

Geraldine Finucane – Dignity, Grace and Respect 2021 AOH, LAOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Recipient

Our focus was on the screen as Geraldine Finucane conclude her remarks at the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Dinner in Youngstown, Ohio. "We must ensure that the truth behind the events of the conflict is uncovered, preserved and presented to the world, before it is too late. This is no easy task, but it is one that we can accomplish together, as a community. I have long believed that the truth must be told about the murder of my husband in order for Northern Ireland to have any chance of moving beyond conflict permanently. The legacy of conflict in Northern Ireland cannot be allowed to become clouded in secrecy forever. Too many were taken from us too soon for that to happen. I know that we will all work together to make sure that it does not."



Geraldine Finucane gave a strong and moving speech from Ireland in accepting the AOH and LAOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award.

Dignity, Grace and Respect resounded throughout the room as Geraldine spoke. Disappointed she could not be with us in person, her words began, "It is truly humbling to be singled out by such a venerable organization and to have my name added to the list of distinguished recipients of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award." She continued that the Finucane family shared a personal tie with Sean MacBride, who "was an Irish lawyer and human rights activist who was instrumental in founding several organisations like Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists, both of whom have supported my family and I during our campaign for an independent public inquiry into the murder of my husband, Pat."

It was clear Geraldine Finucane was more than worthy of this prestigious award. The AOH tried for weeks to obtain a National Interest Exemption for Geraldine and son John Finucane to attend our event in person. Unfortunately, the exemption came too late to

get the Finucane to the event. Hibernian leaders acted immediately to arrange a virtual presentation from the campus of Youngstown State University.

Geraldine was congratulated by previous recipients: via letter from 1993 recipient former Congressman Bruce Morrison, and 2011 recipient Clara Reilly, founder of the victims-rights group Relatives for Justice; and via video by 1997 recipient John Dearie; 2001 recipient U.S. Congressman Chris Smith; 2003 recipient Don Mullan, author and filmmaker; 2009 recipient Ray O'Hanlon, editor of the Irish Echo; and 2019 recipient

Fr. Gary Donegan, director of the Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Center, in Ardoyle, Belfast.

"The day our world changed forever"

Geraldine Finucane's words continued with Dignity, Grace and Respect as she continued, "Perhaps the greatest significance to me personally is that Seán MacBride was a practising lawyer in Ireland during the post-independence years and often defended unpopular people before the courts of the newly-formed Irish Republic. He faced much criticism for challenging the measures of internment and capital punishment enforced by the government of the day but he continued with his work because he believed very strongly in the fundamental human rights of every person. He argued for these rights on behalf of people in the courtrooms of his own country, as well as on the international stage.

"My husband, Pat, believed strongly in these things, too. He worked on behalf of people from his community in Belfast who found themselves on the receiving end of the most atrocious

continued on page 15

National President honored at Testimonial in Ohio

Hibernians from throughout the nation gathered at the Tyler History Center in Youngstown, Ohio, on October 15, to honor AOH National President Daniel J. O'Connell at his testimonial dinner. Honored guests included members of Danny's family; Helena Nolan, Consul General of Ireland; and James P. Tressel, the President of Youngstown State; LAOH President Karen Keane, LAOH Vice President Marilyn Madigan and the LAOH Freedom For All Ireland officer, Dolores Desch.

AOH National Vice President Sean Pender gave these remarks when introducing Dan.

"As unaccustomed as I am with public speaking, it is my pleasure tonight to have the honor to introduce Daniel O'Connell, or Danny O, at his testimonial dinner here in Youngstown, Ohio. But before I do a little background, I first met Danny in Boston at the 2006 National Convention. Now everyone knows by now that Danny came in dead last in his first run for national office. But you could tell then that this would only be a temporary setback. His background was in coaching and you



Caricature presented to National President.

could see how that drove him. He was driven to work hard for our Order and he was ready to show us all what he was made of. After Boston, Danny dusted himself off and continued to work hard for our Order.

"That hard work was noticed, and in 2008 in New Orleans, Dan was elected to the National Board where he served two terms as national director, serving as immigration chair and organizer. In 2010, in Cincinnati, Danny's Dad, Jack O'Connell, stood to nominate Danny for his second term of office and he told the convention that he always told Danny that in whatever you do in life make sure you attack it, even if you are cutting the grass, attack it. And by God, Jack, Danny has attacked every position he has ever had in our Order. Danny, I am sure your dad is very proud of you, my friend. Danny moved on to National Treasurer in 2012, National Vice President in 2016 and since last year our National President, sworn in here in Youngstown at the virtual—'gentleman vote your machines'—convention.

"Another great influence on Danny's life and career is coach Jim Tressel or Tres as Danny calls him. Coach Tressel wrote the following: 'Success is a journey that we all take, and it affects every phase of our

continued on page 27

In This Issue...

New York



Honoring 9/11 Hibernians
 Page 25

Pennsylvania



Div. 32 President Tim Regan
 Robert Carr Hibernian of the Year
 Page 26

Wisconsin



Ambassador Daniel Mulhall
 Milwaukee Fest
 Page 17

State News

Alabama	16
Connecticut	19
Florida	15
Illinois	17
Kansas	21
Massachusetts	19
Minnesota	24
Montana	21
Nebraska	15
North Carolina	14
New Jersey	24
New York	18, 20, 23, 25
Pennsylvania	26
Rhode Island	23
Virginia	20, 21

LAOH	22
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president's message

By Danny O'Connell

Dignity, Grace and Respect were the first words that came to mind as we listened to Geraldine Finucane's words following her introduction as the 2021 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award recipient on October 16, in Youngstown, Ohio. Her and her young children witnessed the brutal murder of her husband, Pat Finucane, on the 12th of February 1989. Since that time she has been working daily, pushing the British government to have an inquiry into the murder of her husband, a murder for which the government already apologized for the collusion of British security forces. If anyone has a right to go off the rails and verbally assault the actions of others (in this case, the British government), it would be Geraldine Finucane. What she has chosen to do is to move forward with Dignity and Respect for all, which has made her one of the most powerful people in the world of legacy justice as she speaks with the Grace of God

We can all learn a valuable lesson from Geraldine about the appropriate and professional manner by which we should conduct the business of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. When something doesn't go my way, how should I react? I would hope I could follow the example of Geraldine Finucane and react with "Dignity, Grace and Respect." Unfortunately, that has not always been the case in our world as Hibernians. We have had individuals actually recommend forming another organization because they did not get their way. We have had individuals publicly attack the leadership, including state presidents and national board members because they did not like who received an award. We have had individuals let their personal politics invade the sanctity of our Hibernian inner chamber in public, online and in writing and more.

There is nothing wrong with dissent with proper discourse. It can be healthy as long as it happens with Dignity, Grace and Respect. In order for the Hibernians to continue to succeed, we need to follow protocol and speak publicly with one voice. Clearly, all people are not worthy to be called a Hibernian, which is an honor reserved for those who can adhere to the principles of the AOH. I believe every member, when acting with Dignity, Grace and Respect, can be a worthy Hibernian. As we move forward together, I call on all members to remember who we are and act accordingly in everything we do.

I want to thank the members who traveled from around the country to participate in the interim national board meeting, the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award and the National Presidents Testimonial Dinner (and 'roast' at times). It was a great demonstration of teamwork and effort toward common goals and objectives. We learned about our officers' accomplishments, their three-, six- and nine-month goals and objectives. The work these men do for the Order is nothing less than brilliant. I personally thank the national officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. You are incredible!

Now is the time to re-focus on the four pillars of success for the AOH. We ask that you assure you division is a success by including the pillars in your yearly efforts. In no specific Order, we have (1) our membership initiative, (2) our Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal, (3) our Hibernian Charity Appeal (formerly the label program) and (4) our Project St. Patrick Appeal, which serves our clergy through seminarian support.

In the midst of the FFAI Christmas Appeal and the Charity Appeal, we ask all members, divisions and boards to do whatever they can to support these critical efforts. We have all seen first-hand via our webinars and in our daily lives what the success of these appeals has done for the mission of the AOH.

In January we will focus our membership efforts on retention, collection of the 2022 dues and the payment of our 2021 per capita to the National Board. Remember, what you pay by February 15, 2022, is the dues we collected for the previous year. It is everyone's responsibility to be sure we are successful with membership.

Thank you all for all you do every day to make the AOH what it is, the voice of Irish America.



vice president's report

By Sean Pender

From my house to yours, warm wishes for a great Thanksgiving and a safe, holy and Merry Christmas to all our members and their families. May 2022 be a year of success, health and happiness for you and your loved ones.

In these pages we have been publishing articles on AOH or Hibernian 101 to cover some of the basics of our Order for our newer members and leaders. In that spirit may I offer an idea that could serve as New Year's resolutions to our newer AOH leadership.

Read the AOH Constitution and follow the Blue Book. If you do not have a copy of either, contact the National Secretary's office at jcole4838@gmail.com and get copies for your officers.

In early 2022, identify your members who have not made their Major Degree. Reach out to your state or county president to see when degrees are scheduled for 2022 and get that information to those prospective candidates. Members who receive their degree are usually more apt to stay connected and active in their divisions.

Reach out to National Board officers and chairmen for direction and support. The current group of brothers serving on your National Board are some of the strongest in recent memory; leverage these assets to help your local division, county or state chairs prepare and present at meetings.

Have your division or board support the two National appeals: Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal and Project St. Patrick.

At meetings and in correspondences promote individual membership support of the AOH Hibernian Charity thru the revamped Charity appeal.

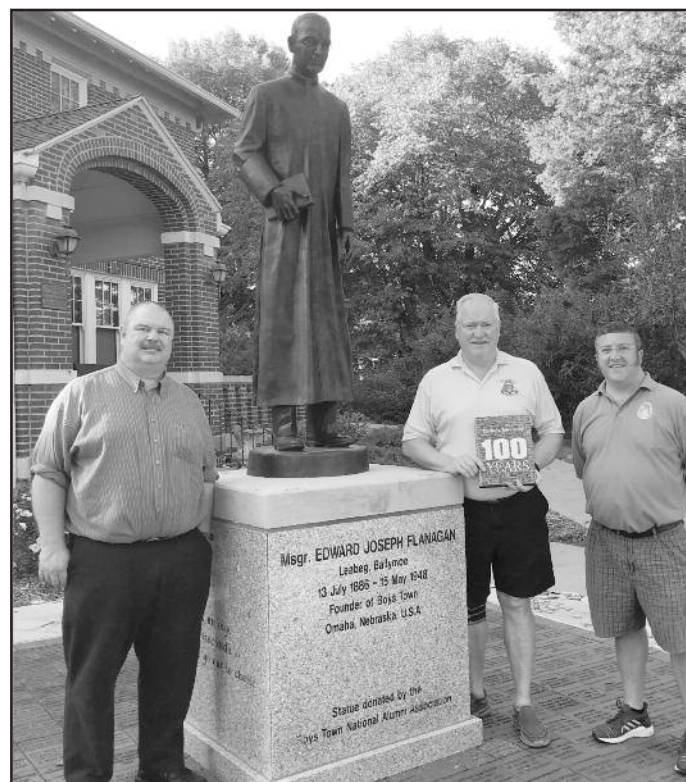
Following these resolutions will provide leadership direction and promote a consistent message throughout the organization.

Remember if you are still looking for a unique special gift for this Christmas or for 2022, remember the Irish Heritage Tree program. We are affiliated with our good friends at Irish Central for this project. Plant a tree in Ireland as a gift or in recognition of a friend or loved one. For more information visit <https://www.irishheritagetree.com/> To receive a 10 percent discount for our members simply apply AOH10 at check out.

Lastly, congratulations to the Copper Kings Major Degree Team of Montana. In a little more than six months they went from the idea of forming a degree team to full certification. Well done to our brothers in Montana.



VP Pender, NJOAH president Richard O'Brien and National Secretary Jere Cole at St. Patrick Pro Cathedral, Newark, NJ, at the 20th anniversary mass to remember AOH and LAOH Members lost on 9/11.



Father Flannagan Division, of Omaha, Nebraska, Division President Bob Sullivan, VP Pender and Nebraska State President Mike Addy. Pender was presented with a book to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Boys Town in front of the statue of Father Flannagan, the founder of Boys Town. Father Flannagan a former AOH member is on the path to sainthood. More details on that in a future Digest.

HIBERNIANS 101

Professional Conduct

Brothers, it is inappropriate and unprofessional for Hibernians to comment on other Irish organizations. As such, the Hibernian Digest does not print letters to the editor commenting on the actions of any other Irish organization, including but not limited to responding to published articles or statements by other Irish organizations.

Thank you.

On behalf of the National Board Oversight Committee we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Judge Jim McKay,
Denny Parks and John Wilson



national chaplain's report

By Rev. John Keehner

'We are called to do as Jesus did'

Having recently formed a new division for Ohio, Stark County 1, the St. Columbkille Division, we are excited about fulfilling our duties as members of this great Order. As with any new group, our resources do not equal our enthusiasm. And so we are forced to look at what we can do realistically given the limited resources we have at this time and how we can plan for the future.

One of the issues important to us as Hibernians, given the history of our ancestors in the Great Hunger, is that of hunger and its eradication. At one of our recent meetings, we were discussing the issue of hunger and one of our members cited a statistic that Canton, Ohio, ranks second in the nation for childhood hunger, with more than 60 percent of children in the city going to bed hungry on a regular, if not daily basis. Of course, we want to change this. But with a new division consisting so far of 21 men, how much can we do? How can we make a difference? The answer is that we can all do something. As I say so often in my homilies, making a difference in the life of even one person means that we are making a difference. Changing the life of a single person can change the world in ways that we can never see or understand. Bringing one person to Christ makes a world of difference not only to that one person but to every other person his or her life intersects. So it is with hunger. Making sure that one less person goes hungry can make a difference not only in the life of that person but also in the lives of every single person with whom he or she comes in contact.

But there is another answer that should be all too obvious to us. And that answer is that we can assist with programs and organizations that already exist. During my years as a member and chaplain of Mahoning County, Division 6, I was constantly amazed by the generosity of our members who came up with new and creative ways of feeding the hungry. Sometimes that was a task they took literally. Anyone who has entered Hibernian Hall on Southern Boulevard in Boardman knows that our brotherhood takes seriously the command of Jesus to feed the hungry, whether by feeding the crowds that would come for the Thursday Lunch Bunch, or feeding the youth of the Ulster Project, or even taking a turn feeding the hungry who gather nightly at the Dorothy Day House. But they regularly put into action the call of Jesus to feed the hungry by raising funds, which they in turn share with such organizations as the St. Vincent de Paul Society food bank and soup kitchen, the Beatitude House ministry of the Ursuline Sisters, and local parishes, which provide food vouchers and gift cards to those in need.

We are called to do as Jesus did in feeding the hungry, in clothing the naked, in giving drink to the thirsty, in welcoming the stranger. And in doing so, we are called to change the world. As Hibernians and as Catholics, we take this call seriously. If your division has not yet considered ways in which you can help to eradicate hunger in your own neighborhood, I encourage you to do so, especially as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, and soon after by the seasons of Advent and Christmas, which are for us Christians traditionally seasons of giving and generosity. Alone, we can make a difference perhaps in the life of one person or one family. And that is a beautiful and worthy thing to do. But together we can help to build a culture that allows no one to be hungry, which allows no one to be forgotten, which allows no one to be left believing that no one cares.

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."

The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST

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Subscription price of \$10.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

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secretary's report

By JERE COLE

Another year draws to a close

Immediately after our virtual convention we pledged to continue to make improvements to the function and procedures of the National Secretary's Office. Training was completed on the operation of the new online roster management system and most Financial Secretaries found it convenient and helpful.

I feel it necessary to repeat here a few practices that will make both our jobs easier. First, when communicating with this office it is preferable to use email first rather than telephone. The phones are only manned a few hours a day while email is virtually 24/7. When contacting us be sure to identify yourself specifically. That is to say state, division number, and not merely use the division name or city. It takes extra time to try and track down who Clyde for the Bronx is or Mike from the Father Branigan division. The more complete the information, the faster the response will be.

Moved?

Always stress to your members that if they should move or change address, they need to tell their Financial Secretary and they will handle the change with the National Office. There is no need for individual members to attempt to contact the National Office with changes.

Next it should be noted that it is a REQUIREMENT of the job that BOTH the Division President and the Financial Secretary have an email AND a phone number on record with us. If you do not have the capability to do this you MUST designate someone from your division who will serve as point of contact.

A few words about per capita. - Per Capita is \$16.00 per member, BUT if you file promptly, by February 15, you qualify for a 25 percent (or \$4) discount off, and may pay only \$12. This discount is calculated automatically if you use the Form 11 that is available as a fillable PDF form at AOH.com. Please do not hand write the Form 11 as the automatic calculations are faster.

Now as we approach year end is the time to begin to groom your roster. It is easier to begin now rather than wait until December 31. Remember the number you have on the books on 12/31 governs what you will owe.

The Lazarus Program

This summer we launched a program to recover lost members, the Lazarus Program. The program was designed to attempt to reclaim brothers who may have been dropped prematurely. Many divisions became inactive and disbanded over the past five years. Even though the division ceased to exist, many of the members still considered themselves as active. When it was discovered that we had all these so-called active members in divisions that no longer existed it was decided that to clean up the membership files they would be dropped. The Lazarus program attempted to reach out to these abandoned (dropped) in this way attempting to get them back in the organization.

The rosters of all the divisions dropped as described above were pulled. Members that had left because of death or resignation were expunged and only those listed as: "active" when the division dissolved were contacted.

A first-class letter was sent to all these members asking them if they wished to re-join the Order. To bolster participation a postage paid envelope was included. In total, 66 divisions and 738 members were mailed to attempt to harvest members. Six percent were undeliverable addresses, 10 percent said they had no interest, and about 100 or 14 percent said they wanted to join as either At Large members or with another division.

All positive responses were turned over to the deputy organizer for follow-up and hopeful conversion to membership. That effort is underway now.

All of the forms you will need are available on the AOH.com website. Please use the PDF fillable forms whenever possible.

Since we are at year end, beginning November 15, 2021, there will be no new membership cards issued unless there are special circumstances. Everyone will receive a new card in January.

Always remember, contact this office should you need assistance of any kind.

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Treasurer's Report

By Liam McNabb

Happy New Year! I hope 2022 brings brighter and happier times to each of you and your families.

As we begin the new year, it is the ideal time to review the goals your Division set last year. Has your Division:

- Increased membership?
- Filled each of your elected and appointed offices?
- Supported local charities through volunteer work and/or donations?
- Collected funds to support Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI), Project Saint Patrick and/or other worthy efforts our Order promotes?

If your Division did not set goals last year, now is the opportunity to establish goals for the year ahead. Gather the Officers together and discuss short and long-term priorities. In addition to the previously mentioned ideas, other goals you may consider:

- Strengthen your leadership team by ensuring every officer is informed of his duties and is supported by the President and membership.
- Set financial goals; perhaps to boost your bank account by diligently collecting dues and/or fundraising. I recommend using technology (Venmo, credit card, Square, etc.) to accept membership dues to increase efficiency in operations and offer convenience to members.
- Engage local elected officials to develop a partnership and for political support for our issues/initiatives.

Setting goals is healthy for Divisions as you determine what is important and work toward achieving outcomes. Though covid has presented our organization with many challenges, our National Board continues to set goals and focus on strengthening the Order for today, tomorrow and the next generation. If we all work hard this year at every level, only good things can happen as we invest in our collective future.



Director's Report

By Ray Lynch

Brothers, I hope you all have a safe and truly Blessed holiday Season. Since I can't reach out to everyone individually, I offer my most sincere Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year to you and your families. Recently, we passed through the final rounds of our State Conventions, and I was honored to attend all in my territory, either live or virtually. It has been great to be able to celebrate both our Hibernian principles AND camaraderie with old friends and to meet a few new ones along the way.

At our Florida Convention we had our Worthy National Secretary Jere Cole in attendance, and I wholeheartedly enjoyed the time and guidance I received from him. Also, which will be great for recruiting and growth in the State of Alabama, Brother Hibernian Jim Regan attended and is motivated to go home and share his experiences with everyone. I'm confident that we will grow this State soon, so they have a true standing State Board.

I attended the South Carolina virtual State Convention, and they elected a new slate of State Officers with Robert Dillon as the new President. Also, NC held their virtual Convention as well and elected a new board with Stephen Kurpiewski at the helm. Wishing luck and offering support to the newly elected brothers of these two states.

I am looking forward to the year ahead with the challenges of growing and strengthening the Order.

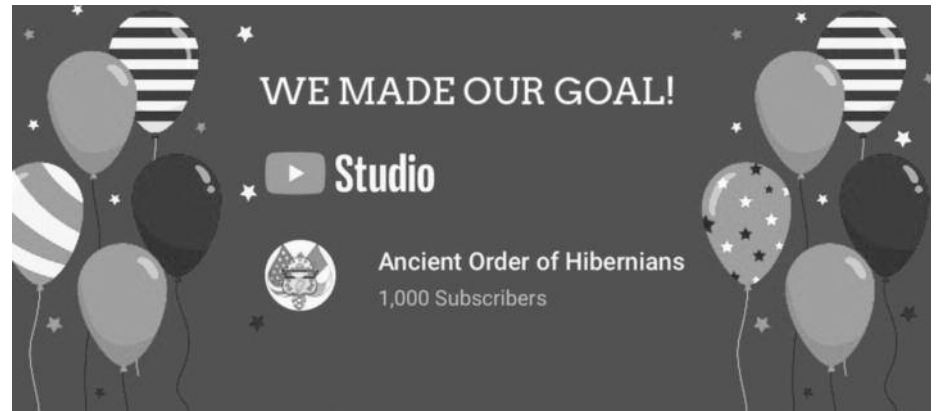
I am sending prayers for continued safety and wellbeing to be able to make educated decisions for our families with all new the information that we are receiving daily.

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.



Digital Coordinator

By Chris Cooke, Chairman



The first goal set for the Digital Team was to grow our YouTube channel and reach 1,000 subscribers by the end of this year. I am happy to report that as I am writing we have just had our one-thousandth subscribers for our YouTube channel!

Thank you to everyone who has subscribed and to those who have participated in our many webinars over the last year and a half. A special thanks to all those who helped organize the webinars, especially Martin Gavin for setting up numerous webinars with our friends in Ireland for Freedom For All Ireland, Neil Cosgrove who organized the events for Irish American Heritage Month, and Tim Noonan for presenting Hibernian Talks interviews with Irish Authors.

We are looking forward to more great projects this coming year to continue to help move our Order forward. If you would like to be a part of the Digital Team please reach out to me at Chris@chriscooke.com.

On behalf of the Digital Team I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Director's Report

By Ed Halligan

Now that State Conventions and Installations have been completed, congratulations to the new and returning officers. Thank you to the past officers who served the AOH. Thank you also to the State Presidents for your hospitality.

Officers

To the current officers, please remember you have been selected by your brothers "to guide and inspire by example and word. On the performance of your duties depends the future welfare of the body for which you are now responsible." The ribbon and medallion that was placed around your neck is an honor and a responsibility. Don't treat it as a decoration. The AOH needs you to do more than an adequate job. Read our Constitution. Know the Bluebook and your By-laws. If you have questions, please ask.

Recruit and Retain

Probably the most important job that you have is recruitment and retention. Please be aggressive for an increase in membership. We are all responsible for recruitment. Just as important is retention. We worked hard to recruit members. Don't let them slip away because they haven't paid their dues. Try and talk with that member in person. It is too easy for them to ignore a text, an e-mail or a letter.

A one-on-one contact by phone or in person may reveal that there is a solvable situation. For larger Divisions ask the brothers in your division to help make that personal contact. As you update your rosters, please find a way to retain a member.

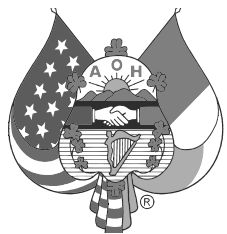
Having attended several State Conventions this past year, it looks like a positive one for recruitment. Please don't let retention be a spoiler. We cannot afford the downward trend in membership to continue. Please Recruit and Retain.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As we end 2021, thank you for the work you did to make the Ancient Order of Hibernians a great fraternal organization. I wish all of you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a New Year that will be a prosperous and peaceful one for all Hibernians.

Need a Christmas gift idea?
Consider the Heritage Tree Program.





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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By TIM MCSWEENEY

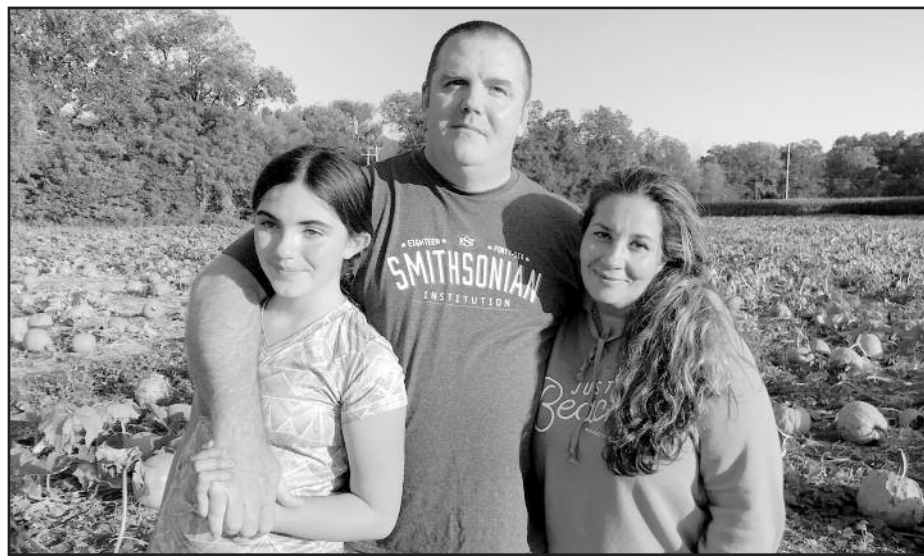
As the fall season settles in New York, the divisions of the Empire State are continuing to regroup and get back to work after the pandemic. After a successful State Convention, many divisions have participated in Irish festivals, halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebrations and St. Patrick's Day parades. (It's really nice to march in a St. Patrick's Day in upstate New York while it's 80 degrees out, trust me, it doesn't happen much. These celebrations brought well deserved honors to our Brothers. Past New York State President Martin Kelly, was honored as Hibernian of the Year at the Great Irish Fair in Brooklyn. Past State Webmaster Kevin Cummings was honored as Grand Marshal of the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade in Greenwood Lake. National Editor John O'Connell was honored at the 49th Nassau County Feis and Irish Festival.

A Mass in Memory of AOH Brothers who succumbed to the covid virus will be celebrated by State Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid on Saturday, October 30, at 1 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue in Manhattan. All are Welcome.

The New York Fall board Meeting will be held on November 5 at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe. A Major Degree ceremony will be conferred by the Richmond County Major Degree team.



National Director Tim McSweeney, left, joined NYS AOH President John Manning, right, in honoring Kevin Cummings, the Grand Marshal of the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade on Sept. 25..



The McSweeney Family wishes all Hibernians a wonderful Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

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



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By SEAN O'DOWD

Over the last six months, it has been my honor and privilege to visit eight states as the AOH Midwest National Director. Whether for state conventions, meetings, Irish festivals, golf outings or charitable events, the enthusiasm of being out and able to make a contribution has been contagious.

Milwaukee, WI

They had a truncated Irish Fest this year but no less entertaining. I met fellow Hibernians from seven states, many of whom make it an annual trip. Thank you Division President Chris Kellenberger and Milwaukee brothers for your warm welcome of Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, Mrs. Greta Mulhall, Consul General Kevin Byrne, Vice Consul Sarah Keating and all fellow Hibernians that you hosted on your hospitality deck.

Dubuque, IA

They celebrated their 16th annual Irish Hooley. Congratulations to Pat and Vicki Leonard, Presidents of the AOH/LAOH, IA State President Rob McCullough, and all the volunteers who make this one-day event a success. Two thousand five hundred people attended with \$8,000 raised for local charities and funds to insure future Hooleys

Illinois State Convention

We welcomed National Vice President Sean Pender and National Chairman Patrick Ryan and National Oversight Committee member John Wilson. The IL AOH was delighted that past National LAOH President and current State Treasurer Patricia O'Connell could attend the mass and installation banquet. Thank you outgoing State VP John Moriarty and Secretary John Resch for your service and congratulations to new VP Dann Haney and new Secretary Dennis McNamara with Mike Tiernan continuing as Treasurer.

Kentucky State Convention

On Oct. 2, the day started with a breakfast meeting of the State and Division Officers followed by a well attended afternoon session at St. Brigid's Church with members from the Louisville and Lexington Divisions. Congratulations to President Shaun McKiernan, VP John O'Dwyer, Secretary Andrew Moore and Treasurer Tim Bourke. Thank you outgoing VP Bradley Miller for your service to the Order. The convention ended with a Shamrock Degree of six new members and installation of State Officers at a "off site" location. It was quite impressive! The evening was capped off with a night of fellowship and camaraderie.

At all the events I attended, the hospitality and generosity of the AOH spoke sincerely to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

On a Personal note

I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Go raibh maith agat agus Dia dhaoibh



At the Illinois State Convention Installation, from left, Mike Tiernan, Jim Haney (standing in for Dann Haney), Sean O'Dowd, Dennis McNamara and National VP Sean Pender.



Iowa State President Rob McCollough, Sean O'Dowd, Dubuque Div. 2 President Pat Leonard and AOH members kick off parade to start the 2021 Irish Hooley.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By BOB MEHRENS

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Before getting into new business, I would like to congratulate the newly formed Copper Kings Degree Team in Montana. Well done, Brothers! Along those lines, a very big thank you to all of the Brothers who stepped forward to be part of the team. I would also like to thank Vice President Sean Pender and National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees Jack Schneider for making the trip to Montana to recommend the team's certification.

With the convention season in the rear view, it is the hope of the National Board that every member of the AOH has heard and fully understands the importance of the four pillars of our organization. 1. Collection of Dues, Recruitment and Retention, 2. Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, 3. FFAI Christmas Appeal, and 4. Label Program.

First and foremost, we cannot survive without continued growth. Always remember that it only takes each of you recruiting one new member annually to double our membership. The National Board is proud to have such generous members within our divisions, state and county boards for participating in these three programs. We saw record numbers this year despite being shut down and navigating through Covid. And so, let us start the new year with the same giving goal in mind, to outdo our numbers from 2021.

Zoom has allowed us to communicate with each other nationwide better than ever before and has also afforded all of us to participate firsthand in so many webinars and meetings. This has been a great avenue to connect names and faces with those receiving money from the AOH. For those who have participated in the webinars please guide all of your members to go out and watch so they can see that the hard work and money is paying off.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By RICHARD THOMPSON

Now that the pandemic has subsided somewhat and I have had the opportunity to meet in person with the State Boards and other members in my region, we have identified issues and or conditions that need work or can be improved upon.

In New England we do not have a major degree team and it has been quite some time since a Major Degree has been given. Thus, we have a need and a duty to provide this most essential part of being a Hibernian to our brothers. I will be working with the State Boards to coordinate a regional Major Degree ceremony.

Several fledgling Divisions and a County Board have been identified and I will be working with the State Boards in those respective areas to bring them back into the fold. Some have per capita that is in arrears, some have leadership issues, others need the knowledge of how to run a proper meeting and comply with our National standards. Some need assistance in all areas. So, with the help of our National Board, I will seek to bring the leadership program run by our National Treasurer and National Organizer to the region in hopes to correct some of these deficiencies.

Although we are getting better, there is still a need to inform our County Boards and Divisions why it is so important to participate in our National Programs and call-to-actions. Some see their interaction with the National Board ending when their per capita is paid. When you participate in a National Board program it is beneficial to those we help and there should be a sense of satisfaction in knowing you have helped those in need.

So, as I enter 2022, I have identified areas that need attention and areas that need improvement and will work on those and any other duties I receive from the National Board.

After what this pandemic has brought upon us, I pray for those affected and lost over roughly the last two years. I also want to wish all my brother and sister Hibernians a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Veterans Affairs

By Danny Eakins, Chairman, National Board Veterans Affairs Committee
 dannyeakins@hotmail.com

National Constitution

VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN: Section 22. Shall: Serve to provide information and advice for members of the Order who currently serve, or who have served, in the United States military. The chairman shall focus primarily in areas pertaining to Veteran's benefits, advocacy, and the development and maintenance of a historical record of Hibernians that have served. The individual appointed to this position shall be an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces

Provide Information & Advice

Written monthly reports distributed via email as part of your report process are the best means to fulfill this responsibility. Each month I file a report to my division and state boards that are published statewide and locally. My division reports are published by email as part of our monthly meeting notices distributed by the division President. My state reports are distributed statewide via email by the State Board Secretary and as part of the State Newsletter. I strongly encourage all state, county, and division leaders and VA chairs to distribute information in those reports as broadly to the membership as possible. Non-veteran members of our Order often have family members or friends who are veterans and are in a good position to share benefits or support information to those they care for. It is also important for your VA Chairman to be an active member of the division to be visible and available to help not only our veteran brothers, but also advise members who have veterans in their families.

Maintain a Historical Record of Hibernians That Have Served

The National AOH Veteran Lapel Pin and Membership Card Identifier was implemented by the National Board in 2019. The express purpose of these two initiatives is to encourage veterans in our Order to identify themselves so that their service can be honored, and divisions can record their veteran status as part of the AOH membership database. It is important that Financial Secretaries work with their division leadership to identify the veteran status of prospective members on their application and ensure that information is included as their details are reported to the National Secretary. The online Form 41 member application form includes the veteran status identifier on the form, but there may be old PDF/paper versions of that form used that do not have the latest updates. Therefore, it is important for Financial Secretaries, Standing Committee Chairs, and Presidents remain proactive in "asking in the question" to potential members re. their veteran status. Divisions should also work to identify current members who have not been previously identified as veterans. Recognition events and the annual membership renewal process are opportunities to accomplish this task.

National AOH Veterans Affairs Committee & Website

The National VA Committee has been established and meets via Zoom every third Tuesday of each month at 7pm ET. Any brother, veteran or civilian, is encouraged to attend and VA Chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in receiving regular updates regarding those committee meetings should contact me directly. The National Board also maintains a section dedicated to AOH Veterans Affairs on the national website at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs. The site includes key links to veteran benefits and services resources. Garryowen!

Email blast enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

The national email system provides an opportunity for the National Board to share information with members between publications of the Hibernian Digest. This system also gives us instant contact with our members when we need a call to action on any Hibernian issue.

If you do not receive our email blasts and wish to be a part of our call to action team, please be sure to get your email updated on your membership information. Your financial secretary can update your information today. We need you as part of our team.

**Deadline for the Jan-Feb-March issue
 NO LATER than January 1**



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, this is a meaningful time of year for the veteran and military community. Our nation comes together on November 11 to commemorate the service of all veterans of the Uniformed Services from the beginning of the Revolution through to our time. This year those commemorations have become even more poignant with the recent 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the end of the Afghanistan War. I encourage you to keep those you know who have served, wherever they have served, close to your hearts.

During this period, we also recognize the founding of the Marine Corps, Navy, Space Force and the National Guard. The USMC was founded on November 10, 1775, with two battalions. They served at the Battle of Princeton as well as the Raid on Nassau in the Bahamas. The Navy considers October 13, 1775, as the date of their founding by the Continental Congress. By the end of 1775 Congress had authorized the building of 15 ships. The Space Force was formed on December 20, 2019, as America's sixth Armed Force as a branch within the Department of the Air Force. The direct antecedent of the Space Force is the Air Force Space Command, and the Force continues to be augmented by space capabilities from all branches. The Militia Act of 1903 created what we recognize as the modern National Guard, but the history of the Guard is traced back more than a century before the creation of the United States. On December 13, 1636, the Massachusetts Bay Colony commissioned the organization of three militia regiments to defend the colonial frontier. Those regiments formed the foundation of units that served in the French & Indian War and the American Revolution.

Veteran Services Spotlight: VA Life Insurance Programs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilitates access to three major life insurance programs for veterans who have completed their service. Those programs are Veterans Group Life Insurance, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance.

Veterans Group Life Insurance is an extension of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for those transitioning from active or reserve component service. To qualify, a veteran must be within at least one year from their separation from a qualified military unit. Veterans can qualify for \$10,000 to \$400,000 of coverage.

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance is available to veterans who have been determined by the VA to have a service-connected disability status, even if the disability connection rating is at 0%. Veterans can qualify for up to \$10,000 of coverage with \$30,000 in supplemental coverage available for veterans under 65 years of age who become unable to work or who qualify for a life insurance premium waiver.

Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance offers mortgage protection insurance to the families of veterans with severe service-connected disabilities who have adapted a home to fit their needs. Veterans can qualify for up to \$200,000 of insurance paid directly to the bank or lender that services the veteran's mortgage.

More information about insurance programs for veterans and military members, including Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, can be found on the VA website at www.va.gov/life-insurance.

Veterans Affairs Committee Member Feature:



Jim Green

Beginning with this edition of the Digest, I will recognize our Brothers who volunteer their time in service to the AOH National Board Veterans Affairs Committee. The first to be recognized must be our Deputy Chairman, Brother Jim Green, of Pennsylvania. Jim is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and past National Chairman for Veterans Affairs. He is also the current Pennsylvania State Treasurer and past-State President. It was during his term as Pennsylvania State President that Jim created the first Veterans Affairs Chairmanship in the AOH and spearheaded efforts to have Veterans Affairs included in the National Constitution. As the National Board VA Chair, Jim led the initiative to create the AOH Veterans Pin and Veteran Identifier on the Member Card and application. In recognition of his service,

and nearly 30 years of membership and support of the AOH, Jim was recently recognized as a National Life Member of the Order. Many thanks to Jim for his support for the veteran and military community as well as his mentorship and friendship during my time in the AOH. All members, especially veterans and VA Chairs, are encouraged to participate in VA Committee meetings held online every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. ET. Please contact me directly for details. Also, check out the resources listed on the AOH Veterans Affairs website at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs. Best wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year! Garryowen!



Veteran's Pin



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

National President Danny O'Connell recently sent me to the north. The assignment began with handing out the Christmas Appeal grants. It was fitting that the 15 recipients awarded FFAI grants by the AOH and LAOH assembled at the Houben Center at Holy Cross Church. Twenty years earlier, young girls faced sectarian abuse each day, as they walked to attend Catholic School in Ardoyne.

This year, grant recipients were able to speak to Hibernians across the country in an AOH webinar. You were able to hear them explain how they work for freedom for all Ireland, and how much their work depends on Christmas Appeal donations. Next January, you will not only be able to hear our grant winners on a webinar, but those on the FFAI tour in January will join in handing out grant checks and will speak to recipients in person.

British whitewash

After our Christmas Appeal webinar, meetings were held with groups fighting for legacy justice. Groups like the Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, Bloody Sunday Trust, Relatives for Justice, Springhill Massacre campaign and others wanted an urgent meeting with the AOH. They described Britain's plans as an Amnesty dressed up as a statute of limitations, which would wipe out murder prosecutions, inquests or Historical Investigations of crimes during the Troubles and permanently whitewash of British Army or collusion murders permanently.

They think Britain does not care about justice for the Irish, otherwise why push proposals which have been rejected by the Irish government, six-county political parties, Catholic Church, human rights and relatives' groups. British Tories think no one should ever be bothered for murders committed in the name of the crown.

Some, like the Springhill Massacre or Sean Graham's Bookies Massacre, are scheduled for inquests or Ombudsman Reports next year. They are on the verge of getting the truth. Now their hopes for justice are being smashed. They are counting on America, and for them that means Irish America led by the AOH.

These victims congratulated the AOH for the Congressional initiative by Congressman Boyle and Fitzpatrick, backed by Congressman Neal and the Friends of Ireland, and for



John Teggart points out locations where the Ballymurphy Massacre victims were shot by British paratroopers to 2019 AOH-LAOH delegation.

statements by Senators Schumer and Menendez. They know that the AOH is leading the way on these American political initiatives. We can build on what we accomplished, if Hibernians in more areas around the country will contact their Congressmen, forward our materials, and say this issue is important to voters in their district.

January's Fact-Finding Tour

In 2022, we are planning an FFAI fact-finding tour around the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Beginning on January 25 and ending on February 5, we will be visiting Derry, Tyrone, Belfast and Dublin. We are getting numerous offers from Ireland to hold special events on our arrival.

Places are nearly filled, so I urge you to book or get on the waiting list with National VP Sean Pender asap. No one who goes on this tour will ever forget it!

Washington challenges Johnson on Irish Legacy plans

By Martin Galvin, FFAI Chairman

Boris Johnson traveled to Washington, expecting the amicable welcome typically accorded to recently elected heads of friendly nations. Instead, congressmen, senators and President Biden challenged the British Prime Minister on the issues of Irish legacy justice and the Brexit protocol. The Irish Echo headlined it as a "Reality Check For Boris," due in large part to calls to action from Irish America, led by the AOH.

Thirty-six members of Congress set the tone for Johnson's week, days before his arrival, signing a formal letter declaring that Britain's new legacy proposals "would not only prevent a pathway to justice but would also strip families of their legal rights protected under European Law and the Good Friday Agreement." That Congressional initiative, led by Congressmen Brendan Boyle and Brian Fitzpatrick, with support from Congressman Richie Neal and the Friends of Ireland, began with a pledge by Congressman Boyle during an AOH webinar that took place three days after British Secretary Brandon Lewis outlined the new British legacy proposals in a paper titled "Addressing the legacy of Northern Ireland's past." Many of the Congressmen agreed to co-sponsor the Congressional initiative because AOH members across the country contacted them and insisted that this Congressional initiative was important to voters in their districts. The strongly worded Congressional letter was then circulated to senators and the president, leaving no doubt about Irish America's views of the British legacy proposals.

Congressman Neal, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, held a lengthy discussion with the British Prime Minister on a range of issues, including the British plan to revise the Brexit Protocol and how best to address the legacy of the past. Neal said he received an assurance that "there would be no return to a hard border on the Irish island, and that the British government remains committed to the

full implementation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement." Any potential trade deal between the United States and Britain must pass through Neal's Committee.

Senators

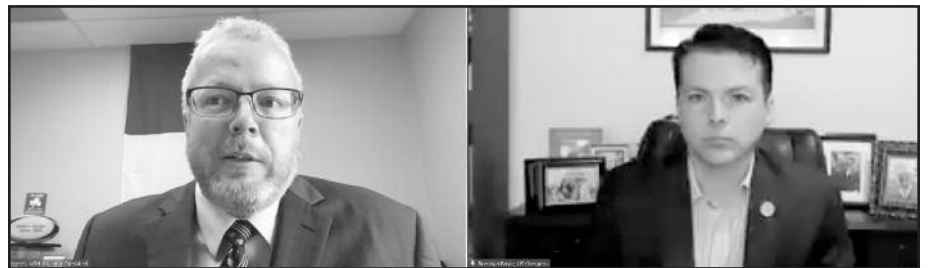
Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Robert Menendez also met the British Prime Minister. Schumer said after the meeting that he "joined Senator Menendez in making clear that the Good Friday Agreement, Stormont Agreement and Northern Ireland Protocol must not be undermined. Any potential US-UK trade deal depends on maintaining progress on these fronts."

President Biden also raised the issue of the north of Ireland with Johnson and voiced strong support for the Brexit protocol.

British

The American reaction was deeply welcomed by those fighting for legacy justice in the north. The British proposals seemed designed to shut down any avenue for truth without any regard to near unanimous opposition across the north. The British must now calculate that if they push through the legacy shutdown despite strong Congressional opposition, they will further inflame the feelings of Irish Americans and of American political leaders.

Britain must also calculate that Irish-American activists, led by the AOH, have shown a new ability to build American political support on crucial Irish issues.



National AOH President Danny O'Connell on a conference call with Congressman Brendan Boyle.



Make it your job to grow the AOH!

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

<https://aoh.com/organizer-resources/>





ORGANIZER

By *tim mcsweeney, chairman
and national director*

As with any organization, our Order is driven and relies on membership. Growth and retention of membership is paramount to our future welfare and continuity. Most divisions struggle to recruit and retain members. I ask why? The National leadership, along with previous National Leadership teams, prioritized recruitment and retention. Seminars and recruitment tools were provided. Some divisions got on board, and have taken recruitment and retention seriously, while the vast majority have not. Some divisions have taken the education provided in the seminars and used it to establish very active recruitment programs, while the vast majority have not.

The consequence of failing to recruit and retain on the division level will be the collapse of our Order within 20 years, just follow the declining numbers. How do we stop this? Here are a few tips to turn this declining trend around:

- Establish a goal of how many new members your division plans to recruit in the next year.
- Appoint a Division Organizer. This person (or team) will direct recruitment activities. This must be a forward thinker, willing to try inventive new recruitment strategies.
- Use the recruitment materials on the organizers page at www.aoh.com

Think outside the box. As a division, analyze what type of recruitment will work for your division (static displays, recruitment tables at community events, use of social media platforms or website).

Initiate the snowball effect: where each member is asked to recruit one new member, in return, the new member then recruits a new member. Think of it as AOH Amway.

I hope this article acts as a wake-up call to all divisions. Our recruitment and retentions failings must be addressed. I am open to any suggestions from any members on other ways to solve this problem. Please contact at newjack12007@yahoo.com



history report

By *daniel m. taylor, jr.*
national historian

A "Free" and Fractured State – The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1922

The Irish delegates to the London peace talks and their British counterparts signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty, after weeks of negotiations, on Tuesday, December 6, 1921. The Treaty, which would spark the Irish Civil War and lead to a century of partition, came 35 years after the introduction of the first "Home Rule" bill in 1886, which would have seen the creation of an all-Ireland legislative Assembly, with executive powers exercised by a British "Lord Lieutenant." Weak sauce as such an arrangement might seem for Irish Republicans, the mere prospect of "Home Rule" set Unionists into a frenzy of violence.

As the Home Rule issue percolated through Parliament, Unionist riots of 1886 evolved into a formal declaration of Unionists' intention to disobey British law, should Home Rule be implemented. The "Ulster Covenant" of 1913, signed by almost half a million Unionists, was a "solemn covenant" to use "all means necessary" to defeat Home Rule. Those signing the covenant, ironically describing themselves as "loyal subjects," further vowed that, should Home Rule become law, they would "refuse to recognize its authority." His Majesty's "loyal subjects," carrying through with their "covenant," were then allowed to create a private army, the "Ulster Volunteers," whose stated purpose was to oppose any Home Rule measure lawfully enacted for Ireland.

In 1914, when Herbert Henry Asquith's government sent word to British forces in Ireland to be prepared to engage with the lawless Unionists, the result was the infamous "Curragh Mutiny," in which British officers refused, in large numbers, to follow any such orders. The British Government, which would soon be calling IRA forces fighting under the duly-elected Dáil Éireann "criminals," remarkably backed down, allowing the sectarian bent of British officers to trump British law and the chain of command. British policy toward Ireland increasingly contemplated partition – a separate arrangement for Unionists in parts of Ulster – effectively recognizing an extra-legislative Unionist veto.

This sort of tacit acknowledgment that not all of His Majesty's Irish subjects were equal contributed to the groundswell of support for the upstart Sinn Fein organization, which eclipsed John Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party seemingly overnight. And so it was, ultimately, that Sinn Fein founder Arthur Griffith found himself, with Michael Collins and the other Irish delegates, engaged with Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and in the treaty negotiations.

The sticking points ranged from the symbolic: how would Ireland's relationship with Great Britain be described, to the quite tangible: partition. Éamon de Valera, who had stayed home for reasons that are the subject of much analysis, had proposed something he creatively called "External Association," placing Ireland entirely outside of the British orbit for domestic purposes, with an "association" with the Commonwealth on international affairs. This the British would never accept, something Collins understood, and the Treaty, as signed, granted Ireland "the same constitutional status...as...Canada..." The Irish delegation, who had been selected by De Valera, sought to maintain the "essential unity" of Ireland. Partition, already imposed by the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, could not possibly comport with this goal. The compromise to which the Irish delegation agreed was the ill-fated Boundary Commission, by which territory was to have been exchanged along the border, reflecting the identity and desires of border area residents.

Michael Collins described the Treaty as giving Ireland "a starting point," and indeed, by 1948, the Irish "Free State" had become a Republic. The tragedy of partition, Britain's concession to Unionist lawlessness, has however persisted for a century, leaving the full history of the Treaty yet to be written.

The At-Large Membership Update

By Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

The At-Large program continues to receive applications from those who live outside a 50-mile radius from an existing division. The National Secretary's office is now checking on those members who have belonged to divisions that have become inactive or have disbanded. We have started reaching out to those members and have already received applications from some who wish to transfer to the At-Large membership. Others have opted to join other divisions that are close to them. Either way, this is good for the Order and good for the membership.

I would like to recognize a couple of our At-Large members in this article.

Ryan Harris from Hutchinson, Kansas, joined last December and is already working with members from the Fr. Donnelly Division across the state in Johnson County, Kansas, trying to get a division started in his area. He already has some men interested and hopefully will get a division started in his area soon. Ryan volunteers in his community and he and his son, Reid, have been ringing the bells for the Salvation Army for several years. He is teaching his son about giving back to those who have the least. He has been a definite asset to our Order.

Steve McPhillips, from Cape Coral, Florida, who joined last November, has already recruited another At-Large member recently. He has also been in contact with National Director Ray Lynch and plans on taking his Major Degrees while attending the Florida State Convention.

I received good news recently from Kevin Malloy, our At-Large member who is on active duty and has been deployed in the Mideast. He is now back stateside and enjoying time with his wife and son.

We have a good group of brothers in our At-Large program and they are trying to make a difference both in their community and within the AOH. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them submit an application on our website.



**AOH-LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION
PITTSBURGH 2022**

SAVE THE DATE

**The 2022 AOH LAOH National
Convention will be held at the
Pittsburgh Wyndham Grand
July 12-17.**

Stay tuned for more details!

Bylaws, Best Practices

By Dan Devinney

Legal Counsel, AOH National Board

When working with bylaws it is necessary to first understand the bylaw approval process. Bylaws of any jurisdiction or any portion thereof must not conflict with the terms of any superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution. While new bylaws or any amendments made to them are not effective until they are signed off on by the National President, the process for approving bylaws starts at the lowest superior jurisdiction. The process does not occur simultaneously at all superior jurisdictions. Bylaws must first be approved by the next highest jurisdiction from which they originate and subsequently by each next highest jurisdiction before ultimately moving on to the National President. If a bylaw or portion thereof is refused approval by a superior jurisdiction that refusal can be appealed using the appeal process as outlined in the National Constitution Article XIX.

The National Constitution states that each jurisdiction should adopt bylaws to govern the transactions of its business not covered in the bylaws of any superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution. This is a matter of efficiency. Every time you replicate a portion of bylaws from a superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution you run the risk of creating a future conflict. Should the bylaws of the superior jurisdiction or National Constitution be changed creating such a conflict and you not make a corresponding change in your own bylaws, that provision of your bylaws becomes void and has no effect. To prevent this would require constant review and create a tremendous amount of work. Does this mean you cannot address any matters addressed in the bylaws of a superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution in your bylaws? No, but it does mean that the provision in your bylaws cannot lessen the obligation imposed by the bylaws of a superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution.

Making the bylaws of a superior jurisdiction and the National Constitution part of your own bylaws can be done simply and easily. This is accomplished through the legal concept of incorporation by reference. It requires no more than one or two sentences at the beginning of your bylaws. The language used to accomplish this sounds something like: "The Bylaws of all the appropriate superior jurisdictions of the AOH, the National Constitution of the AOH and any amendments made thereto are hereby incorporated herein by reference as though they were completely set forth herein. Any provision of these Bylaws in conflict with those of a superior jurisdiction or the National Constitution shall be void and without effect."

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, I am in a bit of a paradox as I write this as I know that as you read this, the Christmas season shall be approaching, with the joy and blessings it brings. I want to wish you and yours all the Blessings of Christmas with the hope that the new year will see us all return to a true normal and an end of the "new normal."

At the same time, in contradiction to the Christmas spirit, I must confess my disappointment and concern for us as Hibernians. I greatly fear that we as an Order caught a bad case of malaise as a side effect of the COVID pandemic. As evidence, I offer you the recently concluded Call to Action to get our local Congressional representatives to sign on to a letter authored by Congressman Brendan Boyle (D) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R) to Prime Minister Johnson, denouncing the plan by Britain to declare a statute of limitations for crimes committed during the conflict in Northern Ireland. This proposal would end the investigation into the numerous atrocities committed during the conflict and even end further judicial proceedings in cases where wrongdoing by the Crown has already been established, such as in Bloody Sunday and the Ballymurphy Massacre.

This letter by Congressmen Boyle and Fitzpatrick to the British Prime Minister was a "mom and apple pie" issue, as uncontentious and non-partisan as can be imagined. It was a letter protesting a proposal literally allowing people to get away with murder. Our Worthy National President sent out multiple calls to have brothers contact their congressional representatives.

Thanks to the effort of some of our brothers, the letter was sent with the signatures of 36 congressional representatives, and to the brothers who made the effort and reached out, I say thank you. A powerful message in the cause of justice was sent, and the AOH played a vital role.

However, if we were to give ourselves an honest report card on this effort, the comment would be "must do better." Thirty-six signatures represent only 8 percent of the Congress. Fifty percent of the signatures came from Congressional Representatives representing two states, while states with strong Hibernian presence and large Congressional delegations did not contribute one signature. That simply is unacceptable.

We are better than this. If we want to see Irish America continue beyond this generation, we must do better than this. Pragmatically, the more we do, and not just on the PEC front, and the more we are seen to be doing it, the easier it will be to recruit and maintain our divisions, the easier it will be to advance the causes that we claim are important to us.

I ask you, Brothers, to please follow up and ask your State Boards who their PEC chair is, and if one is not appointed, remedy that lapse as quickly as possible and ensure that the National is notified. Secondly, when you see a call to action, please participate; it will not take more than a few minutes for you to send that letter or make that phone call; don't depend on "the other guy" be "the guy."



Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, as of the writing of this article, it appears that this March and Irish American Heritage Month should see a resumption of normal, not "new normal," activities for the first time in two years. However, let us not kid ourselves as to how much has changed since the last time we came together and expressed our faith, heritage and culture since Covid appeared here in force in March 2020. In that interim, we have suffered the untimely loss of many brothers and sisters. Many traditional Irish businesses have shuttered during government-mandated shutdowns. I fear many of us will, for the first time, realize what a specific impact the pandemic had on the Irish American community when we try to resume our traditional celebrations and commemorations this March.

Whether a coincidence of timing or a side effect of the pandemic, we have also seen terrible divisiveness take hold in our communities, government, educational and cultural institutions. Sadly, there seems to be a misguided effort that instead of understanding our history, the good and the bad, some wish to censor and rewrite it. They have forgotten the wisdom of John F. Kennedy: "Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." All attempts to pigeonhole or assume a person's story based on their skin color are equally wrong. While all people's stories are different, we should focus on the common themes that unite us, for it's on those common themes we can build bridges of understanding; opportunities that we will lose if the current trend to reduce our complex history to a simplistic narrative of "good guys vs. bad guys" takes hold.

The story of the Irish in America is a great story; it needs to be preserved, not censored and canceled. We cannot forget that we were once the poor refugee, the alien religion, our loyalties — and even our humanity — questioned as we were depicted as apelike creatures. At the same time, we can take justifiable pride in that Irish American men and women were not deterred by these injustices but went on to contribute positively to every American field of endeavor. This is why Irish American Heritage Month is so crucially important at this time, not just to Irish Americans, but to all Americans, as a reminder that despite the undoubted stains in American history, it never dulled our ancestors' faith in the unique promise of America and the potential to build and be part of a better society.

It is critical that all levels of the Order embrace Irish American Heritage Month in 2022. We have to bring March and our celebrations of St. Patrick back to their true meaning and not let them continually devolve into a block party. While community events, the Irish aspect of our St. Patrick's Day events need to have more depth than green beer. Let us not trivialize the celebration of one of the oldest cultures in the world and the miracle of the fact that the residents of a small island have disproportionately shaped our nation and the world by trivializing the celebration of their accomplishments by calling it "green season."

Other heritages do a commendable job celebrating their heritages; why are we not as proud and vocal when it comes to ours? If Irish America is to continue, if we as an Order are to continue, we need to perpetuate the history, traditions and pride in being Irish. I ask that every level of the Order take on an Irish American Heritage Month project for March 2022 to perpetuate our history and promote our Order at this critical time.



Irish Way & Study Abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

As we move toward 2022 and with travel between Ireland and the U.S. returning to the "New Normal," it just might be the right moment if you are a college student thinking of studying in Ireland to make your move! Realizing the upheaval the pandemic has created in people's lives for those hoping to study abroad for the 2021-2022 academic school year, the AOH National Board's Scholarship Application deadline for the 2022 spring semester has been extended and will be open until filled. These scholarships are available for undergraduate and graduate studies in Ireland for the children and grandchildren of AOH members.

Naturally, many college students thinking of studying abroad may prefer to wait until the 2022-2023 academic school year and should this be the case, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities that the AOH National Board offers for studying for a semester or a full year of study at a college in Ireland.

Please check out the AOH National Board website, which has been recently updated with our scholarship application and other pertinent information on studying abroad in Ireland.

For high school students who may want to study in Ireland, the AOH National Board — in partnership with the Irish American Cultural Institute of New Jersey — offers an excellent opportunity to study through the Irish Way Program. The Irish Way Program is a summer study-abroad program for high school students that was established in 1976. Participants travel to Ireland to take part in a cultural and educational experience under the guidance and direction of the Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI). The dates for the 2022 Irish Way Program are June 30 to July 24. Information on the Irish Way Program, as well as a direct link to the IACI Irish Way Program's website and Irish Way application are posted on the AOH National Board website under Scholarships.

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

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments, or your questions. My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net Stay safe and well!



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

Status of E3 Visa

Brothers, discussions involving Irish immigration continue to focus on Congressional modification of the existing E3 Visa. Most Congressional discussions are stalled pending decisions on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and, until recently, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. Based on information from John Deasy and others, the following is the status as I know it:

The Irish government supports the new E3 text passed on two occasions by the House.

Every Immigration lawyer contacted has said the new text is better and that the “dumbing down” of the education standards in the original version, which was unnecessary because the E3 already had plenty of flexibility built in.

If the text is changed to bring more people into the equation, the tentative agreement with Homeland Security and the Administration will be negated.

The Hispanic Caucus approves of this version. If the education requirements are changed, the Hispanic Caucus would need to be advised. It initially took three months for the Hispanic Caucus to vet this version and give the green light. We don't have that kind of time!

The E3 version passed twice by the House takes the unused Visas in the following fiscal year thereby safeguarding Australia's allocation. The original E3 bill does not and would be entirely unacceptable to Australia.

On two occasions the current E3 version has been agreed to by every Democrat in Congress. If it is changed now, it becomes devalued as far as the Budget Reconciliation process is concerned and to the Democratic Caucus.

By changing the education standards of the original E3 visa, Australia immediately has a valid argument that its E3 Visa is devalued.

The Budget Reconciliation bill will hopefully have a provision providing a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented. Including a similar provision in the E3 would therefore be overkill.

Many Congressional Representatives have made it clear that they will only support the text passed unanimously by the House twice.

Since becoming Immigration Chairman, my focus has been on positive Immigration change for the Irish through enactment of a revised E3 Visa. There have been extensive discussions with John Deasy in Ireland, as well as members of the National Board, including our worthy President. There have also been ongoing discussions with Members of Congress. All discussions have the goal of securing a revised E3 Visa. Goals for the coming months include a close monitoring of the progress in obtaining passage of a revised E3 Visa and having the ability to reach our Congressional leadership.

Brothers, as you can see there are many moving parts in this process. We are close to securing a very positive change for Irish Immigration! I will keep you informed as to further progress.

On a more immediate note, applications for the 2023 Diversity Visa Lottery are being accepted from Oct. 6, 2021, until Nov. 9, 2021. Not many Irish applicants have historically been approved. However, an application can't hurt! Applications can be made on-line at [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov). Assistance may also be obtained from nonprofit immigration centers such as the Emerald Island Immigration Center. Please support these centers in any way you can. Application dates for the 2024 Diversity Visa will be announced.

I wish all a Healthy, Happy and Holy Christmas!



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

The Order gets its first Major Degree Team west of the Mississippi!

For the second time in three years, I was privileged to participate in the certification of a new Major Degree Team. And this one was special from a geographic perspective. For many years, the western part of our country has been underserved by a lack of Major Degree Teams able to confer the Lessons of the Order in that area. A significant step has now been taken to address that deficiency.

On August 25, National Vice President Sean Pender and I departed from our homes in the Delaware Valley for the great State of Montana, arriving initially in Helena, then making our way to Butte and eventually the great little town of Anaconda. The goal of our venture was to see the candidate Copper Kings Major Degree Team through on their quest to achieve certification as an Order Major Degree Team.

The proceedings began with a rigorous six-hour practice session at the Anaconda Clubhouse on August 27, in advance of the Certification Review Degree. It was a long day but the hard work paid off in significant improvement in the Team's performance by day's end.

The Certification Review Degree itself took place the next day, on August 28. The Copper Kings Team asserted itself very well in their debut performance of the Major Degrees of the Order and through their efforts, 16 candidates completed the Major Degree process and were welcomed into full Brotherhood within the ranks of the Order. Afterwards, an enjoyable session of celebratory craic took place. Sean and I participated in the neat local tradition where every Brother gets up and speaks a few words. The festivities continued into the wee hours; for some, the very wee hours.

Subsequently, on September 9, a meeting of the National Rituals Board was convened to vote upon Sean's and my recommendation on the Copper Kings candidacy as a Major Degree Team. The Board then approved the Copper Kings as the Order's newest Major Degree Team and now ninth currently active Major Degree Team in the country.

The Copper Kings wasted little time returning to action and on September 18, exemplified their second Major Degree at the Montana State Convention in Butte. Another 16 candidates had their Major Degree conferred upon them. Thus, in a span of three weeks, 32 Montana brothers entered into full Hibernian Brotherhood through the work of the Copper Kings Team.

We extend hearty congratulations to the Copper Kings MDT on the achievement of their Certification as a Major Degree Team and are quite confident they will serve the Order well in the coming years, sharing the Lessons of the Order to future candidates in Montana and areas of the Western United States. The Copper Kings achieved this goal in just little more than six months, a most notable accomplishment. Special recognition should go to Team Co-Chairmen past National Director Mike O'Connor and current National Director Bob Mehrens for leading the Team forward to this great achievement.

Additional areas of the country would greatly benefit from the formation of new Major Degree Teams. We stand ready and eager to assist any Brothers who would like to embark upon such a challenging and rewarding endeavor.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order:

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022. CDIAA, 375 Ontario Street, Albany, NY. Hosted by Father Henry Tansey Division 5. Schenectady (NY) MDT exemplifying.

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, Noon – Michael Dougherty Bucks County Division 1 Clubhouse, 614 Corson Street, Bristol, PA. Isle of Erin (PA) exemplifying. Candidates may pre-register at www.isleoferin.com.



Sixteen Brothers (kneeling and seated) received their Major Degree at the Copper Kings Certification Review Major Degree in Anaconda, Montana, on August 28. The exemplifying Copper Kings Team standing behind, along with National Vice President Sean Pender and National Chairman Rituals & Degrees Jack Schneider.



catholic action

By pat Lally, chairman

In September, Dublin's Archbishop Dermot Farrell celebrated Mass to mark the centenary of the founding of the Legion of Mary and to honor its founder, Frank Duff, whom he characterized as "prophetic." Certainly any historical account of the Catholic Action movement and its significance must acknowledge this Irish Catholic layman.

Duff was born in Dublin, June 7, 1889, the eldest of seven children. In his youth, he showed signs of scholarly promise and earned academic distinction at Blackrock College. However, his father's early retirement meant that Frank had to support the family and was not able to pursue further higher education.

Duff passed the civil service exam and was assigned to the land commission, where his innovative practices got him invited to London to discuss his methods. After independence, he transferred to the Irish civil service, served briefly as secretary to Michael Collins, and worked on the 1923 Land Act under Patrick Hogan, Minister of Agriculture, transferring then to the Department of Finance.

Early in life, Duff showed few signs of religious fervor. But his introduction in 1913 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul began a gradual transformation. In 1918, Duff delved into the writings of St. Louis de Montfort on devotion to Mary; he also became familiar with John Henry Newman. He conceived the idea of a lay organization that would foster the holiness of its members while carrying the message of salvation into the world and also ameliorating the ills of society along Catholic lines.

On September 7, 1921, Duff held the first meeting of what was to become the Legion of Mary. The local unit was called a praesidium. The organization had a twofold mission: the spiritual growth of its members and, growing from that, living the Gospel in everyday life and addressing the problems of society from a Christian perspective. Faith was to be

translated into action. Specifically, for the Dublin praesidium, this meant addressing homelessness, alcoholism and prostitution.

The Legion established Sancta Maria Hostel in Dublin in 1922, a refuge for prostitutes, and Duff was a major force in the clean-up of Dublin's red-light district. Morning Star Hostel (1927) was a refuge for Dublin's homeless men; a similar unit was established for women in 1930.

Not all authorities in church and state were enthusiastic about Frank's work, though he received some encouragement from high places. He was well regarded by Eamon de Valera and W.T. Cosgrave, and the latter facilitated his work and arranged a meeting with Pope Pius XI in 1931. But the Archdiocese did not grant formal approval for his Legion until 1935. Archdiocesan officials often censored his activities and publications. The Archdiocese forced the suspension of his efforts toward dialogue with the city's Protestants and Jews.

The Legion did have the support of Cardinal Archbishop MacRory of Armagh (1928-45) and Cardinal Archbishop Bourne of Westminster (1903-35), and began to spread in Ireland and abroad. A big factor in its spread was the 1932 Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. Visiting bishops encountered the Legion and took the idea home with them. Today there are more than three million members in over 150 countries.

Duff had no specialized theological training, but had a knack for writing in an accessible manner about matters Catholic. His published corpus is extensive, and he wrote tens of thousands of letters, but his best-known work is his Handbook of the Legion of Mary, first published in 1928, often revised, and translated into 79 languages.

In 1965, Frank was invited to the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer. This brings us back to Archbishop Farrell's description of Duff as "prophetic": many have seen him as anticipating developments at the Council, especially in ecumenism and lay participation in the Church's mission.

Late in life, Frank often worried about the secularization of Irish society — perhaps another case of being prophetic. He died in Dublin on November 7, 1980. His cause for canonization was opened in 1996.

For information on the Legion of Mary, visit the website www.legionofmary.ie.



The National Hibernian **NOW ONLINE** Digest www.AOH.com

Gaelic Mass Day goes national



Westchester County, NY made it "Gaelic Mass Day," as viewers from as far away as Texas, California and Ireland itself, joined Hibernians wearing sashes and medallions, Irish community groups, Irish speakers and parishioners, for a Mass said in Irish by Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald at St. Barnabas, on October 2. Bronx County AOH's annual Gaelic Mass was again a national Hibernian event carried live via the parish Facebook and AOH YouTube. This year, the Gaelic Mass included a special remembrance of the 10 Irishmen who gave their lives on the Hunger Strike, which ended on October 3, 1981.



pro life

By LARRY SQUIRES, chairman

By the time you are reading this article I hope you are preparing to celebrate Christmas and New Year's with your families and fellow Hibernian brothers. May God continue to bless and protect you and your families in 2022.

The current National AOH Pro Life Committee has been in service to our brothers since July of 2020, and has accomplished several tasks. First among them was the actual formation of the Pro Life Committee and much larger Pro Life Team. Both were formed by using data collected for the 2020 National Convention, based on issues you listed as most important to the AOH. Our committee meets every month via Zoom, usually on the Tuesday before the first Friday of each month. We have some wonderful committee members who are dedicated to the Pro Life cause, devote much of their time to volunteer work for 40 Days for Life, Shelters for Women in troubled pregnancies and struggling to support their families, and political activism.

Through the work of this committee we have launched the first-ever monthly Pro Life Newsletter, which is published on the First Friday of every month. If you're not receiving this newsletter, please email me at: lspittcmf@gmail.com, and I will add you to the list. For the past several months the newsletter has focused on the spiritual impact abortion has on individuals affected by abortion, true Catholic teaching about abortion and all Pro Life issues, and Scripture Readings from Sunday and Weekday Masses that provide wisdom and guidance on Pro Life matters. There are also many articles included that highlight prayer and activism to promote Pro Life issues and support for those struggling with difficult pregnancies or family support. We also include wisdom from Fulton Sheen, AOH National Chaplain 1937 to 1941, as well as many other Irish clergy, including Bishop John "Dagger" Hughes, who called the AOH in America to order in May of 1836, Archbishop Sean Patrick O'Malley, and Father Patrick Peyton, who made Praying the Rosary a sensation with his "Families that Pray together Stay Together" mid-century campaigns. In the coming months, we hope to continue to educate our brothers on true Catholic teaching of all Pro Life issues that are certainly needed during this time of extreme abortion activism by our political leaders. The traditional media provides all the coverage we need with respect to the laws being presented, so the Pro Life Committee will remain steadfast in presenting true Catholic teachings on Pro Life issues, with the primary focus being abortion.

During the coming Lent and Easter seasons, we will shift our focus to God's unfailing Mercy and Love and how to help mothers and families affected directly or indirectly by abortion, reconcile spiritually and once again feel the love, peace and joy Jesus wants to share with everyone.

Hoping to see many of you at the March for Life in Washington D.C. on Friday, January 21st, 2022. More information is available at <https://marchforlife.org/>. May God bless all of you!



North Carolina

NaCara Division raises funds for charity

NaCara Division, of Guilford County, sponsored a Triad Honor Flight. These flights enable veterans from across the country to visit Washington, D.C. and see the various memorials on Veterans Day.

Additionally, the division raised \$1,200 from a paper-shredding event. The money was donated to the Power of Play Foundation. The foundation provides services to underprivileged children. Other activities the division recently conducted were a halfway to Saint Patrick's Day celebration and attended a Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game.



The division delivers funds to the Power of Play Foundation



charities & missions

By PATRICK RYAN, chairman

I want to wish you all a heartfelt blessing and wishes for the up-and-coming holiday season. I hope that you will be able to celebrate together as we give thanks to God for our nation and most importantly for the blessings and joy of the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

As National Chairman of Charities & Missions it is my duty to collect information from the various States, Counties and Divisions about your activities throughout the year and to help identify opportunities for greater activity. It is a pleasure to know that many of you have been very responsible in sending this information in a timely manner. Being more active in our charitable works garners a better understanding of who we each are and in the public eye a name and face of who we are. I believe that the more we are active both in what we do and in participation that our ranks will grow. We cannot simply recruit new members when we do not engage our existing Brothers, and so we need to offer a variety of activities for them to participate in. The adage goes that a rising tide will raise all ships! And your participation is the tide coming in raising these ships.

On a national level, we have several projects and missions that we collectively participate in – Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger Project and Irish Ways & Study Abroad are just a few ways we come together. But the bulk of the work is done at the local level. This is where we engage our Brothers and perform the works of mercy that we are called to do. Some great activities that other Divisions have sent in are the St. Patrick's Coloring Contest, where kids from K-4th grade participate in a coloring contest and the winners are presented with an award. This event usually coincides with the St. Patrick's festivities in March. Another great event is the Hibernian Heroes Award where a Division works with local First Responders and recognizes the achievements of individuals within each of these departments. Of course, many Divisions have Road Bowling and Golf Scrambles to raise funds in support of their activities. We are here to help support you and your efforts and we ask that you reach out if you need ideas that fit your Division and its talents.

Importance of Charities forms

Also at the National level, we are engaged in grant writing and tapping into the wealth of the corporate world. Our goal is to raise awareness of who we are, raise much needed funds to support our efforts and to create an endowment for these efforts for future generations. The form that each Division is required to submit each year goes to building a picture of the level of support we give to the community in the terms of dollars, the hours committed by our Brothers, friends and family and the number and type of activities at the local level. Our goal is to demonstrate to these corporations, foundations and government entities why they should consider us a beneficiary. I ask that if you know of any place or persons we should contact to please send me a note. We anticipate that as these funds grow that the Hibernian Charity will be able to support your local efforts, but we cannot do that if there is none. I encourage every Division with the support of their County and State, to create programs if there are none, and to bolster the ones that you are already engaged in.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Advent and Christmas!



project st. patrick

By RON HAGAN, chairman

As we approach the holiday season, we are just about two steps away from wrapping up the Project St. Patrick grant process for 2021. At this time of year, we are waiting for the Religious Directors and Directresses to finalize their review of the grant applications from their students and make their recommendations for the awarding of grants. Our goal is to have these recommendations and grant applications by the first or second week of November for the Chairs to prepare a list to submit to our National AOH and LAOH Presidents. The National Presidents, along with the Chairs, will review the number of applications along with the dollars available for distribution. Once the final decisions are made, we will be sending a letter to the recipients congratulating them on receiving the grant. Our goal at that point is to issue the checks to the recipients by the first of December.

Part of this process of the awarding of grants is based on the generous giving from all the individuals, Divisions and State Boards of their contributions over this year to Project St. Patrick. At the beginning of the year, our worthy AOH National President put a request out to all the Divisions to try to contribute \$500 or more in giving to Project St. Patrick. We had the good fortune to have approximately 32 Divisions, individuals and State Boards contribute \$500 or more for this year's grant giving. We also had approximately another 15 Divisions give something less the \$500. We raised a little over \$19,000 for Project St. Patrick grants from AOH Divisions and individuals. This amount, along with the LAOH contribution, will be distributed.

Our goal next year for 2022 is to make the members more aware of the importance of Project St. Patrick and how it echoes our basic history of over 186 years of the AOH, which is to support the Catholic Clergy.

Enjoy this Thanksgiving and Christmas season and keep Project St. Patrick in your thoughts.



hibernian hunger project

By **Bill Sullivan, chairman**

As we turn the page to a New Year, we often look back to see what was accomplished during the past year. With the pandemic, many Divisions stepped up to home plate to assist those in need in their community. Hopefully your division was one of those who did. If not, the clock has not yet run out on 2021, and so there is still time to do something for your community and have a Hibernian Hunger Project for your Division. Need ideas? Why not consider and take some suggestions from the projects of other Divisions around the country and put your own handprint on it.

Recently Joe Britton, Hibernian Hunger Projects Chairman from the Col D. B. Kelly Division in New Jersey, contacted me regarding his Division's Hunger Project that is run in conjunction with State Assembly Speaker and brother Hibernian Craig Coughlin, which is called "Bowl for Hunger." This Hunger Project, which has been held for 10 years, takes place at a local bowling alley. All monies raised from this venture are donated to the local food banks in Middlesex County, NJ. What a creative and fun way to showcase the AOH at work serving their community!

In the last several issues of the Hibernian Digest, we recognized the recipients of our \$1,000 and some of our \$500 2020 Hibernian Hunger Project Awards. In this issue we will detail the projects of some other \$500 Hibernian Hunger Projects Awards recipients.

The Father Abram J. Ryan Division 1 of Louisville, KY, Hibernian Hunger Project had two initiatives during 2020: Franciscan Kitchen and Feed the First. For the past 40 years, members of Division 1 have volunteered at the Franciscan Kitchen. On St. Patrick's Day at the Franciscan Kitchen, members take the lead to serve, cook and clean up, which allows the regular volunteers to take the day off. Division 1 donates the money for the day's signature dish: corned beef and cabbage! Also in 2020, Division 1 embarked on a new initiative called Feed the First. Partnering with local restaurants and churches, Louisville Hibernians helped prepare meals for medical care providers and Louisville's first responders.

Division 16 of Passaic County, New Jersey, worked with seven Native Indian organizations. The Native American Indian organizations were provided with food along with other necessities. The Indian groups that received support from Division 16 were: the St. Labre Indian School in MT; St. Joseph Indian School in SD; St. Bonaventure Mission & Indian School in NM; Red Cloud Indian School in SD; Southwest Indian Foundation in NM; Southwest Reservation Aid in AZ; and the Native American Heritage Association in SD. Division 16 also provided food to Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson, NJ.

Recently, we updated our 2021 Hibernian Hunger Application that can be found on the AOH National website. Every Division must fill out and submit an Official Hibernian Hunger Awards Application and submit it to the AOH National Board Hibernian Hunger Project Committee. To be considered for the 2021 Hibernian Hunger Project Awards, all projects must have taken place between January 1 and December 31, 2021, and all applications must be filed by February 15, 2022. Any questions? Please feel free to contact me at the email address noted below. Stay safe, healthy, and strong!

May you and your families for a wonderful Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022!

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

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

Nebraska



National VP tours Divisions
National VP Sean Pender was in Omaha recently to visit some of the Nebraska divisions. The highlight of the trip was a tour of Fr. Flanagan's Boys Town given by brother Tom Lynch, who is the Director of Community Programs and Chairman of the Historical Commission for the Beatification and Canonization of Fr. Flanagan. Fr. Flanagan is currently a Servant of God and on his way to Sainthood. Pictured from left was Tim Lonergan, John Farnan, Bill Gaughan, Sean Pender, Bob Sullivan, John Addy, Bob McEniry and Mike Addy.

New York



Steuben Hibernians grant scholarship
2021 Jerry Kelly Memorial Scholarship winner Sydney Heinig with President Mark Van Durme, Brother Mark Kelly (son of Jerry), and her parents. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who is attending college and has shown involvement in both church and community. Applicants must write an essay on what the AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity means to them and plan to stay active in the Catholic Church.
— Jerry McAnaney



Postponed due to Covid, the AOH and LAOH of Queens, NY, held their Saint Patrick's Parade in Bayside on September 18. Robert Lynch was one of the aides to the grand marshal, standing in for his late father.

GERALDINE FINUCANE continued from page 1

violations of their rights at the hands of the British State. Pat's work often brought him into contact with people who had been falsely accused, unlawfully detained, threatened, beaten, and sometimes killed by State agents."

"Plans of an imminent attack on Pat's life were known to various British State agencies and the RUC but no warnings were given to us. We were left in a state of ignorance and were completely unprepared for the eventual attack that would prove fatal. That was Sunday, 12th February 1989, an ordinary day for most but, for us, it was the day our world changed forever."

Fighting to uncover the truth

Today, some 32 years later, Geraldine continues to work toward justice for her husband. "Since that day, my family and I have travelled the globe seeking the help of others to uncover the truth behind Pat's murder. I have testified before Congress about the evidence in our case, as have my sons John and Michael. The first time Michael testified before the House of Representatives was in 1997 and two distinguished members of the AOH, Mr. Edward Wallace and Ms. Mary Paglione,

also spoke about unresolved cases of human-rights abuses in Northern Ireland.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Britain simply wants to sweep its actions and responsibilities under the carpet forever with no risk of any exposure. Inquests would be banned, civil actions halted, prosecutions discontinued, Police Ombudsman investigations would be ended and the Legacy Investigation Branch of the PSNI abolished. None of these measures, which have been strongly criticised by all quarters, including the AOH, LAOH and Congress, have been proposed because of a lack of evidence of wrongdoing. Quite the contrary. It is precisely because of the existence of compelling evidence — in some cases, overwhelming evidence — of British State complicity in abuses and killings that the move to close down investigations and inquiries has been so comprehensive."

Today, the AOH and LAOH join with Geraldine Finucane and the people in the North of Ireland for a full inquiry into the brutal murder of Pat Finucane and all legacy justice issues still on the table. We must all work together with the same Dignity, Grace and Respect Geraldine Finucane has demonstrated throughout this campaign.

Alabama

Celebrating Treacy Division's 10th Year

In May 2011, a National Director visited our meeting in the Maggie McGuinness Pub in Huntsville to officially install the Father Jeremiah F. Treacy Division of the AOH as the second Alabama division.

This May, the Division celebrated its 10th year in the same venue where they have not only met over the past 10 years but held socials with our families, hosted Irish trad sessions, and other activities to include celebrating their 10th year by initiating three new brothers into our worthy Order: Michael Robert Bollinger, Jonathan Spurlock and Christopher King.

Some had been waiting more than a year to become initiated due to COVID. In addition, on that same night, the Treacy Division was able to honor Jonathan Spurlock as a veteran by giving him the Order's veteran pin. Not only was this a great way to celebrate the 10th year as a division, but it had been two years to the month since they had initiated any new brothers into the division due to the fact that only seven percent of Alabama is Catholic and then a smaller percentage of that are Irish.

However, Hibernians continue to maintain good membership due to word of mouth, publishing about the division in parish bulletins, holding socials pre COVID for potential members, and inviting the community to hosted Irish trad sessions. During COVID, they also saw the benefit of the National campaign with some potentials noting that they would do a search and a National AOH ad would come up and then they would find the Treacy Division. After celebrating the 10th year as a division, the very next month in June, they were honored to initiate another new brother, Gary Levan, as well as to honor him as a veteran by giving him the Order's veteran pin.



President Michael Bollinger presented a Veterans Pin to Gary Levan in June.



Father Treacy Division President Michael Bollinger presented a Veterans Pin to Veteran Jonathan Spurlock in May.

Florida



Honoring Commodore Barry
Members of the Florida State Board and Brevard County Division 2 joined State President Ray Lynch in laying a memorial wreath to honor Commodore John Barry, father of the U.S. Navy, at Jetty Park in Cape Canaveral. From left, Greg Neuhaus, National Director and Florida State President Ray Lynch, Deputy National Organizer Keith Reynolds and Scott Ferguson.

ANCIENT ORDER of HIBERNIANS
IRISH · CATHOLIC · AMERICAN

4th ANNUAL
SNOWBIRD SOCIAL

Thursday, February 25, Noon-3 p.m.

Tim Finnigan's Pub

2885 S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach, FL

Join fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun, food and music

This will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with the AOH during the winter and meet fellow Hibernians who winter in Florida as well as our Florida brothers

Do you have a talent to share? Please let us know.

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members.

Hot lunch with one drink: \$25

Reservations required

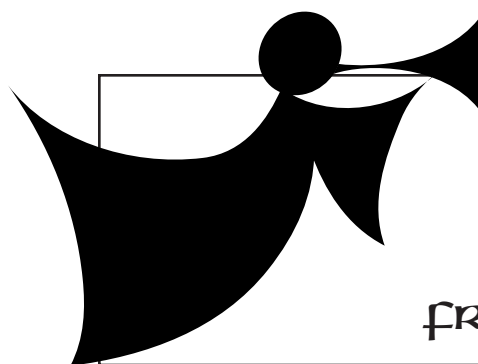
Contact Tim Myles - Timtam614@aol.com or 516-660-7456

Jim Sullivan - Jim@brooklynirish.org or 347-224-4822

Committee

Ed Wallace, Tim Myles, Frank Corcoran, Jim Sullivan, Ray Lynch, Matt Reilly

Covid precautions will be set



nollaig sona duit

merry christmas

from the staff of the hibernian digest

Illinois

Illinois Honors Past State President John Martin



AOH National Director and President of the Illinois State Board of the AOH, Sean O'Dowd, presented Bro. John L. Martin with the Commodore John Barry Medal at the Illinois Bi-annual State Convention in Belleville, IL.

The prestigious national award is given to AOH members who have, over the years, developed and promoted outstanding academic, cultural and civic events that project the history and culture of the Irish in this country. John has been the Co-Chair of the Peoria Irish Fest-Erin Feis since 1995. The Feis started 40 years ago as a Sunday picnic at the Knights of Columbus shelter in Peoria. Under John's leadership the event was changed to a two-day cultural event and moved to the Gateway Park on the Illinois River in downtown Peoria. The event increased to three days in 2004 and has become the largest Irish Festival in downstate Illinois, now welcoming 10,000 plus guests from all over the Midwest.

Festival goers enjoy more than 40 performances of musicians and dancers from all over the Midwest, North America, Ireland and Scotland. Five "Pubs" service the guests as they enjoy the Highland Games and competitions, a 5K race, numerous food and merchant vendor offerings, a Wee Folk area. The Cultural Village features exhibits on the Great Hunger, the Easter Rising, Irish American Entertainers and Boxers as well as several traveling exhibits. A unique exhibit tells the stories of Irish families in the Peoria area through letters from their relatives in Ireland.

John's effort in promoting the Irish Culture and History has recently been recognized in Proclamations from the Mayor and City Council of Peoria, the Illinois State Senate and J.B. Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois. The proclamations all pointed out that an event of this magnitude is a highly orchestrated affair that is only possible because of the hard work of many and cited John as instrumental in developing and expanding the Fest into one of the leading Irish Festivals in the Midwest.

Joining the Peoria Division in 1982, John has held every office at the division and state levels having served as President of the State Board from 2011 to 2015. In his acceptance of the award, John pointed out that none of this would have happened without the help of more than 350 volunteers and committee chairs. Many of chair persons are members of the AOH/LAOH and attended this convention. And he gave a special thanks to his wife, JoAnn (she 100 percent Slovak) for her support and guidance.

Hibernians convene in Illinois

Illinois AOH held its 59th bi-annual convention at Our Lady the Snow Shrine, in Belleville, Illinois, on September 25. The convention was held in conjunction with the Illinois LAOH. AOH St. Clair County Division 1 and LAOH St. Clair County Division 1 hosted a hospitality suite the evening before the convention. From left, seated at the table are the newly elected officers of the Illinois State Board: Mike Tiernan, Treasurer; Sean O'Dowd, State President; Dann Haney, Vice President; and Dennis McNamara, Recording Secretary; from left, standing are: Bob Dixon, Michael McAnally, Tim Noonan, Bob Simpson, Tony Borgia, Patrick Hickey, Patrick Hume, Deacon Colm Mitchell, National VP Sean Pender, Kevin O'Malley, Mark Howe, John Moriarty, Jim Haney, Dennis Gollogly, National Charities & Missions Chairman Patrick Ryan, Greg Jetton and John Martin. — Submitted by Mike Tiernan



Officials at the convention were, from left, John Wilson, Mike Tiernan, Sean O'Dowd, Jim Haney, Sean Pender, Patrick Ryan and Dennis McNamara.



Fore, for charity

The Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County Illinois, held their 40th Annual Foz Ryan Memorial Irish Open Golf event on September 10. The chairman was David Meehan and cochair Robert Simpson. Pictured is member Michael McAnally, our State AOH veteran representative, who assisted along with Don Gravin in handling the cooking responsibilities to prepare lunch for the 15 teams that participated in this year's outing. All funds raised help support the numerous charitable organization we contribute to each year. — Patrick Hume

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Irish Fest 2021 a success

The Reverend William J. Kelly, S.J. Division was thrilled to come together once again and play a prominent part at Milwaukee's iconic Irish Fest, as it meshes so perfectly with our overall mission. 2021 marked the 40th anniversary of Irish Fest, the world's largest celebration of Irish-Celtic music and culture. This popular ethnic festival was particularly welcome after being virtual in 2020 owing to the pandemic. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, just east of downtown Milwaukee, more than 60,000 attendees gathered on the expansive festival grounds over the recent August 20-22 weekend.

The AOH has long hosted a hospitality suite at a prime Irish Fest location for the purpose of promoting our Order, strengthening the bonds of fellowship among our brothers and their families, and supporting Catholic education through charitable contributions to three schools in need in our shared community.

This year we were further blessed that our Division leadership had the opportunity to meet and interact with Irish dignitaries, most notably Ireland's ambassador to the U.S., Daniel Mulhall. The ambassador said he enjoyed Milwaukee's Irish Fest and learning more about the good work of AOH Milwaukee.

A highlight of Irish Fest is embracing our Catholic faith with a Sunday mass held in the amphitheater. This year's celebrant was the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Jeffrey R. Haines. Father Michael Maher, S.J., our Division chaplain, has long planned and coordinated the beautiful liturgy. Division members dutifully serve as ushers, recognized by their colorful sashes and white shirts. According to Fr. Maher, this celebratory mass is one of the largest in the country, this year drawing some 7,500 worshippers.

Irish Fest 2021 and the AOH participation was a success, offering a sense of renewal and lifting spirits as we came together in collegiality and celebration.



From left, Kevin Byrne (Consul General-Chicago), Ed Shanley (AOH-Milwaukee Division Past President & Foundation Treasurer), Chris Kellenberger (AOH-Milwaukee Division President), Daniel Mulhall (Ireland's Ambassador to the United States), Sean O'Dowd (AOH National Director), Sarah Keating (Vice Consul - Chicago), Shannon Burns (AOH-Milwaukee Division Vice President), Corey Webster (AOH-Milwaukee Division Sentinel), Max Loker (AOH-Milwaukee Division 2nd Vice President).

ín memoriam

James A. Murphy, "Murph," 83, of Limerick, and formerly King of Prussia, died on Sept. 29, 2021. He was born in Clifton Heights on June 20, 1938, son of the late Denis and Ellen (Bray) Murphy. He was the beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Frances (Walsh) Murphy, "Betsy," for 52 years.

Jim was raised in NE Philadelphia, where he graduated from North Catholic High School Class of 1956. He was employed as a systems analyst for TV Guide for more than 46 years. He was a devout Catholic and parishioner of St. Augustine RC Church, in Bridgeport, and more recently St. Teresa of Calcutta, in Limerick. He served as both Lector and Extraordinary Minister. He was an active member of the AOH Notre Dame Division 1, in Swedesburg, where he was a founding member of the Isle of Erin Degree Team, honored as the 2001 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, AOH State Officer, and active participant in nearly all club activities and charities. His special interests were focused upon the Catholic Church and the AOH. Above all, Murph was a family man who loved being a husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by: two daughters, Lisa Voytko (Rich) and Bridget Hanson (Mark); his brother, Augustine; three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Nicholas and Emma; many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. Besides his wife Betsy; he was predeceased by his brother, Fr. Dennis Murphy (OSFS).



Francis A. O'Connor Sr., AOH National Life Member

Francis A. O'Connor Sr., a 67-year member of Division 8 AOH in Lawrence, Massachusetts passed peacefully surrounded by his family on August 20, 2021. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Margaret, Immediate Past LAOH Mass State Board President, and his three children, Francis Jr., and Michael, both members of Division 8 AOH and Attorney Eileen Bernal, a member of Division 8 LAOH.

Frank dedicated his life to public service in the fields of Urban Renewal and Public Housing Administration and served as a member of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority and the Andover MA. Housing Authority. He had been Director of Redevelopment for the city of Medford, MA and subsequently director of the Ipswich MA. Housing Authority.

Mr. O'Connor served on the Division level as Vice President of Division 8, as President of the Essex County Board and as Treasurer of the Massachusetts AOH State Board. He was a Past President of the Hibernian Building Association of Lawrence, and during the 1970's, Frank served as Assistant Editor of the Hibernian Digest. He was selected as Division 8's Irishman of the Year in 1988 and was the recipient of Division 8's Richard Cardinal Cushing Award in 2010. Frank was awarded AOH National Life Membership in 2012. Mr. O'Connor was also a 60-year member of Council #67 Knights of Columbus, and was a member of St. Patrick Parish in Lawrence, where Frank had been a Eucharistic Minister, RCIA program instructor and an instructor for the Scouting and the CCD programs.

A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, celebrated by Division 8 Chaplin, the Rt. Rev. John Delaney, at Sacred Hearts Church, Bradford, MA. Burial followed in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in North Andover, MA.



Stephen J. Roach, 92, of the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, passed away peacefully on August 27, 2021. The oldest of six children of Stephen H. and Mary (Casey) Roach, Steve graduated from St. Ann School and Fairfield Prep, Class of 1947. He worked as a clerk at Bridgeport Brass Co., Philips Medical in Shelton and at Fairfield University until his retirement. He was a devout Catholic and parishioner of St. Ann Church, and was a member of the Gaelic American Club and earned a lifetime membership in the AOH. Until physically unable to do so, would take part in the March For Life in January every year in Washington D.C.

Steve will be remembered by his loving family including his brothers James P. Roach, MD, and his wife, Joan, Thomas J Roach, and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and two great-grand nephews. He was predeceased by parents, siblings David Roach, MaryAnn Sullivan and Eileen Roach, Sisters-in-law Irene and Agnes Roach, and nephews Matthew and Edward Roach.



*Those who love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,*

Unseen, unheard, but always near,

Still loved, still missed and very dear.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Chuamar go Savannah den chéad uair sa samhradh seo. *We went to... for the first time this summer.* Cathair álainn is ea í. *It's a beautiful city.* Agus an-stairiúil, dar ndóigh. *And very historic, of course.* Tá baint láidir aici le sliocht na hÉireann, freisin. *It has a strong connection to the Irish, too.*

Tá Músaem Stair Savannah (atá ceangailte le Músaem Iarnróid Stáit Sheorsia) acu, agus tá taispeántas beag ann faoi na hÉireannaigh sa chathair. *They have the Savannah History Museum (which is connected to the Georgia State Railroad Museum), and there's a small display about the Irish in the city.*

Roimh aimsir an Ghorta, ba Phrotastúnaigh iad na hÉireannaigh, de ghnáth, a tháinig go Savannah, agus bhí airgead acu. *Before the famine, the Irish who came were generally Protestants, who had money.* Ina dhiaidh sin, ba Chaitlicigh den lucht oibre iad. *Afterwards, they were working class Catholics.* D'obraigh an chuid is mó díobh sna duganna, ar chanálacha agus ar an iarnród. *Most of them worked in the docks, on canals and on the railroad.*

As cúiseanna éagsúla, ní raibh coimhlint eadarthu, agus chabhraigh an dá dhream lena chéile. *For various reasons, there was no conflict between them, and the two groups helped each other.* Sochaí chasta a bhí ann, agus ba mhionlach iad. *It was a complex society, and they were a minority.* Bhí siad san arm, freisin. *They were in the army, too.* Aonad darb ainm The Irish Jasper Greens a bhí ann, mar shampla, a throid sa chogadh le Meicsiceo agus sa Chogadh Cathartha freisin. *There was a unit called...for example, who fought in the war with Mexico and in the Civil War also.* Bhí siad ar son chúis an Deiscirt, dar ndóigh. *They supported the South's cause, of course.* Duine tábhachtach a bhí ann ab ea an tAthair Peter Whelan. *An important person was...* Bhí sé ina shéiplíneach ag Dún Pulaski (fuair Pulaski bás sa chathair agus cuireadh é inti), agus thug sé cabhair agus sólas do chimí ar an dá thaobh, fiú in Andersonville (áit eile a chonaiceamar). *He was a chaplain at Fort Pulaski (Pulaski died and was buried in the city), and he gave help and solace to prisoners on both sides, even in... (another place we saw).*

Tá páirc darb ainm Irish and Robert Emmet Park ansin. *There's a park called...there.* Ainmníodh é in ómós dó i 1902, céad bliain tar éis a bháis. *It was named in his honor on the centennial of his death.* Tá teach Flannery O'Connor sa chathair seo. *...house is in the city.* Bhí Éireannaigh i gcath Savannah sa Réabhlóid (a tharla taobh leis an músaem). *Irish were in the battle of Savannah in the Revolution (which happened next to the museum).* Tá Ardeaglais Naomh Eoin Báiste ansin, atá an-cháiliúil. *There's St. John the Baptist Cathedral, which is very famous.* Tionchar na nÉireannach ar fud na cathrach. *Influence of the Irish all over the city.* Is mór is fiú cuairt a thabhairt uirthi. *It's well worth a visit.*

New York



Mid-Hudson Parade honors Kevin Cummings

The long delayed but much anticipated 44th Annual Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade was held in Orange County, NY, on September 19, with Orange County AOH Division 2 member Kevin R. Cummings leading the way as the 2020-2021 Grand Marshal.

Connecticut

A successful State Convention was hosted by President Peter Greene and the Stamford AOH on September 25. Outgoing State President, Brenden Walsh presided over a productive gathering of Connecticut Hibernians.

The highlight of the Convention was the presentation of a \$2,500 check by Bridgeport President Mark Ryan to the Most Reverend Bishop Frank Caggiano to aid Malta House, whose mission is to promote the dignity of God-given life by providing a nurturing home environment, support services and independent living skills to pregnant and parenting mothers of all faiths and their children.

Life member, the late Stephen Roach of the JFK, Bridgeport Division, who passed away in late August, was surely looking down with joy at this presentation. Steve served for many years as the State Pro life Chairman. Steve was a shy and gentle man but one who always spoke up for the rights of voiceless unborn children.

The new Connecticut State Board consists of Brian O'Neill, Stamford, President, David Albright, Danbury, Vice President, and incumbents Frank Kearney Jr. and Scott McNulty of Meriden as Treasurer and State Secretary. Monsignor Bevins will also remain as Chaplain. He was very much pleased with the Convention's support of the Hyde

Amendment.

The Convention passed resolutions asking the membership to contact the Connecticut Congressional Delegation in support of the Hyde Amendment and to ask the National Board of the AOH to set aside a portion of each year's Christmas Appeal to build up a financial war chest to support a future referendum Yes vote regarding a United Ireland.

The Fairfield County Convention was also held in Stamford with Brian Hearty and Brian Meany of Danbury being elected President and Vice President and Tom Keane of Bridgeport staying on as treasurer. Outgoing Fairfield County Secretary Bob Fox has yet to be replaced. Bob is leaving us for the sunny South. His departure is a great loss to Bridgeport and Fairfield County where he played an important role in promoting both the annual Connecticut Softball Tournament and the John Barry Day Commemoration.

John Barry Day was held on 9/11 in Southport and was a huge success.

On October 3, I stopped at the Waterbury AOH Hall on my way home from watching my Grandson's Pop Warner game. Unknowingly the AOH annual picnic was underway and I was warmly welcomed on what was my birthday! A pleasant surprise!

jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence

Division 8 returned to in-person meetings on September 8, after 18 months of Zoom meetings. Division members kicked off celebrations in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Division on October 30 with a lecture by Professor Richard Pardova on the "The Irish Settlement of Lawrence." The next day, the 24th Annual Lawrence Vietnam Memorial Run or Walk 4 Mile Road Race was held.

It was on November 5, 1871, that a group of Irish Catholic men met and formed Division 8. To mark this historical event 150 years to the day the Division was organized, on Friday, November 5, Division 8 held a 150th Anniversary Celebration Cabaret with a host of entertainment, featuring the Silver Spears Irish Showband, the O'Shea-Chaplin Irish Step Dancers and others. On November 13, Irish Author Michael Connelly discussed his book, "Murkey Overhead."

On November 21, a concert featuring Terry Kelley and Bill Donelan was held as a tribute to Francis A. O'Connor Sr., a 67-year member of Division 8, who passed on August 20. Brother O'Connor had served as AOH Massachusetts State Board Treasurer, AOH Essex County Board President and Division 8 Vice President.

On November 1, the Division 8 kicked off their annual FFAI Fundraiser and Christmas Appeal, which is being headed up by FFAI Chairman Bob Collins. On December 8, the Division's Annual Christmas Celebration will be held at the Claddagh. The 150th Anniversary celebration will continue into 2022!

Division 14 Watertown

Division 14 had a successful mini-golf event inside the Hall and were able to raise a little over \$1,000 for Scholarships. We are also looking forward to several events this fall that will help with needed repairs and updates to the club. As we settle into this new normal now is the time for resolve and commit to keep pushing to do the great work of Catholic charity and brotherhood.

Division 19 Lowell

Division 19 had a great summer and participated in the Lowell Irish Festival. This outdoor event drew crowds to the state-sponsored AOH info tent. It was a great day for the Irish in Lowell that day. Thanks to all who participated and helped with the booth. We are looking forward to the fall continuing the good work and reconnecting with our brother and sister Hibernians as we traverse this new landscape.



Members of AOH gathered around the Brig Saint John Bench, from left, John Sullivan, Dick Thompson, Phil Joy, Ken Miller, Joe McCusker, Dan Sullivan, John Travers, Francis O'Brien, Mike Schilling, Brendan Burke and James O'Sullivan (obscured). Also in attendance from the Father John Murphy Division were Tom McTigue, Steve Kerr, Sean Hughes and John Shea.

Remembering the victims of the Brig St. John by John L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Father John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth, has had a busy few months. We marched in the Cape Cod Saint Patrick's Parade on September 18, and then in the Weymouth Saint Patrick's Parade on September 26. Then, on Sunday, October 3, we sponsored the Annual Brig St. John Mass and Commemoration. The Mass took place at Saint Anthony's Church in Cohasset, after which we had a speaking program featuring Irish Consul General Laoise Moore, Division President John Travers, soloist Máirín ÚiChéide (originally from Lettermore, County Galway), and National Director Dick Thompson. Our keynote speaker was Professor Christine Kinealy, of Quinnipiac University. Dr. Kinealy is one of the foremost experts on The Great Hunger in all of North America. At the conclusion of the speaking program, we went to Cohasset Central Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Celtic Cross, erected by the AOH and the LAOH in 1914. Finally, we proceeded to the Brig Saint John Bench, which was placed near the site of the final remains of the victims of this tragic shipwreck. The bench was dedicated to the memory of the 99 men, women and children who died in the shipwreck of October 7, 1849, as they were fleeing The Great Hunger in Ireland. It is important that we never forget the struggles and sacrifices of our ancestors.



At the Weymouth Parade, James O'Sullivan, Patrick Hughes, Emily Hughes, Sean Hughes, Francis O'Brien, Jack Schilling, John Sullivan and John Travers in Division 9 truck.



At the Cape Cod Parade, standing in front of the truck, Francis O'Brien, Steve Kerr, Dan Sullivan, Jr., John Travers, Dan Sullivan, Mike Schilling and Jack Schilling.

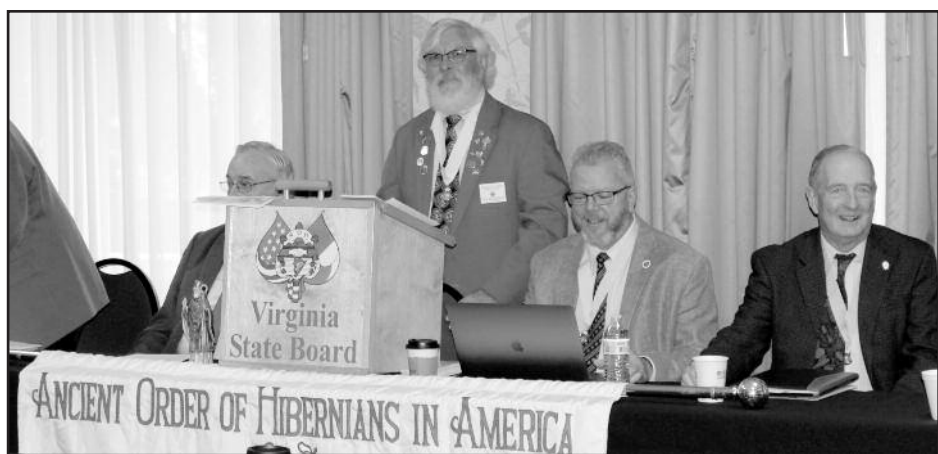
Virginia

Successful, joyful convention is Richmond

The AOH Biennial Virginia State Convention was held in Richmond, VA, on August 20-22. It was attended by both the National AOH and LAOH Presidents along with 47 AOH Delegates and more than 125 guests during the three-day event. A great time was had by all!



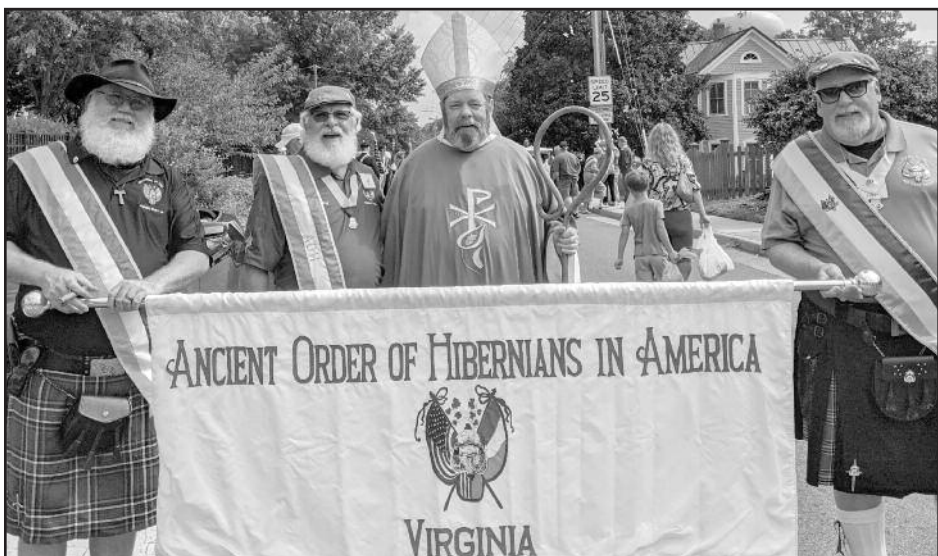
The new AOH Virginia State Board. From left, President Brian Kiernan, VP Bob Fay, Secretary Vince Eikmeier and Treasurer Edwin Hanson being sworn in by National President Danny O'Connell.



Newly elected State President Brian Kiernan, Past State President Jay McCarthy, National President Danny O'Connell and National Director Ed Halligan presiding at the State Business meeting.



Bishop Barry Knestout of the Richmond Diocese celebrated Mass along with 5 other Priests (3 from the AOH) and spoke very highly about the accomplishments of the AOH.



Fr. Timothy, Jay McCarthy, St. Patrick and Bob Fay were ready to lead the parade!

Desserts for Veterans

The Thomas J. Cunningham Division, Loudoun County, VA, provides a dessert for the veterans and staff located at the Martinsburg Facility each quarter. Funds to support this quarterly event are typically raised through 50/50 raffles as well as through local dinners and gatherings. Representing the Division is Brother Fred Vlcek, retired Army Practical Nurse, and Past State President Jay McCarthy. From left, Jay McCarthy, two VA staffers, Fred Vlcek and Regan Noad, the canteen services manager.



Half Way to St. Patrick's

Virginia State AOH and LAOH Divisions participated in the Half Way to St. Patrick's Parade in Manassas on Sept. 18. Gorgeous weather, fantastic fraternity, and a lot of green throughout the day! Slainte'

New York

Nassau holds successful Feis

The Nassau County Hibernians sponsored a marvelous 49th Annual Feis & Irish Festival on the South Shore of Long Island, on Sept. 19. The extremely well attended event was organized by Feis Chairman Michael Byrne and a host of Hibernians who served as the Feis Committee. This year's honoree was John O'Connell, AOH National Editor.



LEFT: National Editor John O'Connell was the Honoree of this year's Nassau Hibernians' Feis & Festival.



At the Feis Award ceremonies were, from left, MC Donal Mahoney, Chairman Mike Byrne, Honoree John O'Connell, Nassau LAOH President Maureen Caffrey and Nassau AOH President Jack O'Brien.

Virginia

The Herbert/Cady and The Cunningham Divisions of Virginia participated in the annual Ballyshaner's Festival in Alexandria, VA, on Sept. 18. Trips to Ireland were raffled off by both Divisions.



Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division President Bob Carmack, St. Patrick (aka Jim McLaughlin), Cunningham Division VP Paul Rowane, Brother Fred Vlcek, and Cunningham Past Division Presidents Cole Slattery and Dave Lawlor.



Maple syrup from Brother Jim McLaughlin's Shamrocks Maple Products was a tremendous hit!

Kansas

Hibernians help cancer-stricken child

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division, Johnson County, Kansas, has made a \$750 donation to the family of Harper Claar, a 12-year-old girl from Olathe. Harper is a cancer warrior battling multiple health issues; the most formidable foe she faces now is Osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer. Harper already had her left leg amputated during her first bout with cancer but has courageously continued to fight to beat the disease.

The money the Donnelly Hibernians donated will support Harper's family offsetting a portion of the costs anticipated from surgery necessary to remove two new tumors in her lungs, including one next to her heart.

Donnelly Hibernian Tim Martin first connected with Harper and her family as a result of a shared interest in beekeeping. Honey is a central ingredient in MediHoney, one of Harper's wound treatments. She was curious how it was made, and on a 2021 Father's Day family learning excursion to a honey harvesting farm, she crossed paths with Tim. The families have remained close, and Tim shared this story with the Division, which quickly opted to provide financial and ongoing prayer support.



Kansas Hibernian Tim Marting demonstrates to young Harper Claar how honey is harvested from beehives.

Montana

Montana Convention in Butte a great success

The Montana AOH State Convention was held in Butte from September 17 to 19. Our new State Officers are Pete Lorello, President; Rory Schulte, Vice President; Joe Ungaretti, Treasurer; and Josh Mouat, Secretary.

The Montana Copper Kings Degree Team performed their first Degree Ceremony at this year's convention.

They exemplified the major degrees of the Order to 21 members. The candidates represented four Montana Divisions and an AOH brother from the New Mexico Division.

Way to go Brothers!

The Degree Ceremony was a great success and thanks go to all the Copper Kings Degree Team members for not giving up on providing the Major Degrees to AOH members. The Team was formed less than six months before the State Convention. The Team practiced hard to be ready. This was a major undertaking, but when we work together, anything is possible. Montana has wanted to form a Degree Team for 20 years. With four Divisions coming together, it made it possible.



The Copper Kings Degree Team and candidates after the Degree ceremony.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of the Ladies National President...

Karen Keane

I love the Fall or Autumn or whatever you may call this wonderful season. Here in upstate New York, the entire mountainside changes color and proves God's awesome ways. My allergies kick in, but I love the cooler weather and fire pit conversations.

Parents of school age children consider this the second new years; students and teacher know this is a new beginning. As Hibernians, many States have recently elected new State Officers and meetings are returning in full swing. It is like a New Year for Hibernians.

This is the time we should be concentrating on recruitment, fundraising, and Advent celebrations. I have been saying at many state conventions, if each member brought in one new member, we would double our numbers. Please accept this challenge.

Thank you for all you do for Our Noble Order and all of God's children.

A visit from Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin Representative for North America

Ciarán Quinn was a guest speaker at the LAOH National Interim Board Meeting on September 25. Ciarán serves on the Sinn Féin National Officer Board and Ard Chomhairle. He is also the Sinn Féin Representative for North America.

Ciarán gave us a thorough update on the recent activities in Washington this week regarding the visit by British PM Boris Johnson. The main concerns for Ireland and Irish America are the Brexit withdrawal Protocol, which was agreed to by all parties in January 2020 and which PM Johnson is looking to change, as well as the Amnesty legislation for soldiers and paramilitaries that is planned to be proposed next month in the British Parliament.

The protocol is critical in keeping a physical border off the island of Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement and Stormont agreements are in place to ensure that all people in Ireland have a voice and that legacy issues are addressed. Legislators including Brendan Boyle, Nancy Pelosi and Richie Neal as well as President Biden made it clear this week that the GFA must not be undermined and that the proposed legislation to remove legacy inquiries and ending prosecutions of paramilitaries and state agents for troubles related crimes needs to be withdrawn. Dozens of human rights groups have issued statements against this legislation. Ciarán noted that today, September 25, 2021 across the island of Ireland there were protests against the proposed legislation. He also talked about the Reavy family who were notified this week that the Ombudsman found evidence connecting an RUC police officer to the murder of their three sons who were killed by Loyalists in 1976.

Ciarán noted that the current President and Vice President of Sinn Fein are women. Mary Lou McDonald, as president is the Leader of the Opposition – the first woman to hold that position. Michelle O'Neill holds the position of VP of Sinn Fein and is the Deputy First Minister in the north of Ireland. Ciarán noted that perhaps in the next election we could see Mary Lou as the Taoiseach and Michelle as the First Minister.

Ciarán closed by saying that all of the issues could be solved with a United Ireland. Groups are meeting across the island to discuss how this could be accomplished. He mentioned the significance of these conversations and that he expects a United Ireland in our lifetime.

Montana



Newly elected officers: L-R: President Rosemary Corrigan, Secretary- Billie Holmlund, Missions & Charities- Kathy Pahut, Catholic Action - Susie Hogart, Treasurer - Shannon Wilson, National President - Karen Keane, Vice President - Pam O'Rielly.

Louisiana

The Louisiana AOH/LAOH State Convention was held on July 9-11, 2021, at the Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Convention was officially opened by AOH State President, Sean Kennedy, and LAOH State President, Liz Rafferty, at a Cocktail Party Friday night, July 9. The Cocktail Party gave all attendees a chance to catch up on all that had been happening during the 1-1/2 years we were not together because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was great seeing everyone again!

The next morning it was down to business...We started with a Continental Breakfast and then went into a Joint Session with AOH and LAOH members. The AOH and LAOH State Presidents each gave a brief report. Then we convened in a separate meeting room to conduct our business of the day. We had 11 members in attendance, plus our Chaplain, Fr. Ken Hedrick. Among the items discussed were planning for the 30th Anniversary Celebration of our Margaret Haughey Division, established in 1991, and resumption of our assisting with feeding the homeless at Lantern Light Ministry. Since we will continue with our present Officers, elections were not held. The session ended with Mimosas for everyone!

To our delight, the AOH treated the LAOH members to a wonderful lunch offsite at the Palace Café, one of the Dickie Brennan restaurants, in Downtown New Orleans. We ended the day with AOH and LAOH members attending Mass and enjoying friendship at the closing banquet.

Sunday, July 11, found members saying good-bye with hopes of resuming meetings and activities in the near future. Might we add that we also took home 5 extra pounds because of the great social events!

Colorado



The LAOH of Denver, Division 1 finally met in person on August 29th to celebrate Our Lady of Knock mass followed by The Louise Donovan Annual LAOH Family Picnic honoring our founder, Louise Donovan. It was wonderful to see Louise, our members, and their families in person again. Good food, great weather, friendship and even hurling lessons for the little ones. A good time was had by all.

Louise began the Denver LAOH chapter in the year 2000 after much research and planning. The inception of the Denver, Colorado LAOH Division 1 resulted from our Charter President Louise Donovan's accompanying her husband to the AOH Booth at the Colorado Irish Festival, staged by the Colorado United Irish Societies (CUIS). As AOH wives began inquiring about the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Louise began to investigate requirements with the National LAOH while inviting every Irish Catholic woman she knew in Denver to consider joining. An informational meeting was held in late 1999, and in January 2000, Mary Paglione came to Denver to install the Denver LAOH Division 1 with 22 members.

We currently have 42 members after installing our newest member last week. We continue to reach out to the Irish Catholic community and are thrilled to report several new women who have applied and are waiting to be installed as LAOH members at our next division meeting. Some of our 42 members may only be in Denver once a year, but, as their home state has no LAOH, they join us when they are in Denver.

The Denver LAOH is a very lovely and vibrant group of sisters who support one another through all of life's ups and downs, with great laughter, love, and fellowship throughout each year. Louise has been the driving force behind the success of our division, and we are grateful for her guidance and enthusiasm. For more information on the Denver LAOH visit www.denverlaho.org or our Facebook page at Denver LAOH Facebook.

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

The Newport Dennis E. Collins Division 1 was proud to honor our 2021 Hibernian of the Year, Jim Mahoney, at our annual Hibernian of the Year Dinner, held on Sept. 16. This was a special night, where all could hear stories of one of our best. Jim is a longtime member of the division who also served as Division President.

In light of the past parade cancellations, the Newport Dennis E. Collins Division partnered with our local LAOH and the Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to host a Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party, where we helped to raise money for local charities as well as for next year's parade. The day was full of visiting bagpipe bands, finished off with our own Newport AOH Pipes and Drums performing at the end. Based on the turnout, the community is raring for the next St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Hibernian of the Year Jim Mahoney and his family enjoyed their meal at the 2021 Hibernian of the Year Dinner on Sept. 16.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

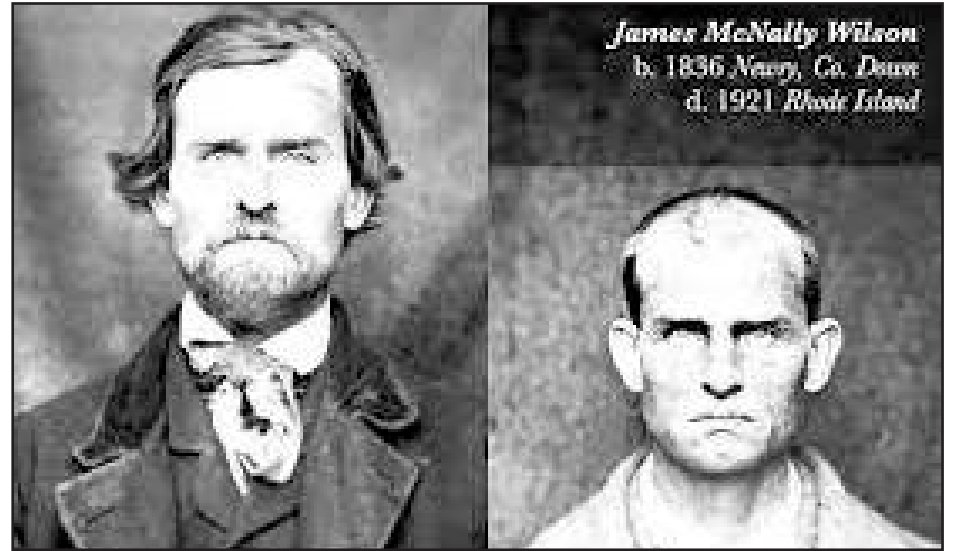
Commemoration of James McNally Wilson in Pawtucket

In his famous "voice from the tomb" letter of 1873, to John Devoy in New York, himself a former prisoner in Western Australia, Fenian James Wilson wrote, "What a death is staring us in the face, the death of a felon in a British dungeon, and a grave amongst Britain's ruffians. I am not ashamed to speak the truth, that it is a disgrace to have us in prison today." McNally Wilson and five others escaped with Devoy's and scores of other Fenians' help. He spent more than 40 years in his adopted land.

At Saint Mary's Cemetery, Pawtucket, RI, on the centenary of Fenian James McNally Wilson's death, November 6, the Dennis E. Collins Division 1 will commemorate his life, his escape from the infamous Fremantle prison in Western Australia, and his continued resistance to the Crown throughout his remaining years in America.

Collins Division 1 will also pay tribute to those who escaped with him on the vessel Catalpa, especially Michael Harrington and Thomas Hassett, both buried in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY, whom we hope to finally honor with tombstones in the coming year.

A social will follow The Galway Bay Pub, in Pawtucket. Memorial pins will be available, with all proceeds going to the Fenian Memorial Committee of America for the purchase and erection of grave markers for Michael Harrington and Thomas Hassett, both Corkmen, buried in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY. — George McLaughlin



New York

'How to Defuse a Bomb'

At a screening of "How to Defuse a Bomb" at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, in Utica, on Sept. 17, Geordie Austin, a native of Belfast, said that Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland today have a level of political influence that Blacks in America had prior to the civil rights movement.

"How to Defuse a Bomb" is an award-winning documentary about Project Children, a group of Irish Americans — led by Irish-born NYPD bomb squad technician Denis Mulcahy — that fought and overcame religious discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic and protected 23,000 Northern Irish children from the perils of "The Troubles."

In the film, actor Liam Nelsen narrates news footage of bombings, rock-throwing street battles and water cannons interspersed with emotion-filled vignettes of adoptive American families and their new Irish family members who they were both shielding and nurturing.

Project Children's work goes on, arranging and coordinating meaningful internships for young Irish adults with American businesses engaged in the individual student's field of employment interest and education. More information on Project Children can be found at www.projectchildren.org — Tom Loughlin Jr. and Pat Costello.



Geordie Austin, a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, gestured as he spoke about the condition of the Catholic Irish in the North. (Photo Tom Loughlin Jr.)

Proud of our heritage

The St. Brendan the Navigator Parade & Festival, a celebration of Irish Heritage, was sponsored by Division 17, Long Beach, Nassau County, New York on Oct. 2.



Nassau County Hibernians gathered for the parade and festival on Oct. 2.



Long Beach (NY) Hibernian officers, parade committee members and the Division Color Guard — as well as New York AOH State President John Manning — gathered for a photo before the Parade & Festival.

New Jersey

AOH remembers NJ Hibernians lost on 9/11

By Mark J. Bonamo
Editor, TAPinto Newark

Barbara Gorman, widow of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Officer Tom Gorman, will always remember Sept. 11, 2001, as the day of her husband's death.

Her spouse of nearly 20 years, a past president of the New Jersey AOH, sacrificed his life serving as a member of the Port Authority police's emergency services unit. He was one of 37 members of the PAPD to perish as a result of the terror attack at the World Trade Center.

But Gorman, one of more than 100 people who came to Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in downtown Newark for a memorial service to honor the nine New Jersey AOH members who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11, focused on something even more important than her beloved husband's tragic loss. Twenty years after Tom's sudden death, she came to celebrate his wonderful life.

"Why is it still important to commemorate my husband and his colleagues? Because it brings back all of the good that Tom did and created. My children and I, we celebrate his life," said Gorman.

The AOH held its memorial Mass and march for their Garden State fallen members at the Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral at the corner of Washington Street and Central Avenue in downtown Newark.

St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral has long been connected to the Irish Catholic community in Newark. Founded in 1850, it served as a place of worship and solace for the first major wave of Irish immigrants fleeing the mid-19th century Great Famine in their homeland.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department Pipes and Drums Band played a familiar medley of American and Irish tunes on their way into and out of the old brick church.

Assembled in the pews, mixed in with the families of the remembered dead, were the current leadership of the NJ AOH, including Richard O'Brien, president of the New Jersey State Board. Also present from the NJ AOH were Leo McGuire, NJ AOH treasurer and former Bergen County Sheriff; the Honorable Edward M. Neafsey, retired New Jersey Superior Court Judge and current adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School - Newark; New Jersey State Assemblyman and International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO Local 68 Business Manager Tom Giblin; and former Cranford Mayor Pat Giblin. AOH National Vice President Sean Pender, Secretary Jere Cole and Director Ed Halligan and Port Authority PD Superintendent of Police Edward Cetnar were also present.

O'Brien noted why 9/11 memorial services like the one his organization holds are not just empty rituals, but promises fulfilled.

"We will never forget is not just some saying. When the one piper came in playing Amazing Grace, then one-by-one all of the other pipers came and joined in, I didn't see a dry eye in the house," said O'Brien. "It's OK to cry because we remember our brothers, and we love them. Twenty years later, we are doing what we said we would do. We will never, ever forget."

In his sermon, Bishop Michael Saporito evoked memories of the physical realities of 9/11, while noting what spiritually provoked the actions of those who perished.

The Mass and memorial service also honored nine New York AOH members who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. Father Mychal Judge was also memorialized. Judge, an FDNY chaplain who was the first casualty of the September 11 terror attacks, has been nominated for sainthood in the Roman Catholic church. The Jersey City AOH Division is named after Father Judge.

— Reprinted with permission. Edited for space.



Blessing the Plaque with National and State Boards.



Father Mychal Judge Division, Jersey City.

Minnesota



The Remembrance Plaque.



A Tale of Two Kilkennys

The little town of Kilkenny, Minnesota, and its sister city, Kilkenny, Ireland, come together to celebrate "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" in Kilkenny, Minnesota, every year. Usually, the mayor of Ireland's Kilkenny will come to Minnesota for the celebration. This year, because of Covid, he came via the magic of cell phone and gave a speech to the crowd. The celebration was complete with Irish music, food, refreshments and an antique car and tractor show. The Shamrock Division of the Minnesota had a booth advertising for membership and selling tickets for a scholarship raffle. The Kilkenny Committee organized the Shamrock Hog Scholarship Raffle and membership drive. From left, Hibernians Dan Callahan, John McGillin and Mick McGuire. The Shamrock Division marched in the parade and a great day was had by all.

New York

NYS AOH Remembers Members Lost on 9/11

The New York State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held a Memorial Mass at St. Peter's Church, in lower Manhattan, on Sept. 25, at which they unveiled a special plaque in honor of the Hibernians lost on 9/11/01. NY AOH Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid said the Mass. The event was conceived of and planned by NYS AOH President John Manning, with the help of many other Hibernians. NJ AOH President Richard O'Brien, North Carolina AOH President Chris Cooke and PA AOH President Ed Dougherty, and Ladies AOH NY State VP Regina Begley also participated. The Hibernian Singers served as the choir at the Mass and added their beautiful voices to the Memorial Eucharist.

The impressive 30" by 40" bronze plaque has now been mounted on a wall inside St. Peter's to stand as a permanent memorial to the nine New Jersey and nine New York fallen Hibernians on the 20th anniversary of their passing.

The honored Hibernians named on the plaque are: Florence M. Gregory, Kings County NY LAOH; Charles Houston, Kings County NY AOH; Richard Fitzsimons, Nassau NY

AOH; Dennis Devlin, Orange NY AOH; Gerard T. Nevins, Orange NY AOH; Kevin C. Dowdell, Queens NY AOH; Arthur Warren Scullin, Queens NY AOH; Sean B. Fegan, Rockland NY AOH; Richard Muldowney, Jr., Suffolk NY AOH; Maurine V. Barry, Hudson NJ AOH; Liam Callahan, Hudson NJ AOH; Thomas E. Gorman, Hudson NJ AOH; Steven Huczko, Hudson NJ AOH; Donald J. McIntyre, Hudson NJ AOH; Jim Nelson, Hudson NJ AOH; Bruce Reynolds, Hudson NJ AOH; Mike Wholey, Hudson NJ AOH; and Peter Milano, Monmouth NJ AOH.

After Mass, Hibernians and family members who lost their Hibernian loved ones processed to Vesey and Greenwich streets near the Memorial Pools and held a solemn ceremony there, at which the names of the lost Hibernians were read aloud, by National AOH Treasurer Liam McNabb. Presentations were made to each of the family members attending.

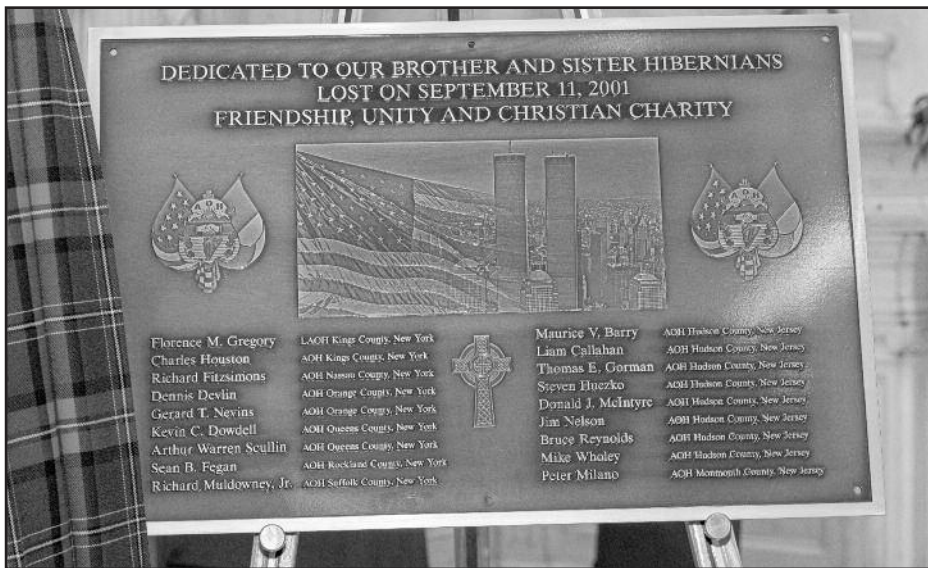
All photos by John O'Connell, National Editor



NY AOH held a memorial mass at St. Peter's R.C. Church, on Barclay Street, NYC, on Sept. 25.



Fr. Henry Reid blessed the Memorial Plaque as family members of Hibernians lost on 9/11 joined in the unveiling ceremony.



The impressive 30" by 40" Hibernian Memorial Plaque has been permanently mounted in an interior wall in St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street in lower Manhattan.



NJ AOH President Rich O'Brien, NY State LAOH Vice President Regina Begley and NY AOH President John Manning at solemn presentation ceremonies at the Memorial Pools after the AOH Mass.



Assistant Irish Consul General Dermot Fitzpatrick, left, with AOH President John Manning and his wife, Donna, before the Mass.



Liam McNabb, National AOH Treasurer, served as MC at the solemn ceremony near the Memorial Pools at the WTC site. He read each name of the fallen Hibernians as the bell tolled for each one.

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Hibernians are back!

Division 32 of Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, along with its LAOH counterpart, hosted its Annual Communion Breakfast on Aug. 15, at the Grand Hall of the Priory Hotel in Pittsburgh for the first time since 2019. Attendees were excited to again attend a fun, in-person event and celebrate Mass in the name of the Order.

Former Division Chaplain Father Jerry O'Shea celebrated Mass with the assistance of several Hibernians. After Mass, attendees displayed their Irish-American patriotism by singing both the Star-Spangled Banner and The Soldier's Song, the national anthem of the Republic of Ireland.

Several Brothers were presented with awards: Standing Committee Chairman Paul Towhey and Sentinel Sean McBride were both awarded the 2020 Tim Trant Service Award; Marshal John Truel was named the 2020 Robert Carr Hibernian of the Year; and President Tim Regan was named the 2021 Robert Carr Hibernian of the Year.



Division 32 Sentinel Sean McBride, co-winner of the 2020 Tim Trant Service Award; President Tim Regan, the 2021 Robert Carr Hibernian of the Year; and Marshal John Truel, the 2020 Robert Carr Hibernian of the Year at the Grand Hall of the Priory Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Standing Committee Chairman Paul Towhey, co-winner of the 2020 Tim Trant Service Award, was not present. (Photo courtesy of Tim Regan)



Our Lady of Knock

Tir na nOg, Lehigh County Division 1, held its annual picnic and Our Lady of Knock Mass in August. Our Chaplain, Fr. Mark Searles, was the celebrant. The chalice used during Mass has important significance to the AOH. — Submitted by President Ken Walsh



The Pennsylvania Convention Committee.



AOH Mass before Celtic event

For the very first time in 34 years — thanks to the efforts of members and officers of Tir Na Og Division 1, Allentown — a Mass was celebrated on the Sunday morning prior to the Celtic Cultural Festival on Sept. 26. The festival is an annual event based in Bethlehem, PA, presented by Celtic Cultural Alliance, which is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Celtic heritage through education, musical presentations and traditional competitions in athletics, piping and dance. Celebrant of the Mass was AOH Chaplain Father Mark Searles, assisted by Brother Deacon Mike Medor. Over 50 people attended the mass and the Division has hopes for this to grow in the coming years. What better witness to Irish heritage than the celebration of the Mass in a unique setting on such a glorious fall day.

PA Convention a big success

The Pennsylvania AOH and LAOH held their 101st Biennial convention in Philadelphia from July 29 through August 1. A dedicated local convention committee, comprised of Philadelphia AOH and LAOH members, hosted the convention at the Radisson Hotel.

Many of delegates representing AOH and LAOH Divisions from throughout the Commonwealth converged on Philadelphia to participate in meetings, social events and elect new leadership for the next term.

The PA AOH elected Ed Dougherty, Philadelphia County, as their State President, while the PA LAOH elected Maria Gallagher, Philadelphia County, to lead their organization for the next two years. There was significant National AOH and LAOH Board representation at the convention as well, including Danny O'Connell, AOH President (Ohio) and Karen Keane, LAOH President (New York), both of whom swore in the new officers of their respective organization.

Numerous committees of both organizations met to discuss specific topics that included Irish History, Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI), Immigration and Political Education, to name a few. As always, delegates enjoyed socializing through hospitality events at the hotel and music at the PA Convention.



The new AOH Pennsylvania State Board



The new LAOH Pennsylvania State Board.

TESTIMONIAL
continued from page 1

lives. In order to thrive during that journey, we have to have a clear view of what success is, what it isn't, and what it will take to achieve it.

"Danny has that clear view. He does not have a problem making a difficult decision, he accepts input from others, is not afraid to call out unacceptable behavior but provides coaching to improve, he recognizes strong performers and he is willing to try new options. Coach Tressel, I think he was listening to you.

"So tonight, Danny, your national board wanted to do something special to recognize you not only as the President of our noble Order and the man that gave us the four pillars of Hibernianism. We wanted to recognize you as a partner, father, son, brother, uncle, friend and mentor and the path that you have taken to get here. A young man from Girard, Ohio, of strong faith and of fierce pride in your Irish heritage, a hall of fame football career at Hiram College, a rugby career that may have gone on too long, and a loyal long-time member of Youngstown State community. Your path leads to your foundation of your parents Mom and Pops, your son Jesse and the love of your life Abbie.

"Danny, on behalf of a grateful national board in recognition of your longtime leadership and brotherhood we present to you this custom print that captures your path,

foundation and accomplishments. Congratulations on a recognition well deserved."
Photos by National Editor John O'Connell and Emily Fetsko, a student at YSU.

Caricature on front page presented to
AOH National President
Daniel O'Connell
on the occasion of his presidential testimonial dinner
by members of a grateful national board.
In recognition of his longtime leadership and brotherhood.

Saturday October 16, 2021
Youngstown, Ohio

Caricature of Mr. O'Connell by Mike Scott
View more of his work at mikescottdraws.com
Email: mike@mikescottdraws.com



Holy Mass was concelebrated on October 16 by Hibernian Chaplains, from left, Fr. Henry Reid, Fr. John Keehner and Fr. Michael Healy in the St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown.



A gift was presented to Danny O'Connell at the President's Testimonial Dinner by the National Directors, from left, Tim McSweeney, Sean O'Dowd, Ed Halligan, Dick Thompson, Bobby Mehrens and Ray Lynch.



At one of the productive National Board meetings during the weekend, National Chaplain John Keehner, left, was presented with a Hibernian Charter recognizing the new AOH Division he helped create in Ohio, the Saint Colmcille Division 1, the only division in Stark County. Fr. Keehner was joined at the presentation by Danny O'Connell and National Deputy Organizer Keith Reynolds and National Director and Organizer Tim McSweeney.



James P. Tressel, president of Youngstown State University, welcomed Hibernians and had great praise for AOH National President Danny O'Connell.



National Board members at one of the meetings held on the Youngstown State University campus.

More from Ohio...



VP Sean Pender, left, and fellow New Jersey resident Secretary Jere Cole, presented a gift to Danny O'Connell at the President's Testimonial Dinner on October 16.



Helena Nolan, Consul General of Ireland, was glad to participate in the presentation of the AOH LAOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award to Geraldine Finucane.



The New York State delegation to the President's Testimonial dinner presented a gift to Danny O'Connell. From left, Liam McNabb, Ed Wallace, Fr. Henry Reid, Tim McSweeney, NYS President John Manning, Tom O'Donnell, John O'Connell, Martin Galvin, Tom Lambert and Neil Cosgrove.



The National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America who attended the President's Testimonial Dinner in Youngstown.



National President Danny O'Connell, center, was presented with the ceremonial crystal gavel of authority by Immediate Past President Judge Jim McKay, second from left, with Secretary Jere Cole, left, and VP Sean Pender, second from right, and Treasurer Liam McNabb.