentation on the Division's YouTube channel, weekly Irish movie and cultural documentary nights. For information on Division 2's events, visit <https://www.babylonhibernians.com/> or follow them on Instagram, YouTube and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/aohbabylon>.



Present for the IAHM declaration at Town Hall were, from left, Division 2 Social Media Chairman Sean Murphy, Right to Life Chairman John McCormick, Vice President Dennis Harty, Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, President Jim Killen, Past President Matt Buckley, Financial Secretary and Past President Jerry Belmont, Saffron United Pipe Band member Bob Farrell and Bill Stoddard.



Helping to preserve Irish-American culture
In March, AOH Division 1, in Yonkers, made a \$5,000 donation to the Aisling Irish Community and Cultural Center's renovation campaign. Charities Chairman Tom Allison said, "The preservation and advancement of Irish-American cultural and social issues is our top priority and we are proud to support the Aisling Center." From left, Hibernians Al Fitzpatrick, Tom Allison, Aisling Community Center Executive Director Sandra Feeney-Charles and Hibernian Mike Morley. — Submitted by Chad Ghostin, Division Recording Secretary.



Division 7 honors by town
On St. Patrick's Day, the Islip (Long Island) Town Board presented East Islip's Division 7 with a Citation recognizing the Hibernians' many contributions to the community. From left, Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter, President Tom McHugh and Immediate Past NYS President Vic Vogel. The ceremony featured the traditional lighting of the town hall bell tower in green.

New York

by Bro Tom Loughlin Jr. (article and photos)

Oneida Hibernians load charity by the tons

The latest Irish-American salvo against hunger was fired on St Patrick's Day in Utica, NY. Seventeen tons of nutritious, lifesaving emergency food kits, were loaded into the trunks of Central New York residents needing food help. One thousand kits, each containing 34 lbs. of food, were distributed.

Helping Utica Food Pantry and Compassion Coalition workers was a crew of about two dozen members of Oneida County Irish organizations, including members of the Irish Cultural Center, and both the AOH John C. Devereux Oneida County Division 1 and the LAOH Ladies of Knock Division.

Among the enthusiastic, dedicated distribution team staffing the outreach was Notre Dame High School freshman Brycen Brooks. Brooks is the grandson of former Utica Fire Chief and past Oneida County Hibernians President Russell Brooks and wife Marianne, and heads the Notre Dame High School food bank and volunteers at the Utica Food Pantry. Notre Dame granted Brycen a pass so he could participate in the massive effort, a noble activity.



Notre Dame High School gave Brycen Brooks, left, the day off so that he could participate in the St. Patrick's Day acts of charity. Hibernian Pat Costello assisted.



Distribution team members await traffic flow through the Irish Cultural Center parking lot with a few of the 1,000 emergency food donation kits.



An aerial shot of the well-dressed Hibernians.

Virtual parade produced, filmed on Long Island

The Huntington Hibernians were disappointed when we realized we couldn't host our 87th Annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The vision of having so many emotionally drained people line the streets to cheer, laugh and celebrate our frontline workers was dashed. We jumped into uncharted waters and put together a virtual parade video for many to enjoy during Irish American Heritage month. We wanted to bring a smile to many faces by hosting a virtual parade featuring Irish music, bagpipers, dance and much more on March 14th via our division's YouTube channel.

Filming took place at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington. AOH Division 4's very own Brother Leer Leary partnered with North Shore TV (NSTV) to bring the virtual Huntington St. Patrick's Day parade to life. Leer leveraged his 30 years of experience as an actor and voiceover artist to put together a spirited Irish event. Brother Brian Rogers put his graphic design expertise to work and designed a terrific virtual events page on the division's website, a shamrocked QR code and added a division YouTube channel to our social media arsenal. Brothers John Monahan and Tom Dougherty rounded out the committee with countless hours prepping articles, reviewing photos, selling raffle tickets, setting up text to give codes and a number of other important activities.

We were able to air for free on YouTube so everyone has access to this wonderful Irish treat, and the video will also serve as a fundraiser, to replace the cancelled parade, which raises funds so the division can provide special education academic scholarships, Colleen academic scholarships, keep community food pantries filled and run an annual turkey drive that feeds more than 200 families.

Rest assured we will be back next year with a tremendous in-person celebration of our heritage, our community and our frontline workers. President and CEO of Northwell Health, Michael Dowling, will lead the parade through the town of Huntington on March 13th, 2022.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

Louisiana



The James Cardinal Gibbons Division of the AOH in Jefferson Parish (County) donated to three worthy causes this 2021 year. Louisiana State Vice President Randy King, Gibbons Financial Secretary Jerry Donegan, Gibbons Vice President John McCrossen, Gibbons Treasurer Martin Sirera and Louisiana State Secretary Matt Toups presented a check for \$3,000 January 20 to St. Michael's Head of School Cissy LaForge.

Pictured right: The Cardinal Gibbons Division's third donation was to the Southeast Louisiana Council, Boy Scouts of America. Boy Scouts Executive Director Torrey Hayden and Field Director Todd Connor received a check for \$1,000 on January 27 from Division Treasurer Martin Sirera and Vice-President McCrossen.



On January 26, the Cardinal Gibbons Division donated to the Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center. The division board presented a check for \$3,000 to Greater New Orleans Riding Center Director Anita Hefler and rider Katie Spinato. The GNOTRC is a non-profit organization founded to help provide a fun and therapeutic experience for individuals with physical, emotional and learning disabilities.



Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

It was still not a normal month of March for the Hibernians of Connecticut but a big improvement over the shutdown of 2020. Most parades were cancelled again but Peter Hearty Sr. was finally able to stage the 50th annual Hibernian Parade in New Fairfield on March 13, and Bethel Hibernians were able to have their annual procession between their two flag raisings on March 17.

The Hartford Division organized and took part in a memorial event for the Irish laborers who helped build the Windsor Locks Canal on Sunday, March 21. The event was co-sponsored by the town of Windsor Locks. More than 200 people attended.

The event honored the 400 immigrant Irish laborers who came to the area between May 1827 and November 1829 to build the canal bypassing the treacherous Enfield Rapids. They lived in shanty camps and worked from dawn until dusk in damp and dangerous conditions.

The location of the ceremony overlooked a small parcel of land that is believed to be a forgotten Irish-Catholic cemetery. AOH Hartford Division 2 laid a memorial wreath at the park in honor of those buried in the cemetery and for all of the Irish laborers and their families. The Hartford AOH is hoping to place a permanent memorial at the site in the future. National Director Richard Thompson, from Massachusetts, was in attendance representing the National Board.



Stamford Division President Peter Green stood with new members Sean Connington, David Hart, John Leydon, James Leydon, Richard McKenna, Stephen Shannon and Justin Trout, whom he installed at the Division's February meeting.



Danbury Hibernian of the Year. AOH bar manager Don Bicklehaupt received his honoree plaque on St. Patrick's Day from 2020 Hibernian of the Year Brian Hearty and Division President Phil Gallagher. Don was the man of the hour for the Danbury AOH during these trying times.



The Waterbury Division Fighting Irish Food Drive was held on March 6 instead of their annual parade. They raised more than \$1,000 in cash and filled up a 26-foot box truck with non-perishable food for the Waterbury Interfaith Ministries food bank.



The Celtic Cross Pipes & Drums led marchers during the 50th annual Hibernian New Fairfield St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13. This parade may have been the only one held this year in Connecticut. New Fairfield is listed as the most Irish municipality in Connecticut with 33 percent of the population claiming Irish heritage!

New York

Oneida Hibernians elect officers

The John C. Devereux Oneida County Div. 1's new officers are, from left, VP Patrick Kealy, Sentinel Shawn Murphy, Standing Committee Chairman Jeffrey Isherwood. President Patrick Roach, Treasurer Patrick St. Thomas, Marshal Sean Stagner, Financial Secretary Kevin M Parker. Recording Secretary Jim Powers was absent from the picture. Division Hibernians donate thousands of dollars in support of food banks in the county and throughout Central New York and play a prominent role in both the Utica St. Patrick's Parade and the Great American Irish festival.



Fr. Kevin Devine

With great sadness, we announce that our New York County Hibernian Chaplain, Paulist Fr. Kevin Aloysius Devine, entered eternal life on March 25, 2021 at the age of 90.

Fr. Kevin Devine was a Paulist Priest for almost 65 years and the Chaplain of William B. Burke, Division 3, New York County, AOH for many years.

He was born December 23, 1930, in New York City, a son of Edmund and Joan (Twomey) Devine. He had four brothers: Donal, Patrick, Finbar and Matthew and they grew up in the mostly Irish American community of Inwood, at the northern tip of Manhattan. The Devines were a legendary family with a proud tradition of service to the United States and NYC, including the Army, the FBI and NYPD. Finbar Devine was one of the founders of the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band in 1960, and served as the Drum Major from 1960 until his death in 1995. Fr. Kevin was predeceased by the other members of his immediate family. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, a large extended family, and his Paulist Brothers.

Fr. Kevin was ordained a priest on May 3, 1956, one of 17 Paulist priests ordained that day by Cardinal Francis Spellman. In September 1962, he began his distinguished 31-year career as a U.S. Army Chaplain. He served all around the world with the U.S. Army, including in Germany, Korea, Vietnam (1969, '70), Alaska and Greenland. During his military service, Fr. Kevin was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star (with Valor) and was promoted to the rank of Colonel. After retiring from the Army in 1993, Fr. Kevin returned to his native Inwood and became an associate pastor at Church of the Good Shepherd. The September 11th attack on the World Trade Center had a large impact on the Good Shepherd parish and the Inwood community and Fr. Devine helped them heal. Fr. Devine served at the World Trade Center site ministering to the first responders and recovery workers. As a result of his serving at the WTC, the Port Authority PD presented to the Church of the Good Shepherd a steel cross recovered from Ground Zero to stand as a memorial to those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001.

The Plaque in the memorial garden at Good Shepherd sums it up very well.

FATHER KEVIN DEVINE'S
GARDEN OF ETERNAL LIFE

When the tragedy of 9/11 occurred and it became clear that the Inwood Community was affected greatly, Father Kevin Devine helped bring us together and heal through our love and faith in God.

He was instrumental in helping us acquire the steel cross from Ground Zero. Through his vision of the Good Shepherd protecting us through life, dying on the cross for our sins and then welcoming us into eternal life, this beautiful garden was created.

Father Devine has been a constant source of love and support and it is an honor to have him in our lives. The families of those lost on 9/11 thank him for being a "Missionary in Inwood."

A prayer offered by the Paulists for their Brother, Kevin: "May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem."

— Thomas Beirne, NYS AOH Treasurer, Past President, NY County AOH

John B. Greehy

John B. Greehy of Cornwall, NY, died on July 10, 2020, at home surrounded by many dear family members and friends. He was 78. The son of the late John Greehy and MaryEllen (Healy) Greehy, John was born on September 4, 1941 in Queens, NY. John was married to his late wife, Anne, for 52 years. John was a retired firefighter with FDNY Engine 35, in Harlem, for 31 years where he made many life-long friendships. He honorably and proudly served his country with the military police of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

John was an active member of the St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Cornwall, American Legion, Ancient Order Of Hibernians Division 2, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Ambulance Corp, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Orange County, Grand Marshal in Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade, Grand Marshal's Aide for the parade in New York City.

John was a loving husband, devoted Catholic, a brother to all FDNY.

He was giving, kind, caring, and a fun Irishman who loved life and did it his way. He will be missed greatly.

In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his loving wife: Anne C. (Griffin) Greehy in 2018, whom he missed every day. He was predeceased by his sisters: Katherine Greehy, Christine Leicht, and Marie Dowd; great nephew: John Greehy Jr. John is survived by his sister: Alice (Greehy) Fox; his brother: Morris Greehy; and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas Aquinas Hoar, Jr.

Thomas Aquinas Hoar, Jr., was born August 13, 1940, in Yonkers, NY. He passed away March 28, 2021, in Katy, Texas, his hometown for more than 35 years.

Tom grew up in Yonkers, the son of Thomas Sr. and Margaret (DeLapp) Hoar. As the oldest of three children, he was a devoted son and big brother. As a teen, he served as an altar boy at St. Denis Church and took the subway to the Jesuit-run Xavier High School (class of 1958), where he expanded upon the lessons he learned from his parents and embraced the Jesuit motto, "For the greater glory of God," and the philosophy of being a man for others.

He continued his studies and sports career with the Jesuits at LeMoyn College, where he graduated with a degree in Economics in 1962. He furthered his education with a master's degree in Economics from Purdue University and a master's in business administration from St. John's University in Queens, New York.

Tom served his community as a leader in many organizations, including: President of AOH Division 1 Yonkers, organizing the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day parade, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, St. Paul's Catholic Church Men's Club (president), American Irish Association of Westchester County, NY, Jaycees (president and New York state officer), Yonkers YMCA (president), March of Dimes (board member) and Lincoln Park Civic Association (board member).

The best decision he ever made was marrying Ann (Driscoll) on August 10, 1975. They raised two children, Anne "Annie" and Thomas III "Tommy."

In the early 1980s, Tom moved his family from his beloved New York to follow a job opportunity in Texas. Settling in Katy, he "made accounting come alive" as a professor at Houston Community College, Prairie View A&M, and the University of Phoenix.

Preceded in death by his parents and his sister Therese (Peter) Mikulka, Tom is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ann, his daughter Anne (Jonathan) Ladewig of Arlington, Virginia, his son Thomas A. Hoar III of Arlington, Virginia, his favorite granddaughter Madeline Ladewig, and his sister Mary Hoar, of Yonkers.

Paul F. Hogan, Jr.

Past Massachusetts AOH State President Paul F. Hogan, Jr., 68, lifelong resident of Holyoke, Massachusetts, died on February 14, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center. Paul was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, son of the late Paul F. and Mary F. (Murphy) Hogan, and was educated in Holyoke schools. He was a retired supervisor for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Always active in the community, Paul was involved in many organizations. He was the current President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, James A. Curran Division 1, Holyoke, for many years and was a Past State President of the AOH.

He was active with Catholic Youth

Basketball (CYO) and youth scouting, the 2018 Citizenship Award winner for the Holyoke St. Patrick Parade Committee, and was the owner and operator of Valley Landscaping & Paving. Paul built a countless number of floats for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and won many awards for his craftsmanship. He was currently a parishioner of St. Jerome Parish.

Paul will be greatly missed by his family: his son Patrick Hogan of Holyoke; four brothers: Peter J. Hogan of Holyoke, William J. Hogan (Sandy) of CT, Jeremiah J. Hogan of FL, and Michael P. Hogan (Chris) of Southampton; two sisters: Katherine M. Fernandes (Tony) of Holyoke, and Mary Frances Perkons of CA; many nieces and nephews, and his longtime companion Mary Mulvenna.

James J. Kelly

James J. Kelly, a gentleman who personified the meaning of a true Hibernian, died on July 14, 2020. Jim was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, in 1939. He served in the Irish army, emigrated to America and served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne. Brother Kelly was a retired detective for the New York City PD and later an analyst for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

He joined the Joseph Duell Jr. AOH Division 1, in Monroe, NY, in 1978. He served as: Orange County AOH Division 1 president from 1996-97; District 8 Director 1992-94; AOH Orange County board president 2001-2005, and AOH County historian 1990-2014. He was a founder and chairman of the Fleming scholarship fund from 2001-2013.

Brother Kelly initiated the Seamus Comiskey Memorial Shamrock Degree Team and served as degree coordinator from 2004-2014. In 2016, Jim was awarded the Burns-Hayes Award by the NY State AOH. As well as a highly valued member of the AOH, brother Kelly was an accomplished bagpiper, and played a significant role in the Orange County AOH pipe and drums for more than 38 years. Jim joined "The Old Brigade" in 1978. He quickly rose through the ranks and became pipe sergeant in 1982, a rank that he held to 1997. He then became pipe major from 1997 until 2001. As a stellar teacher, Jim mentored bagpipers at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point from 1991-1996, earning himself the Sgm Jack Harris Award.

Jim was recognized for his leadership throughout the Irish community in Orange County. In 1992, he was the grand marshal of the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's parade. Brother Kelly's Lifetime Membership Award in the AOH celebrated his many accomplishments and legacy within the Order. Please keep his wife Breda, his children, William and Maria, and their families in your prayers.

Hugh Lunney

Hugh Lunney, a longtime member of the Francis P. Beirne, Division 9, NY County AOH, passed away on February 18, 2021, just two days after his 85th birthday. Hugh hailed from Swalinbar, County Cavan. He proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and completed his service in the summer of 1959.

Hugh was well known in the NYC hospitality industry, operating several very successful O'Lunney's restaurants over the years: on 44th Street, 2nd Avenue, and most recently O'Lunneys Times Square Pub on West 45th Street. O'Lunney's were always a first stop for many Irish when visiting New York. O'Lunney's Times Square unfortunately shut down permanently in the Spring of 2020, due to the pandemic. Hugh was a legend, providing many new Irish immigrants their first job in America, and the first gig to many aspiring musicians.

Hugh lived in Yonkers and was a member of St. Barnabas parish. He is survived by his wife Maureen; and children: Emmett, Kevin and Maureen, a large extended family, including grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Hugh was a proud Irishman and a strong

Irish Republican. He supported many efforts and served on numerous committees working for peace and justice in the north of Ireland. He hosted many events, lectures, book launches and meetings at his establishments over the years. Most AOH Freedom For All Ireland guest speaker tours in recent years included a talk at O'Lunneys Times Square, including Ruan O'Donnell, Relatives For Justice, Carmel Quinn and Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign for Justice, and others.

Hugh will be remembered and greatly missed by all who knew him and benefitted from his generosity.

Richard B. Masterson

Richard B. Masterson, 78, a member of Akron's Mark Heffernan Division, passed away unexpectedly on December 26, 2020, from complications of Covid-19. He was an active member of the Division for over 40 years, holding several offices at the local and state levels, including Ohio State Board President. He was also a Past Commander of the American Legion in Akron.

For 39 years he volunteered at the Akron Feis, held each Memorial Day weekend, tabulating and posting the dancers' results and scores from the judges. His favorite movie was *The Quiet Man* with favorite quotes: "And who taught you to be playin' patty-fingers in the Holy Water?" and "I could tell you blood curdling stories about him, but, but, me troat, me troat's gone dry." He continued to go to his office every day until he became ill in December.

Rich is survived by his daughter Michele Masterson, son Jason (Vicki) Masterson, older brother Jim (Sandy) Masterson, younger sister Margie Eschen, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Audrey.

Rich was born in February, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio to John F. and Margaret (Joyce) Masterson. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1960 and from Ohio University in 1964. He married Audrey (Kozak) in November 1965. After graduating from Ohio University he served in the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. Following his time with the Air Force he joined the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company as an auditor of company stores. After 20 years, he left to pursue his dream to open his own CPA business.

Donal N. Morrissey, Sr.

Donal N. Morrissey, Sr., of Bay Shore, Long Island, died on March 14, 2021. Donal was an active 50-year member of St. Patrick's Division 2 in Babylon, NY. He was also a piper and piping instructor for Saffron Kilts Irish Pipe Band / Saffron United Pipe Band. Donal was a member of the Tara Court Major Degree team as a guard. He was named St. Patrick's Division 2's Hibernian of the Year in 2011. He was a Brother and friend to all, a true Irish Catholic gentleman.

Donal was raised in the Bronx, NY and attended Iona College. He met his future bride at a dance in The Bronx, married and settled on Long Island. Donal was a proud veteran on the New York Army National Guard, and was a retired educator with New York City Public School system.

Beloved husband of the late Lorraine E. Morrissey. Devoted father to Donal Jr. (Sandra), Kevin (Mary), Lorraine, Niall and June (Mark) Spruyt. Cherished grandfather of Kevin, Donal Jr., Brianna, Kyle, Kaitlyn, Justin, Ryan, Hope and Austin.

Funeral mass was celebrated by St. Patrick's Division 2's Chaplain, Monsignor Brian McNamara.

John Joseph (Jack) Nolan

John Joseph (Jack) Nolan, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away at the age of 88 on February 1,

continued on page 25

IN MEMORIAM
continued from page 24

2021, at Community Medical Center in Toms River, NJ.

He was past president of the former Rev. William J. Clifford Ocean County (NJ) Division 1, and later a member of Fr. Duffy Ocean County (NJ) Division 2.

Born on August 3, 1932, in Brooklyn, NY, to Sylvester and Helen (nee Connors) Nolan, Jack was a 1950 graduate of La Salle Academy on the Lower East Side. In 1954 he received a BBA from City College of New York. Having participated in the CCNY ROTC program, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served in Korea for 17 months immediately following the armistice.

Before his deployment, he married Kathleen Connor, his neighborhood sweetheart, on September 4, 1954. They raised six children in Queens, Commack and Huntington on Long Island.

After his discharge from the Army, Jack had a successful career in sales and management in the printing industry in New York City. He retired to Whiting, NJ in 1996 where he was known to the children of the Lacey school

district as Mr. Pennyfeather, the affable WC Fields fan who transported them safely to and from school.

Jack had a deep and quiet faith. He and Kathy were devoted parish volunteers, both on Long Island and NJ, Jack having attained Fourth Degree with the Knights of Columbus. Named Irishman of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Jack served as past-president in the Toms River Division. He will be remembered for his constant good humor, quick smile, and his kind and compassionate friendliness.

In addition to his parents, Jack was predeceased by his son John in 2011, daughter-in-law Laura in 2020; brothers Joseph (2016) and Gerard (2021). He is survived by Kathy, his wife of 66 years; five children: Patrick, Maryanne, Timothy (Ann), Christopher (Suzanne), Daniel (Meg), and by his sister Eileen Nolan of Queens, NY. He adored his 18 grandchildren: Quinn, Kerry, Katie (Casey), Vanessa (Vince), Mary Kate (Mike), Christopher, Thomas, Meghan, James, Terence (Francesca), Sarah, Emma, Andrew, Peter, Frances, Lily, Luke, and Caroline. His five great-grandchildren: Catherine, Grace Elizabeth, Remy, Brinley, and Layla, were the apples of his eyes.

James G. Norris, Sr.

James G. Norris, Sr., 96, a member of Division 1, in Williamsport, Pa, passed away December 15, 2020. Born May 5, 1924, in Farrell, Pa., he was a graduate of Farrell High School Class of 1942, Dickinson Seminary (now Lycoming College) Class of 1948, and Miami University, Coral Gables, Florida, Class of 1950, where he earned a BA in advertising and marketing.

After High School graduation in 1942, he enlisted in the Navy during World War II. He served in the North Atlantic and the North Pacific. Upon discharge in 1946, he joined the Williamsport Unit of the U.S. Naval Reserve and was recalled by the Navy to serve during the Korean War. He was a Radioman First Class in both conflicts.

He was Major Degreed and founding member of the AOH Division in Williamsport and the Irish Culture Club of Williamsport. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus where he held his 3rd Degree.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marguerite, and a son, Brian. He is survived by six sons and three daughters. Four of his sons are in the AOH. There are 20 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Dennis L. Smith

Deacon Dennis L. Smith, 74, passed away January 8, 2021. He was born in Elyria, Ohio, to Joseph and Hilda Smith and has lived in the Akron area since 1973. Deacon received his B.S. in education from Kent State University. He was ordained a deacon for service to the Diocese of Cleveland on May 22, 1993, and served nine years at Immaculate Conception in Kenmore. He has been at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church since August 2002. He has worked with liturgical ministers, was Director of Music and RCIA for nine years. He was an active contributor to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Deacon is also a member of Knights of Columbus Council #4644, Victor J. Paul 4th Degree Assembly #1768, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a volunteer at Akron Children's Hospital. Deacon Dennis was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Virginia, whom he married on June 16, 1973; son, Douglas; two grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brothers, Tim (Bobbi), Roman (Kim), Richard (Terri), Marvin (Carol) and Gerald.

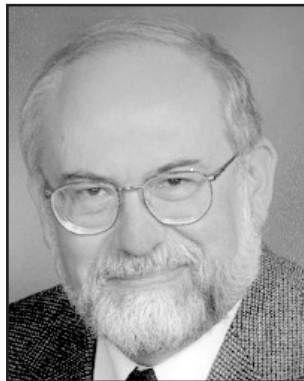
Ohio



Hibernians deal with pandemic, isolation and grief

We are living in unusual times. The Washington County (Ohio) Division 1 is dealing with the realities of all three of these elements.

The pandemic has necessitated innovation in interacting with its members. Brother Rob Brannan has been appointed Zoom facilitator for the



Dr. Marshall S. Griffin

Division. In that capacity, he has been able to bring the Division together for an Irish Social Hour once a month. The hour is open to any Hibernian to join. The blarney and the malarkey are fueled by the participant's choice of an adult beverage. Once a month, the Division does a Zoom meeting to conduct official business.

Given the fact that the division is, on the whole, a gregarious group of individuals, isolation has become a problem. Thanks to the division newsletter, *The Turf and the Slean*, which is distributed every two months, members can keep up with articles of interest, the President's messages, family stories and family history. The newsletter is under the direction of Pat Kelly and Chip Rogers. Recipients of the newsletter include officers of the Ohio AOH as well as division presidents around the state.

Grief has only recently been a part of division life. On Friday, January 29, Division Financial Secretary, Dr. Marshall S. Griffin, age 72, succumbed after a short illness. Griffin had retired as a professor of biology at West Virginia University, Parkersburg, West Virginia. On February 1, the division lost William Richard Coffey, age 90, suddenly. Coffey spent his career in radio, retiring to Athens, Ohio, where he was involved in a number of community activities and taught at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. He was referred to by his students as "Coach." Their loss was further complicated by the division's inability to represent itself at their wakes and funerals. The division asks that God always be good to Brothers Griffin and Coffey and that Perpetual Light Shine upon them and that they Rest in Peace.

Division President Thomas Binegar continues to ask that all brothers in the division continue to mask, social distance and receive the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

Florida

Mourning their Division Chaplain

The members of the Fulton J. Sheen Division 2, Brevard Co., attended the funeral of our Division Chaplain, Reverend Eamon J. Tobin, Pastor of Ascension Catholic Church, on January 12.

Fr. Eamon was born in Dublin and raised in Co. Kilkenny. He traveled to the U. S. and was ordained in 1972 for the Orlando Diocese. Fr. Eamon had been the Pastor of Ascension Church in Melbourne, FL, from 2001.

He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Tobin family and all the Ascension Catholic community.



California

Productive days for Ventura Hibernians

The Easter Rising Division 1 Ventura, California, has been working hard during these pandemic months.

On March 15, we had received the Proclamation from our City Council. Our Division President, John McNally, spoke at the City Council meeting and secured their acceptance of the Resolution.

Our Saint Patrick's Day 8 a.m. Mass was well attended, which included a City Council member and former Mayor. We had a bagpiper play outside the church before Mass and an Uilleann piper to play inside the church, another first for us.

And John McNally participated in a Saint Patrick's Day zoom meeting with President Biden and representatives of the Irish American Community.

We recently added three new Brothers and our membership is up to 25.



The Ventura Division after Mass on St. Patrick's Day.



Division President John McNally in a Zoom meeting with President Biden.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of the Ladies National President...

Karen Keane

Prolife Includes Reasonable Gun Laws

Continuing from my last article on Pro-Birth is only one part of Prolife, I would like to discuss our Church's teaching on gun laws/gun control. Yes, gun laws and gun control are part of Our Church's teaching on Prolife. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, writes, advocates, and teaches that reasonable gun laws are a Prolife issue. This is not debatable with me, as I am a Prolife educated Catholic.

I know that many are not happy with the all encumbering Prolife stance of Our Church, and like to pick which part of Prolife it believes is the most important. However, we should not be "Cafeteria Catholics" on the Prolife teaching of our Church.

Hopefully, we as Catholics can agree that reasonable gun control, as lobbied by the USCCB is needed in this country. This includes a total ban on assault weapons, universal background checks for all gun purchases, limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapon and ammunition magazines, federal law to criminalize gun trafficking, improved access to resources for mental health and earlier intervention, regulations, and limitations on the purchase of handguns, and making guns safer with the use of locks, etc.

We should be spending our time and energy on gun laws in this country as requested by our Church's leaders. With this issue being included on all our Prolife literature, we are educating our members and our countrymen that we believe all lives are sacred, born and unborn, and we want to make guns safer for yourselves and our neighbors. While suicide accounts for a greater percentage of gun deaths than homicide, it falls back on the Prolife issues of mental health and reasonable gun laws. Let us do our part. Together we are Stronger!

Pennsylvania

MaryEllen Everett Division 1 of Bucks County, PA

In late January, the Ladies of MaryEllen Everett Division 1 of Bucks County, PA were thrilled to partner with Catholic Social Services of Bucks County to host their first community Diaper Driver. The Family Service Center is the first point of contact for individuals, families, and parishes when they seek assistance from Catholic Social Services. Due to the pandemic, Catholic Social Services of Bucks County is experiencing a 30% increase in need. Monthly, they serve on average 100 families and provide over 8,000 diapers. Catholic Social Services facilitates intake and assessment for individuals and families to assist them in accessing benefits and services. The Bucks County Catholic Social Services offers Pregnancy and Parenting Support, Diaper Pantry, Mary's Food Cupboard and Catholic Clinical Consultants for counseling needs.

During three drop off days, the Ladies of MaryEllen Everett Division collected over 6,600 diapers, 6,500 wipes, baby wash, and baby shampoo. The LAOH mission statement of practicing Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity in our community has made a wonderful impact for those who are in need especially during the stressful time of Covid. We are a sisterhood that extends outside of our organization to those who we may never meet with the hope that our kindness can make a positive impact in their lives.



Father Ryan Duns SJ played the tin whistle at the St. Brigid Mass on January 31, 2021

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

www.ladiesaoh.com

New York

On March 10, 2021, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Schenectady JFK Division 1 celebrated its 120th anniversary. At a ceremony to mark this milestone, LAOH National President Karen Keane presented Schenectady LAOH's president Kim DePeaux with a proclamation. During the event, they honored eight living past presidents from the Schenectady division as well as its deceased members. In addition, the division made a motion to donate \$120 to each of their main community charities.

Schenectady Auxiliary Division 1 was organized on March 10, 1901. For a few years, the Auxiliary flourished and held meetings regularly. Membership was small and the amount of money collected in dues was not sufficient to keep going. The Auxiliary became less active and for a while held meetings in the homes of members.

Early in 1911, a group of men in St Columba's parish decided to form a new division to be known as division 2. On July 3, 1911 auxiliary division 2 was organized; eleven members were initiated by a Degree team from Amsterdam. The Division has a small meeting room in turner hall on Albany Street, paying the rental fee of \$.75 per meeting.

Shortly after the organization of Auxiliary 2, Auxiliary 1 reactivated and a county Board was formed. Schenectady is a small County and it soon became apparent that in the best interests of the AOH and Auxiliary in Schenectady there should be one AOH and Auxiliary Division. Consequently, Division 2 disbanded and most of the members transferred to Division 1.

In 1984, at the National convention, held in Albany, New York, the Ladies voted to change their name to The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1985, the AOH approved the change; we were now officially the LAOH.



Monroe County NY, Division 1 and 4 LAOH members at the St Patrick's Day Mass

Michigan



Regan Lezotte, a member of the Sarah Regan Division in Livingston County, Michigan and past member of the Court of St. Brigid is a fourth generation Hibernian and is a Certified Flight Instructor at Crosswinds Aviation in Howell, MI.

LAOH Irish History Contest Winners

The Level 1 Grades 6-8 winners are:

First Place (\$500 prize) - Alex C. from Pennsylvania

Second Place (\$250 prize) - Maeve L. from Ohio

The Level 2 Grades 9-12 winners are:

First Place (\$1,000 prize) - Gabriel R. from California

Second Place (\$500 prize) - Claire N. from Virginia

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all the participants in our contest.

Since the 2021-22 Irish History Contest coincides with the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike, next year's theme will be "What was the impact of the hunger strike on Irish History?"

Minnesota

Division 4 celebrates St. Patrick with Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul

Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4, Ramsey County, celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our annual Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Our division was honored to have the Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, as the celebrant. Pictured is the Archbishop with our scholarship winners, who are of Irish descent, from area Catholic high schools. This year's scholarship winners are Jake Donahue, from Cretin Derham; Aidan Walsh and Sheila Ryan, from St. Agnes; and Sam Lehner, from Hill-Murray (not pictured). Our division is proud that we were again able to offer \$6,000 in scholarship money to these deserving students.

— Charlie Callaghan



Minnesota Shamrock Division celebrates St. Patrick

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

More photos and information about the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our website at hibernians-shamrock.com — Tim Halloran



The Shamrock Division has approximately 90 members and usually will also carry our banner in the St. Patrick's Day parades in Saint Paul and Belle Plaine. Unfortunately, both of these parades were canceled again this year due to the pandemic.

New York

Honoring our patron saint

Oneida County Catholics of Irish descent and other devotees of St. Patrick met to honor their patron saint with the annual St. Patrick Memorial Mass at St. Joseph /St. Patrick Church in Utica. Organizers of the annual event — and most numerous among attendees — were members of the Oneida County AOH John C Devereux Oneida County Division 1 and the LAOH Ladies of Knock.

Dr. Dan Murphy, a former Grand Marshal of the St Patrick's Parade in Utica, led the Hibernians into the Mass. The mass was dedicated to those who lost their lives in the

pandemic, especially former St. Joseph/St. Patrick Pastor Richard Dellos.

Rev. Richard Kapral was joined by co-celebrants Fr. John Croghan, former pastor at St. Mary's Church in Clinton and Hamilton College, who delivered the homily about growing up Irish in Utica's Cornhill neighborhood and school at St Francis deSales; Fr. Tom Servatius of Historic Old St. John's; and Fr. Joe Salerno of Our Lady of Lourdes. Rose Butler of the Ladies of Knock and Sister Maureen Denn provided scripture readings. The mass program and flowers were donated by McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski and Nunn Funeral Home.

— Story and photos by Tom Loughlin Jr



Hibernians assemble beneath the statue of their patron, St. Patrick, following the St. Patrick's Memorial Mass at St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church in Utica. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.



Father John Croghan, former pastor of St Mary's Church in Clinton and Hamilton College, gave the homily at the St. Patrick's mass, recounting his days growing up Irish in Utica's Cornhill neighborhood and school at St. Francis deSales. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Pennsylvania



Members of LAOH Notre Dame Division 2 and AOH Division 1 Color Guard and Irish Thunder Pipes & Drums after Saint Brigid's Mass at Saint Patrick's Church with Father Gus Puleo.

Florida

Hibernians parade in Melbourne



The Brothers of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Brevard County Division of Melbourne, Florida, held their annual St. Patrick's Parade on March 20. Attending to support their Brothers were Hibernians from across Florida, including, from left, National Director and State President Ray Lynch, Deputy Organizer and Brevard Co. Vice President Keith Reynolds, Brevard Co. President Todd McDonald and National Director and National



Also taking advantage of the beautiful weather and celebration were Keith and Tim's daughters, Bella McSweeney, left, and Keira Reynolds.

New Jersey

While most St. Patrick's Parades have been canceled, Bergen Division 32, in River Edge, New Jersey, completed its second annual parade through town to promote Irish culture and celebrate their history.

At the same time, in addition to the River Edge parade, Steve Baxter was the Aide to

Cardinal Tobin in the 39th Bergenfield Parade, which was held virtually on March 14. The boys from Division 32 stepped off in town on the 14th at 1 p.m. and then headed to the Knights of Columbus to watch the Bergenfield virtual parade. While it was a tough year, we still managed to get together and celebrate our heritage.



Fr. Solanus Casey Bergen 32 march thru River Edge celebrating St Patrick's Day.



Fr. Solanus Casey Bergen 32, from left, Past President Steven Baxter, Rich Matthews, Jimmy Teehan, Tommy Herrity and John Devine.



Brendan J. Daly and Steven M. Baxter outside the the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, after the parade mass. Bros. Daly and Baxter are not only members of Bergen 32 AOH but also members of the Knights of Columbus.

Kentucky

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

The Division teamed with Mission BBQ and provided lunch to nurses, doctors and staff to hospitals in the Louisville area. We also joined forces with the Zachary Taylor Legion Post 180 and the Men's Club from St. Patrick, and on a beautiful sunny day provided lunch and dinner to all the first responders in the Louisville area.

Keeping with tradition on St. Patrick's Day, the Hibernians visited the Franciscan Shelter House and served an Irish lunch, consisting of corn beef, cabbage, potatoes and other goodies to more than 350 needy individuals.

Once again this year, the pandemic prevented the Division from hosting the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. We had to come up with an alternative way to honor this year's parade theme, Blarney on Baxter. The Division created The AOH Irish Passport. The AOH Irish Passport listed all the parade sponsors and each time someone

visited one of the sponsors and made the minimum purchase their server placed a sticker on the passport for that establishment. Once an individual collected five unique Sponsor Stickers, they could redeem the passport for a Parade Glass and be entered to win Sponsor Prizes. The AOH Irish Passport was a big hit for all involved. The Division plans on making this a future part of our St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Hopefully next year things will be back to normal so we can march through the Highlands celebrating our annual St. Patrick's Day Parade with our closest brothers,



Hibernians provided an Irish Lunch at the Franciscan Shelter House. From left, Jeremy Garris, Rob Fallahay, Tim McMonigal, Mike Delaney, Joe Fallahay and Clem Russell.

 936 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-589-7373	 933 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-478-1222	 636 E Main Street Louisville, KY 40202 502-584-2739	 BEARNEY ON BAXTER ST. PATRICK'S PARADE Louisville, KY	 534 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-585-3700	 3980 Shelbyville Rd St Matthews, KY 40207	 919 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-614-8424
 713 Brent Street Louisville, KY 40204 502-589-9191	 936 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-588-4661	 8131 New La Grange Rd. Lyndon, KY 40222 502-434-7470	<p>HOW TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit a Sponsor and order a meal and any drink. Sponsors with no food require minimum \$10 purchase Have your server place a sticker on your passport for the establishment Collect a minimum of 5 Unique Sponsor Stickers AND add any combination of 2 Guinness or Miller Lite stickers to your passport (optional) Return completed passport to the AOH at Hibernian Hall on 03/13 (Parade Day!) Receive a Parade Glass and be entered to win Sponsor Prizes with your completed Passport Additional info available at Facebook Page: Ancient Order of Hibernians Louisville St Patrick's Parade Louisville & www.LouisvilleIrish.com	 4027 Shelbyville Rd St Matthews, KY 40207 502-206-3331	 123 W Main Street Louisville, KY 40202 502-708-2488	 942 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-409-9422
 813 Lyndon Lane Lyndon, KY 40222 502-290-7936	 355 Spring Street Jeffersonville, IN 47130 812-913-1174	 973 Baxter Avenue Louisville, KY 40204 502-458-1428	 GUINNESS GUINNESS Lite Lite	 Don't forget to order your Parade Shirt and Pin at www.ParadeShirt.com All proceeds support the Parade Charity The St Patrick's Parade Louisville is a 501(c)(3) event sponsored by the AOH and their charity the HCCA [EIN 61-1511908]		

The AOH Irish Passport used in Louisville.