

2020 AOH LAOH National Convention Goes Virtual July 24-25

On Tuesday, June 2, the National Convention officially announced changing the convention from "live" in Orlando, Florida, to a "virtual" format, due to COVID-19. The key factor in the final decision was the health and safety of our membership. This is the third time in history that a face-to-face National Convention was canceled; however, this is the first time there is a viable alternative, thanks to modern technology. Presidents McKay and Sheyer demonstrated tremendous leadership and professionalism as they led the National Convention Committee in the decision-making process. Thank you to all the Hibernians who demonstrated patience, integrity and respect for our national leaders as they worked on behalf of all Hibernians in America.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Florida convention committee who worked tirelessly on our behalf for a convention that will not happen. The attitude of the committee throughout the year has been positive, with excitement for the convention fueled by the fact that we had a record number of hotel rooms booked by the end of March. On behalf of all Hibernians, we thank Florida for their tremendous work. If you would like to personally thank the Florida committee, the convention store is still open to buy a souvenir from the convention that went virtual.

As we came through the first wave of this pandemic, the convention committee demonstrated strength and focus moving

forward to ensure a successful national convention. The national boards had a daunting task of preparing for both a scheduled convention in Orlando and a virtual convention from our homes. Although a virtual format will provide for limited communication during the convention, there is a commitment to provide extensive pre-convention information to our delegates via email and zoom meetings. We see this as an opportunity for every division in the country to participate in the 2020 convention.

In these times of uncertainty and anxiety, it is important to remember our foundations. We began in 1836, a decade before the Great Hunger, and 82 years before the Spanish Flu pandemic swept the world. We worked through two world wars, the Great Depression, the September 11 terrorist attacks, and now we are in the midst of a pandemic. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America has overcome and kept focused on our mission as outlined in the preamble of our constitution throughout history. Based on what our divisions and boards have accomplished over the past several months, we are more confident than ever that we are up to the task of a successful virtual convention to moving the AOH forward.

See you online!

See "AOH Leaders Bound for Ohio," page 5

Deporting Irish grandfather tarnishes America's legacy

Refusing McAllister asylum after 24 years diminishes our country's reputation as a land of refuge and new beginnings

On June 10, after a 24-year legal battle to seek asylum and gain permanent residency in the United States, the Department of Homeland Security deported Malachy McAllister, a 62-year-old grandfather. Mr. McAllister was a New Jersey resident and respected leader in the Irish community who came to America after escaping an assassination attempt in Northern Ireland and has lived peacefully in the United States while legally seeking permanent residency.

Judge James F. McKay III, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest Irish American organization in America, released the following statement:

"It is with profound sadness that we learn of the deportation of Malachy McAllister after a 24 year-long struggle to obtain permanent residency in the United States. In this action, we have been forced to say goodbye to a member and a brother; his American-born U.S. citizen grandchildren have been deprived of their grandfather, the Northern Ireland Peace Process has lost a voice in America, the U.S. economy has lost an entrepreneur who created two successful tax-paying, job-producing businesses. However, the most significant loss of all is that we have lost part of the American legacy of the United States being a refuge from oppression and a land of new beginnings.

"This is the second time that the promise of a new beginning has been snatched from Malachy McAllister. As a youth during the conflict in Northern Ireland, Malachy was arrested and tried in a court under judicial procedures that would not be recognized as due process under any modern system of justice. Despite this, he served his time and was released early for good behavior. Malachy forswore violence and attempted to live with his family in peace in the land of his birth. However, loyalist militants acting in conjunction with British intelligence services sprayed the McAllister home with submachine gun fire, only miraculously missing Malachy's children and mother-in-law who were the only

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On June 9, a large gathering of Malachy's AOH brothers, LAOH sisters, family, friends and supporters, met in front of the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. Sean Ruane sang, Only Our Rivers Run Free for Malachy, his children and grandchildren. The assembly, led by AOH bagpipers and Malachy's family, then marched through the streets of Newark to the federal building. Fr. Brian Jordan, a Hibernian chaplain and immigrant advocate, gathered those assembled to bless Malachy with prayer under the American flag. Father Brian then walked alongside Malachy and his attorney Diane George. Malachy spoke eloquently about his support, presented himself to ICE escorted by Fr Jordan, AOH National Officers Martin Galvin, Dan Dennehy and Sean Pender. Malachy was pain-wracked with a broken collarbone and ribs on that day, but completely unbowed. Before he entered the Federal Building, faced his supporters, raised his free arm, stating, "Tiocfaidh Ár Lá." His Hibernian Brothers and Sisters will not relent until Malachy returns to his family in his adopted nation, the United States of America.

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Kansas



Kansas Hibernians presented a check to Lauren Solidum, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Kansas, at the Catholic Charities Food Collection

Johnson County Hibernians adjusting to change

As each city within the Kansas City metropolitan area took turns canceling their St. Patrick's Day parades, the last pre-closure social gathering of the Kansas Hibernians was March 14, the day that would've been the Brookside parade. After months of isolation, the current state of affairs of the pandemic with states opening back up and a changed economy, the Fr. Donnelly Division is adjusting to changes in our world and continuing to keep to the core of the AOH motto.

Fraternity

Stradling the Kansas/Missouri border, our brothers have been faced with differing stay-at-home and closure orders coming from the Kansas City metropolitan area, each suburban city, Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and governors of two states. As soon as we moved to comply with those stay-at-home requirements, brothers began reaching out to each other to check on each other's physical and mental health and welfare. One brother volunteered for the specific task of coordinating those support efforts, whether a grocery store run, picking up supplies or medication or whatever was needed. That network communicated with now-isolated brothers through phone, email and text to keep in touch with each other.

Unity

We're holding our monthly meetings using new tools. We have held two division meetings virtually, via Zoom. Participation can be difficult for some members and not all are able to participate fully this way. However, we have had over 50 percent attendance at each of these two meetings and we are still finding potential members/ guests to bring to the meetings. Perhaps most difficult has been our efforts to keep our social distance to ensure that we keep each other safe and healthy, particularly those of us with conditions that make us vulnerable. We have held many driveway and parking lot gatherings keeping our numbers under the proscribed limits. Many of these socially distanced, limited number assemblies have occurred at our brother Kevin Ryan's restaurant business, hard hit by this Covid shutdown. Governor Stumpy's Neighborhood Bar and Grill has been a Hibernian and KC Irish community gathering place for decades and many within the community have turned out for take-out and curbside meals in addition to parking lot gatherings. Celtic Ranch in Weston, Missouri, has been a loyal supporter of the Kansas Hibernians and the KC Irish community and we have made many a trip across the state line to support our good friend and Celtic Ranch owner Terry Kast, who has one of the finest selections of Irish whiskeys in the known world. We

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The National HIBERNIAN Digest

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

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elect
SEAN O'DOWD



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president's message

By Jim McKay III

As I take pen to hand to write my final President's article for the Digest, it occurs to me that I only have 52 days left to serve as your National President. It is hard to believe that four years have elapsed since my investiture in 2016 in Atlantic City. It's even harder to believe that the journey started in New Orleans in 2008, when I was elected National Treasurer. However, it is all coming to an end now as I plan to take the best position in our Order, Past National President.

Twelve years ago there were three major goals facing us in striving for continuity and longevity for the future of our Order: economic security, membership and our image as the Voice of Irish America.

We have managed to maintain a healthy treasury over this past decade with a conservative investment philosophy that will protect our position not only in our current stormy economic times but also for those expected in the future.

Several years ago our National Vice President Danny O'Connell embarked on an effort to drag our Order into the 21st century by forming a tech committee made up of some of our younger members who were employed in/or knowledgeable of the digital industry. This committee has produced great results in not only branding our image as the Voice of Irish America but also helped us target a new pool of young Irish Catholic Americans.

We have always maintained that our organization was the voice of Irish America and we consistently attempted to maintain that position in the press, social media, as well as the political stage.

Membership has always been a glaring challenge to the future of our organization. What is the sense of having an organization with a sound financial foundation, a well thought of image, but no membership to benefit? The National Board invested in and embraced the new digital world and began seeking new members through these new digital venues. It has not only increased our numbers, but also has secured younger membership in the process.

These accomplishments are not mine alone, but are reflective of the work of a cooperative and hardworking National Board who was not afraid to embrace new ideas without abandoning the old tried and true concepts. My job was made easy with my three Executive Board officers, Danny O'Connell, Sean Pender and Jere Cole. I will miss them, but I'm not afraid to say I will not miss the demand and the weight of the office; it will be good to get a rest.

For the past four months our country has been gripped and came to a standstill with the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has affected not only our country but every corner of the globe. This new crisis has affected all our lives in ways that we won't know for some time to come. Our National Convention was scheduled for Orlando, Florida, on the week on July 23, 2020. The National Board met to discuss the dilemma that faced our organization and we felt that we had no choice but to cancel the Convention.

During the history of our organization, we have only cancelled three National Conventions, one during WWI and two during WWII. This pandemic caused us to cancel our National Convention in Orlando, but thanks to our young, vibrant and knowledgeable tech group, we are going to host the first virtual National Convention in our history. It is challenging and groundbreaking, but with the same "can-do" attitude of our National Board, we have planned a very interesting and shortened version of our normal Convention.

The Orlando Convention was cancelled because of the many risks that would face our organization in the State of Florida. Not only was the fear of contracting the virus on our minds, there was also the economic uncertainty that would result from members cancelling because of the virus issues. There were too many unknown facts to confidently stage a Convention that was originally envisioned to have been one of the most successful in our history. It was a very frustrating decision to have to make and our National Board labored greatly, weighing the pros and cons. In the end, the safety of our membership and the diminution of our treasury proved to be too worrisome a burden to vote for staging the Convention. The LAOH went through the same thought processes and are in complete agreement with our decision and will also stage their virtual Convention in July.

Our State Presidents are asked to have their Delegate lists compiled as soon as possible with the proper digital information included. This will actually be the first Convention where we have the capability to have more than 800 delegates participate in this virtual Convention. It is comforting to have the ability to look back on the past 12 years of my National Board experience, and have the same confidence as I look forward to the next 12 years of National Board leadership. We are in good hands now and there are plenty of good hands to hand off to for the future of our Order.

I would have loved to have had the opportunity to work and party with you in Orlando as I said my good byes, but then I remembered we have Pittsburgh to look forward to and many other events where I hope to see you all as I enjoy my wonderful new position of Past National President.

Stay Safe. God Bless



vice president's report

By Danny O'Connell

As we look in the rear-view mirror, we see an Irish American Heritage Month, a St. Patrick's Day and a Holy Week and Easter Sunday, and so many other days unlike any other in the 184-year history of the AOH. The challenges we face together are new to all of us, but please be assured that the Ancient Order of Hibernians remains ready for the challenges of today, tomorrow and into the future.

Thank you to the many Hibernians who have dedicated their lives to serving others during this unprecedented pandemic causing a medical, social and financial upheaval throughout the United States, Ireland and the world. Thank you to our frontline medical workers and our other essential workers providing for everything from our safety to our food supply. As we look around today, we see who is working for all of us, these are the essential workers of the world.

What will be most important to the success of the AOH today and into the future is what we do at the division level. We cannot let this necessary social distancing prevent us from moving forward with the work of the Order. From Zoom to social media, to the telephone and more, we must seize the opportunity to make the most of the extra time we have on hand. We will have more opportunities to meet more Hibernians online. We can focus on Hibernian success stories from around the country as we continue to learn from each other.

As a national board, we will continue to provide additional resources for everyone to share and provide the opportunity to learn more about the work we do and how we can improve into the future. We have begun a Freedom For All Ireland video series that we expect to expand into all National Committees in the near future. Our action plans, our tools for recruitment, and even the video chats we share mean nothing unless we use them at every level to help us continue to move into the future of growth and support of all Hibernian principles.

The preparation for the convention continues, and like any other convention, we will have the opportunity to learn about the many facets of our organization. The responsibility to get the most out of each opportunity falls on each Hibernian. The virtual convention will provide our delegates the opportunity to hear all breakout sessions in advance of the convention rather than having to choose from competing meetings. The convention will present challenges to all of us but together I'm sure we can learn from the experience.

As you know, I am running for National President. I ask each and every Hibernian for your support. I hope that I can rely on your support because together there is so much we can achieve. I'm positive that working as a team we can continue the success created by the many Hibernians who came before us.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the National Board, the Ohio State Board, and Mahoning County Division 6. Without each of you, I would not have had the opportunity to serve the National Board as an elected officer for the last 12 years. Thank you and God Bless.

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

As with many divisions, many of the events planned in March to celebrate Irish heritage and culture were canceled due to pandemic restrictions. Among these was the Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade was set for its 64th continuous year.

These uncertain times have taken a toll on all of us. In the midst of everything, that is when it is most important to remember our Order's motto of friendship, unity and Christian charity. The Rhode Island AOH Divisions focused on good deeds to help in any way possible. A number of brothers from the Newport Dennis E. Collins Divisions 1 chaired a charity drive, which helped to raise more than \$13,000 for local restaurant workers most hurt from business closures. Many of the brothers from throughout RI also helped to gather PPE, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers for local nursing homes. The Rhode Island AOH applaud all brothers for their action and help during these times.

The Newport Dennis E. Collins Divisions 1 has also been busy with a number of very important maintenance projects for their local Hall, which has been closed for the past two months. These projects have helped to continue to improve the local Hibernian Hall, which has remained in the same location in Newport since 1906. These projects include new flooring, deep cleaning and new coats of paint. Included in these projects is improving the second floor into a lounge for our members, which hopefully many brothers from across the country can come and enjoy.



**Deadline for Aug-Sept issue
All articles and photos are due
no later than AUGUST 1, 2020**



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American



secretary's report

By JERE COLE

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We are making progress

As we come to the end of my third term as elected National Secretary, I would first like to thank you all for your support and show of confidence. I like to think that in that time we have made some real progress on streamlining the operation of our system while improving its efficiency. Not the least of which was the addition of Deputy Secretary Joe Ryan, who joined us back in 2016 and has made a significant contribution from day one.

We are coming up on the first anniversary of the full implementation of our online roster editing tool, which puts control of your division's records squarely in your hands locally. By every measure it has been met with rave reviews and has resulted in much better records for our entire organization.

We will soon begin Phase 2 of this project, which will permit you to electronically update and submit your Form 9s. This should be a giant step as that info has always lagged behind the other division info in the system.

Some answers to the most commonly asked questions:

Q. Can the Major Degree date be changed?

A. No, you are not able to change a major degree date because we need verification from the degree team before we can print that info on the card. If you have proof such as the card issued to you at the ceremony or a copy of an old membership card upon which the degree is reflected, that will suffice. Otherwise, we will need to go back in the archives and see if we can determine if you were included on the original list submitted. It is helpful if you know which division you were associated with when you obtained your degree and which degree team you attended and in which year.

Q. How are transfers handled?

A. Transfers need to be supported by a completed transfer card. If you are the receiving division, the member is added just like he is a new member. Please indicate he is a transfer in the "notes" section of the editing tool.

Q. How are reinstatements handled?

A. Reinstatements will be able to use their original membership number if it is still in the system. Years ago, there was a practice of expunging the numbers and many records are simply gone. If not available, the reinstatement will be assigned the next available number for the division.

New cards will automatically be printed if essential information is changed. If you change a birthday or an email, the card will not be printed. But Veterans status, degree, or obviously address or name will trigger printing new card.



Director's report

By JOHN WILSON

I want to thank the members of the AOH for electing me as one of their National Directors in Louisville. It has been an honor working under the strong leadership of President McKay, Vice President O'Connell, National Secretary Cole and National Treasurer Pender. I have enjoyed working with my fellow National Directors and friends Dan Dennehy, Ed Halligan, Liam McNabb, Denny Parks and Bill Sullivan.

One of the last public events I was able to attend before social distancing became the norm was on March 5, hosted by the St. Louis AOH "Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats." This event, now in its 19th year, is dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement officers, public safety personnel and union members who have died in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

In 2017, the event was renamed, "The Judge James Dailey Wahl Memorial Hoses, Handcuffs and Hardhats," to honor its founder, James Dailey Wahl, a long-time St. Louis Municipal Court judge and former AOH National Director who passed away in 2016 after a battle with leukemia. The event is open to the public. The suggested donation is \$25 per person. Funds raised benefit The Backstoppers, The Little Bit Foundation and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

I would like to recognize the members of Division 1, St. Clair County, Illinois, who have donated more than \$1,000 in money and food donations to St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, Catholic Urban Programs Food Pantry, and St. Vincent De Paul Kitchen in East St. Louis.

Chicago's Division 59 has started a Mutual Aid group in the city's 19th Ward. They recently brought over twelve 25 lbs. boxes of fresh food to the families who were affected by a large fire. In addition, they dropped off seventeen 25 lbs. boxes to elderly and families in need. They were able to provide hygiene products and first-aid products to their neighbors at the weekly Free Store. Chicago 59 says that their neighbors should not have to make a choice between food and hygiene products/ first aid. They made sure that they did not have to make that choice. They served more than 85 hot meals at St. Blase Catholic Church in Summit, IL. The AOH members underwrote the meals in remembrance of World Hunger Day.

We are all looking forward to the day when social distancing is a term of the past and neighbors can get together in person again to conduct Hibernian business eye to eye. Virtual meetings cannot provide the same warmth and camaraderie of face-to-face. Maybe we will get handshakes back too, someday. Until then, it looks like telephonic or virtual meetings may be the norm.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature, and God." Do not be afraid brothers, we will get through this and until we meet again, "May God hold you in the Palm of his Hand."

Email blast enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

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

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



Treasurer's Report

By Sean Pender

It seems like just a short time ago that I was writing my first article as your national treasurer; leaving Atlantic City in July of 2016 I always understood that it was "I before E," but little did I know that I would be typing E before I in most of my articles regarding the EIN project.

Currently the treasurer page on the AOH website at <https://aoh.com/treasurer/> has been updated to include all information needed for a division or board regarding tax responsibilities and IRS help-desk numbers. The IRS help desk numbers are strongly recommended as your first point of contact if you have any questions. It is also strongly recommended that tax professionals are engaged if needed.

I strongly recommend that local presidents and treasurers familiarize themselves with the link on the treasurer page labeled: How to file the 990N: If your division has gross receipts less than \$50,000 this easy, no-cost process takes only minutes and only requires that you set up a User ID and password. With the vast majority of our divisions and boards with gross receipts less than \$50,000 this is a very simple and FREE process that will allow you to file your taxes yearly in minutes at no cost.

Moving forward, the office of the national treasurer will continue to monitor, add and update subordinate units to the national parent of the group exemption.

It has been an honor to serve our great Order in this important position and I have worked hard to complete my constitutional duties and address the EIN project so that it is at least a more manageable project than it was when we first encountered it. I want to thank all that who been so supportive of me in this role, especially Jere Cole and Joe Ryan in our National Secretary's office. I look forward to many more years of service to our noble Order. I've had the honor to work closely with five National AOH Presidents serving under four and look forward to working with our next great leader, Daniel O'Connell. I want to sincerely thank our outgoing President Judge Jim McKay for all that he has done for our Order. This southern gentleman has made the AOH even stronger and made us the respected voice of Irish America. President McKay, it has been an honor to be a member of your KREWE, now sit back relax, pinch the tail and suck the head and *Laissez les bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll).

AOH leaders move from Orlando to Youngstown State University

With the virtual convention in the works, the AOH top four officers will be heading to Youngstown State University, where they will utilize a WebEx room for the National Convention. Joined by members of the National Marketing committee they will work to bring us the best possible convention experience under extremely difficult circumstances.

Our most important work may be the pre-convention planning, the pre-convention emails of reports, and the pre-convention Zoom breakout sessions. All activity from now until the convention will lay the foundations for the actual meetings held on July 24th and 25th. All delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions in advance about the reports and to participate in breakouts of their choosing prior to the actual convention. A complete schedule will be distributed to delegates and then updated regularly as we move forward.

Candidates will have the opportunity to present a video to all delegates prior to the convention, including their written bio. Following the distribution, delegates will be able to email the candidates any questions they have prior to the convention.

Following the convention meetings, the top four officers will attend a mass in St. Columba Cathedral, which will be streamed live as the closing mass of the convention. Following Mass, our new officers will be installed in a combination of live and virtual for all members to see.



Director's Report

By Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this message finds you well. One of the things that I have touched on in past articles and I'm always proud of, is how the AOH is always living up to its motto of Christian Charity. A lot of our ancestors came to this country during An Gorta Mor and we have not forgotten where we came from. During this time of COVID-19, the AOH is at the front, whether it be helping those less fortunate with food drives and monetary donations or supporting our frontline workers and emergency personnel. Thank you, brothers, for living up to our motto.

In April, Fr. William J. Kelly, SJ, passed away in Wisconsin at 96-years-old. Fr. Kelly was the longtime chaplain for the Marquette University men's basketball program where he taught in the theology department for nearly 40 years. He was also the longtime Chaplain for the AOH Division in Milwaukee. Several years ago, the Division voted to name itself the Rev. William J. Kelly Division. Please keep Fr. Kelly and his family in your prayers.

As I come to the end of my second two-year term as a National Director, I want to personally thank all of you for the support that you have given me during this term. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve this organization. Best of luck to all the incoming officers and thank you for your service to our Order. As always brothers, please contact me at dparks121@yahoo.com with any questions. God Bless!



Director's Report

By Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation....

Hibernians Building Communities

The COVID epidemic continues to challenge all of us in many ways. Our day to day lives have changed to impact how and where we work, go to school and practice our faith. Unfortunately, many people died from COVID, including Hibernians, and many others have been infected and thankfully recovered. Other crisis-related setbacks include lost jobs, food insecurity, loneliness and depression due to isolation.

Though these are tough times, Hibernians have stepped up in big ways. Divisions in New York have developed contact lists to consistently call members to check in and offer support. Many Divisions throughout upstate NY have collected food for those in need. In Albany, in lieu of a monthly Division meeting, Division 5 hosted a drive-through food collection where volunteers retrieved donated items from members driving through the hall parking lot and respecting social distance. In Elmira, AOH and LAOH members gather weekly at their hall to pack 350 lunches for local families in need knowing children cannot attend school for breakfast and lunch.

In Watervliet, the William Fennelly Division partnered with the local church to distribute 280 ham and cabbage dinners to local families. In Western NY, the Rochester Division has regularly supported two local food pantries, both of which are stretched thin at this time, through the donations of food items and funds raised through a raffle with local pubs. Finally, our Brothers in Buffalo have been encouraging their members to continue to financially contribute to their local parishes and Catholic schools and, if possible, increase donations as our churches greatly need the assistance now as well.

As difficult as life is for many of us, I'm reminded of the following lyrics from "The Town I Loved So Well," written by Phil Coulter, about his hometown of Derry.

"Now the music's gone but they carry on
For their spirit's been bruised, never broken
They will not forget but their hearts are set
On tomorrow and peace once again."

As we have throughout history, the Irish have endured and persevered. As Irish-Catholic Americans, we've strengthened our communities by building others up around us. As Hibernians, we answered the call to serve others in the name of Catholic Action and Hibernian Hunger. We have fulfilled our pledge of aiding Sisters and Brothers in distress, and I'm confident we'll continue to set an example for others to follow, especially the next generation.

ELECT
RAY
LYNCH
★ NATIONAL DIRECTOR ★

COMMITTED TO NATIONAL GROWTH
DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

- Current Florida State President
- 2020 Convention Committee
- Florida State Vice President
- Florida South East Organizer
- Instrumental in forming 4 new Divisions
- Lead the revitalization of current Divisions
- St Lucie Co Charter Member
- Eucharistic Minister
- Retired Firefighter
- Veteran Marine

**EXPERIENCE,
LEADERSHIP &
PROVEN RESULTS**

MALACHY McALLISTER
continued from page 1

occupants of the house at the time.

"Fearing for the safety of their children, Malachy and his wife fled Northern Ireland, seeking the refuge that America has traditionally promised the persecuted. Malachy legally filed for asylum and followed all immigration requirements. However, Malachy's claim for asylum was denied on the grounds of his unjust incarceration, whose sentence he had fulfilled. No less a person than President Trump's sister, Judge Maryanne Trump Barry, summarized the injustice in denying Malachy and his family permanent U.S. Residency: 'I refuse to believe that 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . ' is now an empty entreaty, but if it is, shame on us,' the judge said. 'We cannot be the country we should be if, because of the tragic events of Sept. 11, we knee-jerk remove decent men and women merely because they may have erred at one point in their lives. We should look a little closer; we should care a little more. I would ask — no, I would implore — the Attorney General to exercise his discretion and permit this deserving family to stay,' she said.

"Sadly today, the fears expressed by Judge Trump Barry have come to pass, and the torch of liberty that the Statue of Liberty holds burns less brightly today.

"If there is solace in this sad situation, it is that our Hibernian brothers and sisters have once again been faithful to their oaths and the traditions of the Irish to rally to the aid of a brother in distress. As President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, I am both grateful and proud of your support. To our many friends in Congress and the Senate on both sides of the aisle who put aside party ideology to come together in the cause of justice, I thank you and salute your felicity to your office."

The history of the Irish is the history of resilience. There is no denying that we as a community have suffered a great setback, one we shall not forget and use as motivation to continue to fight for justice in Northern Ireland and a fair and just immigration policy for the Irish.



Malachy with his wife Katherine and son Cadan.



Director's Report

By **Bill Sullivan**, chairman

With the Covid-19 pandemic engulfing our country and the world, much that we take for granted has drastically changed. However, even with all the tragic and depressing news that we hear daily, there has been a bright side with many Americans stepping up to the challenges caused by the virus, and yes, as you may expect, this includes AOH Divisions in New England.

New England Divisions overall have adapted well to the obstacles placed upon them by stay-at-home orders, with many Divisions holding their meetings via Zoom. They are keeping in touch with their members utilizing emails, phone calls and monthly newsletters, while at the same time responding to requests for assistance from their members as needed. Divisions have also stepped up to serve their communities in these times of need. Some examples of this are noted below.

Division 1, in Newport, Rhode Island, helped lead a charitable drive that raised more than \$13,000 for local laid-off restaurant workers, and also donated cases of hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes to local nursing homes in Newport.

Division 36, in Worcester, Massachusetts, donated food, and members volunteered at Saint John's Food Pantry bagging lunches for those in need in the community.

Division 8, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, donated more than \$1,000 in food to several food pantries in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Division 14, in Watertown, Massachusetts, held a drive-up food drop off on Memorial Day.

Division 1, in Manchester, New Hampshire, donated \$600 to St. Anne/Saint Augustine Food Pantry in Manchester.

Division 2, in Hartford, Connecticut, held a food drive to benefit the food pantry at Saint Augustine Parish, in Hartford, and also gave monetary donations to the Sandwich Ministry at Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony, the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, the Malta House of Care, all in Hartford, and the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Several Connecticut Hibernians, who had contracted COVID-19, stepped forward to donate their blood for the anti-bodies, to help others effected by the virus.

And the list could go on and on!

All of these were done in the true spirit of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity; despite the fact that many divisions faced uncertain financial challenges due to the cancellation of their Saint Patrick's Day festivities.

On a somber note, we have lost Brother and Sister Hibernians, as well as some members' relatives who succumbed to the virus across New England. Our prayers go out to their families, and to all Hibernian families across the U.S. who have lost loved ones due to this pandemic. May they all rest in peace.

Hibernian Scholarships and Irish Way

Unfortunately, our scholarship initiatives have also been adversely influenced by the pandemic.

On May 18, we received word that the 2020 Irish Way Program had been canceled for the first time in 44 years. With Ireland not due to reopen until August, it was not feasible to have the program this year.

Our Study Abroad Scholarships have also felt the negative effects of the Covid virus. With many U.S. colleges still undecided on how to proceed with their Fall Semester classes on their own campuses, Study Abroad Programs at this juncture, are somewhat in limbo.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as one of your National Directors for the past two years. Thank you for your support, good will, and friendship. Stay well and safe!

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

Deadline for Aug-Sept issue

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

ELECT RON HAGAN

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Certified Public Accountant since 1978
Master of Taxation Capital University Law School
Member American Institute of CPA's
Member Ohio Society of CPA's



Immediate Ohio Past President

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

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Liam McNabb, Sean Pender, Danny O'Connell, and Jere Cole

Vote for Demonstrated Leadership

DANNY O'CONNELL – Candidate for National President

SEAN PENDER – Candidate for National Vice President

JERE COLE – Candidate for National Secretary

LIAM McNABB – Candidate for National Treasurer



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN





Director's Report

By Ed Halligan

During this current crisis, I was involved with several conference calls involving Zoom (use with caution) and WebEx. A big positive using these apps is that attendance seems to be better than at in-person meetings. This was verified by both Division and County Presidents. Division, County and State Presidents might want to consider including one of these apps in conjunction with a regular meeting. Another pleasant surprise were the live events such as the Hunger Strikers Mass done by New Jersey Division Gloucester 1 with about 1,000 hits and the An Gorta Mor Memorial Mass hosted by the North Carolina State Board. I look forward to more of these events.

I asked and received a few replies as to what Hibernians were doing during this crisis. Allegheny 9 was doing landscaping and painting at Old St Patrick's Church. Allegheny 32 had a fundraiser to help the Greater Pittsburgh food pantries. Montgomery 1 ran a food drop off at their Division for the local Bridgeport community, and placed flags on veterans' graves. Montgomery 4 delivered pizzas to health care workers at a local hospital. Philadelphia 27 bought and delivered sandwiches and snacks to health care workers at local hospitals. Philadelphia 39 collected bandannas for use as masks for city workers and have been able to access a program offered by the city of Philadelphia. The city is offering trays of frozen barbecue. Each tray feeds four people. The Division is using this program to feed the hungry. They have put this out to other Divisions. Bucks 1 is picking up 100 trays for distribution in the Bucks County area.

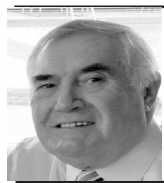
Lackawanna 2 delivered hot meals to first responders, police (including the new canine recruit with doggy treats), firefighters, ambulance crews, and families in need. They helped package and donate food at St Rose Parish through Catholic Social Services.

The Forty Days for Life campaign was being held during this time. Larry Squires, the Catholic Action and Pro-Life Chair for the State of PA, relayed the story that people were praying outside an abortion clinic. A couple approached with the intent on having an abortion. They stopped to talk to the people praying. The couple already had two children and could not afford a third child. After talking to the group, they decided against the abortion. Several of the prayer group donated money to help the couple. During the pandemic, a life was saved. I wish more had responded to my request, but at least make sure that you show what you are doing in the local media.

As you know, many Hibernian brothers and their family members have been stricken with the Corona virus. Some have lost their lives. I was able to acquire names of those brothers and family members who were sick, those that are recovering and those that passed. I only have some of the names from those that responded in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. I know that other Divisions throughout the country have been hit hard, especially in New York. Please remember all in your prayers.

As I finish my first term as National Director, I want to thank the National Executive Board and the Appointed Officers for the opportunity to work with them to serve our Order. I want to thank the Directors; Bill, Dan, Denny, John, and Liam for showing me the way and for a job well done. A great group of Hibernians that I was proud to work with. I know I will continue to see these guys at National Conventions and some as Executive Officers on the National Board.

In closing I would like to continue my tenure on the National Board with a second term as National Director. I ask for your support to continue serving the AOH. Please consider Ed Halligan with one of your six votes for National Director. Thank you. And stay safe and healthy.



Hibernian Hunger Project

By Paul Gowdy, Chairman

The advance of this coronavirus has stifled many of our AOH Boards from their regular monthly meetings. Some divisions resorted to teleconferences or virtual communication, e.g. Zoom, to carry on with their regular business. Unfortunately, many boards ceased their regular meetings and carried on contact with their membership by emails.

I am sure you are aware of the annual Souperbowl fund raiser that my division, the Fr. Solanus Casey AOH, along with our sister division, the LAOH Rose Kennedy division, hold on the second Sunday of each year. All the proceeds of the event are donated to the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. We were having our first teleconference planning meeting when we got the news from the Capuchin Fathers, in charge of the Soup Kitchen, that we should cancel the event this year. They were convinced that the event would not work this year due to the uncertainty of an expected upsurge and spread of the virus. So, our joint committee had a vote and it was unanimous that we sit out this year and resume the fund raiser in 2021.

I hope all our AOH boards frequently access the AOH National web page and encourage their division members to do the same. I recently added some guidelines on the Hunger Committee page. Please make the time to access that section and read the report. The essence of the message is for AOH members to come up with a hunger project to help those poor neighbors and their children who are hurting due to loss of financial income. Many children depended on school food every day.

I will be asking for all AOH boards who have performed some charitable Hunger projects this year to send me a memo with a brief outline of the details and especially of financial expenses involved. I was planning to recognize those boards at the upcoming AOH National Convention. Regardless of how the convention turns out, I will still make a point of ensuring that all those who deserve recognition, will be recognized.

God Bless and keep up the good work.

RE-ELECT ED HALLIGAN AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

SINCERE, CONSCIENTIOUS & DEPENDABLE



Proud Member for 25years

National Director (current)

Past Pennsylvania State President

Past State Vice President, Director & Organizer

Organized several new Divisions including

John Cardinal O'Connor Division 5 at

St Charles Borromeo Seminary

Past Division President

Past Montgomery County President

Experience that Counts!

Bobby Mehrens

for National Director



- Endorsed by his home Division 1, The Montana State Board
- Former Anaconda AOH Division 1 President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary
- Former Montana AOH State President 2013-2019
- Montana State Convention Co-Chair
- Anaconda AOH 125th Anniversary Co-Chair
- Current Montana FFAI Chair
- Anaconda AOH Hibernian of the Year 2016
- Anaconda AOH Parade Grand Marshal 2015
- Anaconda AOH Building Corporation Board Member



Director's report

By Dan Dennehy

As this is my last Hibernian Digest article as National Director for the Metropolitan New York area, I thank all who had confidence in twice electing me. It's a privilege to serve President Judge Jim McKay and his National Board, also three New York State Presidents — Tim McSweeney, Vic Vogel and Tom Lambert — and represent the Lower New York Counties: Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, The Bronx, Westchester, Dutchess, Orange and Rockland. Although I may represent the smallest territory geographically, these Hibernians constitute the largest membership in our Order.

COVID-19 has paused our favorite ways to gather and raise funds to help others. Our AOH meetings are how we authorize expenditures and generate efforts. The pandemic stopped the clock on normal business and how we gather. We admire the Divisions that have adopted phone trees and online conferences to keep in touch with members. Since the lockdown, I have attended many Zoom-style meetings; each person sees the others Brady Bunch style, working together, however remotely. Through these means much of the critical work of our Order can continue, while we wait for the crisis to end.

As I write, New York State counts over 20 Hibernians with Rockland and Suffolk County AOH most hard hit passing away due to the illness. The Hibernian House in Pearl River became a rally point for aid, food banks, and Brothers in the Kerry Pipers and AOH Rockland Pipes and Drums honored each of the ill and fallen. Similar efforts were demonstrated in Suffolk, Nassau, Richmond, actually every County in the Metro area. If your Division or County were involved with a relief effort, please share your work with us at the National and NYS Board. Here are examples of COVID-19 NY Metro efforts involving Hibernians:

State Director Steve Kiernan and Eddie Velinskic of Brooklyn AOH and Ed Shevlin, Queens AOH Division 21 Charities & Missions Chair, work on various food supply efforts in the Archdiocese of Brooklyn and Queens. Brother Shevlin volunteers with Catholic Charities Office of Missions. They receive, repackage and distribute parcels of nutritious food and gift cards to thousands of less fortunate members of the Archdiocese, at various churches in Queens. NY County Division 3 President Jamie Hamilton and his family helped by transporting an urgently needed freezer from Dutchess County. John Manning, New York State AOH Vice President, chairs EMS FDNY Help Fund, filling the gap of needed support for EMS first responders and their families. Visit here: <https://emsfdnyhelpfund.com>

The Meitheal Irish America In Support of Healthcare Workers — Hibernians across the NY Metro area banded together with experience from Superstorm Sandy relief efforts. I am grateful to the Brothers who united with friends from law enforcement, law, medicine, first responders, GAA, labor orgs, the United Irish Counties, Brehon Law Societies, Irish Immigration Centers and Irish Business and Trades organizations, in the hardest hit region of the USA. Donations of materials came from Irish American bars, restaurants, construction firms, hair/ nail salons and individuals. Irish Centers and restaurants offered drop off locations and The Padded Wagon donated storage. The Meitheal team brought PPE materials and meals to COVID-19 battle zone hospitals, nursing care facilities and other emergency medical locations. An online fund and star studded Heavy Meitheal concert purchased PPE and provided hearty Irish-style meals, purchased as a way to support always generous city-wide Irish restaurants and The Chipper Van. The Hibernians of The Meitheal are Chairman Brian McCabe, President of the McGuinness-McDonald Division in Orange County, Dr. James Laughlin MD, McGuinness-McDonald Financial Secretary, Brain Sharkey, Past President Nassau Co. Division 17, and me. Visit @TheMeitheal on Facebook to learn more or watch the Heavy Meitheal concert or email: themeitheal@gmail.com

I look forward to our next in-person meeting or gathering, and may God Bless you and your families, till we meet again!

In Memoriam

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

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



Organizer

By Tim McSweeney

It has been a pleasure to serve you as National Organizer for the past two years. I'd like to thank National President McKay for this appointment and for his stellar leadership and his commitment to growing our noble Order. I'd also like to thank my Deputy National Organizers, Keith Reynolds and Joe Casey. Keith and Joe went above and beyond on any assignments tasked to them. This has truly been a team effort from the National Board by collaborating to assist in organizing efforts and programing. With open lines of communications and a free flow of idea sharing, my fellow board members exhibited their commitment to growth.

Organizing starts on the Division level, and I was in constant contact with Division, County and States to expand recruitment and efforts. These are the worker bees of our organization and that is where the real work was accomplished.

Our Organizing efforts were slowed by the Covid pandemic, but did not cease. We pushed forward through effective use of social media and Internet technology. This caused a shift in how we recruit and retain membership — for the better. Moving forward we will continue our newly acquired computer skills to supplement our grass roots recruitment efforts.

On the membership-retention side, the use of video conferencing has enabled uninterrupted operations of our boards at all levels. This helped members who may not be able to attend meetings to still be involved. We can also use video conferencing platforms to swear in new members. This practice could be the wave of the future, to install members whose distance or work schedule prohibit in-person attendance at their swearing in. Also, video conferencing can also assist in the vetting/ interview process of a new member.

The pandemic all but canceled our grass roots recruitment efforts around St. Patrick's Day. Many events are being rescheduled to the fall. Do not miss these opportunities to get out into our communities and recruit. As always, recruitment materials can be found on the organizer resource page of our National website.

When Experience Matters



Vote

Tim McSweeney
National Director

Proven Leadership

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Proven Results

When Experience Matters



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

Saying 'Thank you' is a mark of a polite person. When a nation says thank you through the unsolicited efforts of its people, that is more than just polite, it is the mark of a civilized society. More than 170 years ago, the Choctaw Nation sent \$170 to starving Irish families during the Great Hunger. That may not seem a remarkable sum, but just 16 years earlier almost 60,000 members of the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole nations living between Michigan, Louisiana and Florida were forcibly and brutally relocated to Oklahoma. At least 4,000 died of starvation and disease along the way; they were buried in unmarked graves along that 5,000-mile trek that became known as the Trail of Tears. It is remarkable that in the midst of such suffering, they thought enough to send what little they could raise to help starving strangers thousands of miles away. In 1995, Irish president Mary Robinson visited the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma to offer official thanks and was made an honorary chief. In 2017, a sculpture of nine 20-foot tall stainless steel eagle feathers was unveiled in County Cork; they are arranged in a circle representing a bowl of food and the memorial is called Kindred Spirits. Every year since then, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, with Ireland's Ambassador, Daniel Mulhall, visited the Choctaw nation around St. Patrick's Day, and a scholarship program for Choctaw youth was established by the Irish government. Now that's how you say Thank You!

The Native American community has been severely hit by COVID-19 recently, with at least 2,373 cases and 73 deaths as of May 3. They set up a GoFundMe page online and it came to the attention of the Irish through social media, and you can guess what happened next! Donations came pouring in from people all across Ireland to support the GoFundMe campaign set up by the Navajo Nation and Hopi reservation. Individual amounts are not remarkable: \$10, \$20, \$30, a few exceeding \$100, but more than 20,000 have responded since it went viral in Ireland; it has now exceeded the target of \$1.5 million! The Irish people who have always been known for their generosity are now renowned for their memory of a contribution made 173 years ago and they are still saying Thank You. Makes you proud to be Irish! Wouldn't it be nice if America said thank you for the contributions of the Irish?

There are even many Irish Americans like Colorado's Claudia Morris who are donating to the Native American appeal, but also individual AOH and LAOH members who are not only working on the front lines and in essential services, but are contributing to the first responders. LAOH members like Dotty Dunn of Selden, NY, who are making face masks for hospital personnel, and Divisions like AOH 2, 7 and 8 of Suffolk, NY, who are sponsoring food drives and donating not only tons of food but thousands in cash to help where it is needed. We even heard of Mark Kaiser and Harry Green, of Montgomery, PA, Div. 4, delivering pizzas to first responders. We couldn't be prouder of them all.

We are certainly not proud of our nation's Department of Homeland Security who embarrassed our Statue of Liberty by sending our friend and brother Malachy McAllister back into the nest of Loyalists vipers. Keep him in your prayers.

charities & missions

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

In this time of continued uncertainty brought on by the COVID virus, and the civil unrest currently unfolding in cities around our country, our continued focus on extending charity, supporting unity, and reinforcing old and building new friendships is increasingly important. It bears repeating, that the Ancient Order of Hibernians has always risen to the challenge of providing for those in need. Whether it be money, food, time, clothing — even support of civility among our fellow Americans — members of the Order have risen to the occasion. In these trying times we have brothers acting as first responders protecting property and responding to the call brought on by violent protests. We also have brothers protesting peacefully in support of protecting life and civil treatment of all our fellow citizens. Both must be thanked and respected for serving their respective missions. Serving humanity and the humane treatment of all is the Light Jesus brought to us and taught us to emulate.

We share in the responsibility to serve those in righteous need and to continue to fulfill our mission to promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity among all our worldly brothers and sisters. Please help those who need it, whether it be cleaning up after ignorant selfish and violent rioters, dropping food off at a food pantry, serving food to the hungry, volunteering at a pregnancy and aid center, coach & mentor the disadvantaged, build houses with Habitat for Humanity, and donate to funds that educate children, seminarians and others in need. There are many ways we can serve others and too many who need our service and financial support. Donate to Hibernian Charities by sending your checks to:

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

Write checks to "Hibernian Charity" with the intention of your donation in the memo section (e.g., Project St. Patrick, Irish History, Study Abroad, Catastrophic Relief). You can also donate with PayPal by sending money to hiberniancharities@gmail.com writing your intention in the "add a note" section.

Echoes from Irish History

By Mike McCormack

The Irish have made so many contributions to this nation that it would take volumes to list them all. However, as we celebrate Independence Day, we should consider some who made our free nation possible.

On the 10th of May, 1771, just 14 months after Irish-born Patrick Carr was killed in the Boston Massacre, the first battle of the American Revolution was fought at Alamance, North Carolina, led by James Hunter, the Irish-American "General of the Regulators."

He is just one of the thousands of Irish and Irish-Americans whose support is forgotten in our school history books. In 1899, NY State Attorney General Thomas Addis Emmet, brother of the martyred Robert Emmet, wrote that "Great injustice has been done to the Irish people by depriving them of credit so justly due them." That's the legacy of Nativist bigots who refused them recognition and since they were never recognized, they are never taught. Yet American Tory Joseph Galloway testified in the House of Commons on October 27, 1779, that "about half of the rebel army were Irish." That was confirmed after the Revolution when Lord Mountjoy told Commons on April 2, 1784, that "America was lost by Irish emigrants; I am assured from the best authority, the major part of the American Army was composed of Irish and I am informed it was their valor that determined the contest."

They were both Catholic and Protestant; some were Presbyterian Irish from Ulster driven into exile by British bias almost as severe as that practiced against their Catholic neighbors. Later, during the Great Hunger, some called themselves 'Scotch-Irish' to distinguish them from the arriving destitute Irish Catholics. Yet, Scotland was originally settled by Irish from Antrim's Dál Riata colony and Scotland was named for the Scots (the Roman name for Irish). By DNA they are still Irish — being born in a barn doesn't make one a horse! An estimated 250,000 Irish of both faiths came to America during the colonial era and they all proudly called themselves Irish! They also shared contempt for the British.

Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Irish-born James Smith, George Taylor and Matt Thornton and Irish-American Thomas McKean, Charles Carroll, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Jr. and George Read. The man who penned that document was Derry-born Secretary Charles Thomson who also designed the Great Seal of the United States displayed now on items from the President's jet to the dollar bill you have in your pocket.

When the Brits fled Boston on March 17, 1776, General Washington recognized the day's significance to most of his soldiers by making "St. Patrick" the password for guard duty. Today, March 17 is a holiday in Massachusetts, though few seem to be aware that it commemorates "Evacuation Day."

An Irish Litany of the Revolution

When Joseph Galloway testified that Irish made up half the Continental Army, he also testified, "I have estimated that one-fourth of all the American officers were Irish," referring to nearly 1,500 officers, among them 22 generals and more than a dozen sea captains. A few of those were: John Stark, hero of Bunker Hill and Saratoga; Donegal-born Gus Conyngham, who captured 60 British ships; Cork-born Stephen Moylan who outfitted privateers to sink British supply ships; Henry Knox, who took 50 cannon from the Brits and directed Washington's Delaware crossing; John Sullivan, who led an attack on Fort William and Mary for munitions; Wexford-born John Barry, the First Officer of the American Navy; Antrim-born William Thompson, who led the Rifle Battalion that became the First Regiment of the Continental Army, making him the First Officer of the U.S. Army; Dublin-born Richard Montgomery, who was second in command in the successful Montréal Expedition; Timothy Murphy, sharpshooter who turned the tide at the Battle of Saratoga; the five O'Brien brothers who seized the British warship "Margaretta" in the first naval battle of the Revolution; Derry-born Hercules Mulligan who was Washington's top spy in British New York; Margaret 'Captain Molly' Corbin whose courage under fire made her the first female wounded warrior to receive a military pension; Cavan-born Paddy Colvin whose ferry took Washington's army across the Delaware into PA on his retreat from New York and later, with Sam McConkey, another Irish ferry owner, took them back on Christmas night to capture Trenton; Offaly-born Edward Hand who served as the commander of Fort Pitt; Dublin-born Richard Butler who rose to the rank of Brigadier General; Meath-born John Shee who commanded the Pennsylvania Line, which General 'Light Horse' Harry Lee called the 'Line of Ireland'; Antrim-born James McHenry for whom Fort McHenry at Baltimore is named; and so many others we have no room to mention. However, If you google the above names on July 4, it will give you a great sense of pride in that you are not only an American, but an Irish American!

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from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

As this is the last issue of the Digest before the convention, all elected and appointed national officers should be offering a description of what their position entails and what he's done in this term.

The National Editor is listed in the AOH Constitution as a presidentially appointed position. I have had the honor of serving the good of the Order since 2011, appointed by National Presidents Seamus Boyle, Brendan Moore and Judge Jim McKay. This makes the 54th issue that I have worked on; never missed one, through surgeries and illnesses, even while covering 100-year hurricanes, blizzards, blackouts and other mayhems at work. I've planned vacations around the issues so as not to interfere with the Digest process.

It is the Editor's job to copy edit about 170 submitted articles and photos for each issue, meaning I have edited about 9,200 items. The Editor also plans where each item goes in the Digest, and proofs each issue twice before printing. The Editor also has general responsibilities in the area of national AOH publicity.

Helping in the work of producing the Digest are several volunteer Assistant Editors, namely Mike McCormack, Jerry Lonergan, Patrick Abbott, Kevin Smith and Ed McLoughlin. Their contributions to the editing process makes each issue better and makes the task of the whole project easier. I appreciate their support, and every Hibernian should, too.

It's also been my pleasure to take photos for social-media postings and the Digest of all national conventions, installations, board portraits and special national gatherings (e.g., 1916 Commemoration in NY, AOH Founding Commemoration at Old St. Patrick's, McGuinness Month's Mind Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Pro-Life Marches in Washington, D.C., etc.)

After serving as an elected Division President, Nassau County (NY) Recording Secretary, County President and NY State Director, and while simultaneously serving as State Publicity Chairman and National Editor for nine years, I feel blessed to have been so deeply involved in this oldest, largest and most respected Catholic Irish-American organization. It has been my honor to be relied on to do this important work for the AOH.

If the next National President asks me to continue as Editor I will perform those duties enthusiastically and to the best of my ability. If the next President asks another Hibernian to serve instead, I will offer him my full support.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

Brothers, I hope that this article finds you and yours well; it has been a trying three months battling the COVID-19 pandemic that few of us could have imagined. We will get through this, as the Irish have always gotten through this, with determination and faith.

2020 is a pivotal year, both as Hibernians and as Americans, with elections for the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives. To be frank, we have and continue to lose many long-term friends in Congress, either through the electoral process or retirement. It is imperative that we identify new ones and establish a rapport. We are a cause-driven, not party-driven, organization, and we need allies on both sides of the aisle.

We cannot as Hibernians, per our constitution, endorse candidates, but we can as Americans ask those seeking our vote their position on issues that matter to us. It is particularly imperative at this time when so many pundits, not for the purest of reasons, are claiming that Irish America no longer exists that we disabuse candidates of that notion by letting them hear from us. It is doubly imperative that in hotly contested races where candidates are looking for every vote that they are aware that there is an active Irish American community that votes in their constituency.

I would like to propose the following action plan:

- I ask every State PEC Chair where a Senator is running to meet as representatives of the Order with all candidates for the office by way of introducing the Hibernians and discussing the key issues that concern us. If members of the State Board can attend, it is even better.
- For every contested House seat in a state, I ask that the State PEC chair coordinate similar visits by representatives of the relevant Counties/ Divisions with each candidate for that seat, realizing that Congressional Districts often can comprise multiple counties. It makes a more forceful representation if you can have Hibernian representation from each community in the candidate's district.
- You should rehearse your "elevator pitch." You are likely only to get 15 minutes (if you get more, it is a very good sign!). To help with this, we will be providing a list of Hibernian questions to help with your discussion. Make clear that you are meeting with all candidates and that you will be discussing your conversation with your membership. It is highly unlikely (unless the candidate is a Hibernian) that anyone will check all the boxes; don't let the conversation dissolve to any one issue.
- The final point is to vote given any opportunity. Our ancestors were denied a voice in their government, let us not take for granted the tremendous gift they have given us.



immigration

By Dan Dennehy, chairman

Since March 13, on the streets of Manhattan, the clock on normal life has stopped. I am an essential worker; many of my colleagues have been out sick with COVID 19, quarantined by exposure or home caring for loved ones. Since the clock stopped, I pass many empty churches, stores, Irish pubs and restaurants. Places, usually filled with familiar faces; where we congregate, enjoy good company and involve others in our Hibernian works and efforts. There are no patrons, publicans or bar staff. The pubs, some that will never reopen, are decorated for a St. Patrick's Day like no other.

When the clock stopped, the realization sank in that all employment would change drastically. For the first time, in my long involvement in Irish Immigration, I was assisting the Irish consulate, immigration centers and the embassy to share word to Irish J1's and other recent emigrants to make their way back home to Ireland. Before the airlines shut service to Ireland and the likelihood of the pubs, restaurants and construction sites not opening anytime soon, Ireland experienced its most massive repatriation of citizens since World War II.


Later, President Trump issued a proclamation on suspending entry of immigrants, which went into effect April 24. To explain the new order's implications, the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers has created a chart detailing which visa holders this affects. I have included the chart at the bottom of my report. If you have questions or need support, find your local Irish immigration center here: www.ciic-usa.org

For Irish Americans statewide in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as Irish immigrant students, workers or retirees who cannot return to Ireland because of the lockdown, quarantine, self-isolation or unemployment, there is help. Slainte 2020 offers direct assistance to our communities for those who cannot receive U.S. government assistance for a variety of reasons during the COVID 19 crisis. The Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center, New York Irish Center, New York Gaelic Athletic Assn, and United Irish Counties are united in this effort to appeal for donations and a resource for employment opportunities and financial assistance. The Slainte 2020 committee is extremely grateful for the donation passed at the NYS Board and hope other County Boards, Divisions and members will add to that support. Any donations given will go directly to assisting members of our community directly. Learn more at <https://www.slainte2020.org/>

When the clock stopped, we were on the verge of winning E3 Visas for the Irish as the House had just voted unanimously, and we were chipping away at Senate holdouts. We had hoped that the annual White House St. Patrick's Day celebration would herald the new visas. We were looking forward to the AOH Division 7 NY County Celtic Cruise, which has been postponed to mid-September. As of this writing in late May, we continue working with Malachy McAllister to secure him and his family permanent US status.

Hopefully, the noble efforts we all make during COVID 19 will lessen the blow for our communities, and we can resume our struggles for U.S. legislative immigration equality for the Irish. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the resources and efforts I have detailed in this report.

Until the clock starts to tick again, I wish you all good health! Slainte!


COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS
Follow @IrishCoalition for updates

Presidential Proclamation: Suspending Entry of Immigrants

Limits entry & visa issuance for at least 60 days for those OUTSIDE the U.S. seeking entry as immigrants and without parole/travel documents

Does NOT apply to those INSIDE the U.S. applying for a green card either family or employment based (adjustment of status)

Effective 23 April 2020 at 11:59pm EST

↓

Applies to


- Adult/married children of USC's
- ALL spouses & children of LPRs
- Parents of USC's
- Siblings of USC's
- DV Lottery Applicants
- Employment-based immigrants (see exceptions)

↘

Exceptions

- Current LPRs/Green Card Holders
- Spouses & minor children of USC's
- Healthcare professionals & COVID-19 related response professionals (spouses/minor children)
- Employment based immigrant investors (EB-5)
- U.S. military members (spouses/children)
- U.S. government workers & law enforcement
- Individuals designated as serving the national interest by the Department of State or Department of Homeland Security

*USC = United States Citizen
*LPR = Legal Permanent Resident
Full Proclamation: [bit.ly/34ZSr3n](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/23/2008433-suspension-of-immigration-entry)


Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



freedom for all ireland

By *Martin Galvin, chairman*

In this final Digest before our National Convention, I must thank our National President and National officers for their leadership on FFAI, the members of the FFAI National Committee, Brendan Moore, Gerry McHale, Malachy McAllister, Jim McLaughlin, Sean O'Dowd and Bob Bolbach, and members across the country working for freedom for all Ireland.

Since our last National Convention, the AOH conducted national speaking tours on the Ballymurphy Massacre with Carmel Quinn, on the denial of legacy justice with Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, and on British complicity in collusion with Professor Mark McGovern. Nothing is as inspirational as hearing firsthand from those still denied freedom in Ireland. These tours met with great receptions in Boston, Cleveland, Chicago and Virginia along with New York, Philadelphia, Albany and New Jersey. They made news in Irish and Irish American newspapers. They also gave a morale boost to victims' groups in Ireland, as speakers returned and reported that America and the AOH were behind them.

In Congress, the AOH arranged for speakers to brief the House Foreign Affairs Committee and obtained a series of Congressional Letters on Legacy issues, which put British officials on notice they were under American Congressional scrutiny. We are building a Congressional network of support that the AOH can count on.

In state legislatures, New York among others, held formal ceremonies celebrating the centenaries of Ireland's Declaration of Independence and 1918 vote for freedom.

FFAI worked together with our National Immigration Committee as we continue to fight for Malachy McAllister, the Irish political deportees and other FFAI-related immigration issues.

A 37-member AOH-LAOH committee, in February 2019, attended the Ballymurphy Inquest, visited Belfast, Derry, and Tyrone and represented AOH concerns to Irish government officials.

Christmas Appeal

The AOH-LAOH had a record-setting Christmas Appeal, approving grants for Relatives for Justice, Pat Finucane Centre, Holy Cross Ardoyne, EALU Center for Tyrone Republican ex-political prisoners, New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Cairde Strabane, St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick, Duchas Oiriall-South Armagh, Bridges beyond Boxing, Belfast, Down Patriot Graves, Green Cross, Belfast National Graves, Omagh Basketball and Omagh Choir, and first time recipients: Ballymurphy Families Committee, Museum of Free Derry, Tyrone National Graves and the Witness Project.

The monthly FFAI Bulletin is now part of the monthly email blast carried on the National and state AOH web sites. These provide monthly updates on a few key events in the north with short analysis and explanation.

Convention

FFAI will make a number of proposals at our National Convention. Next year will be the 40th Hunger Strike Martyrs, who locked away in a British prison, overcame everything in the arsenal of the British Empire to win a victory for Irish freedom. AOH FFAI is proposing a program of commemorative events, state and city resolutions, speaking tours and a visit to the north to honor the Hunger Strikers and their unforgettable legacy.

We are planning a series of videos like those from Relatives for Justice and Belfast National Graves, thanking the AOH and LAOH for our donations, and for our political and solidarity work. We had intended to video similar messages for you from the recipients of your Christmas Appeal grants. At the suggestion of Danny O'Connell and with help from, Sean Pender and the National FFAI Committee, we are trying to do a series of messages and updates for you, until we can get more speakers here.



Louisiana

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Louisiana State Board, is proud to announce that the recipient of its Inaugural Award given to a Senior at St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans is Miss Elise Bourg. Miss Bourg, who is also the Salutatorian of the school, was chosen by the school administration and faculty for exemplifying the order's motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. St. Mary's Dominican College and High School was established in 1860 in New Orleans, and members of the Ancient Order were present to greet the seven Dominican sisters from St. Mary's Convent in Cabra, Ireland, when they arrived in New Orleans on November 5, 1860.



Elise Bourg



Liaison report

By *Mike Joyce, southwest liaison*

Greetings from the Southwest! As COVID-19 continues to dominate the news, much of the rural southwest is open for business — and has been throughout the crisis. Put simply, those who live in wide open spaces and off the beaten path just don't come into much contact with others, let alone visitors.

Cases in my home of Texas are pretty much restricted to the urban city centers of Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin metros. There are one-off outbreaks in smaller towns — like the meat packing plant in Lubbock — seem to be isolated incidents and easily traced. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has been reopening Texas incrementally so as to stop the economic bleeding but also be sensitive to the risks associated with people beginning to go back to the workplace. As of May 27, restaurants have reopened to 50 percent capacity; bars at 25 percent; hospitals can do elective surgeries; and parks, water parks and food courts can open with social distancing guidelines in place. Still no events or official gatherings of more than 10.

Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona have all set and are following similar guidelines — with tweaks here or there. For instance, Oklahoma can now consider non-essential travel, and Arizona can consider opening gyms, pools and sports leagues. I am happy to report that all states have dramatically increased testing so that the data we're using to navigate reopening is moving from "murky" to "stained." Further, social distancing and mask use seem to be a general concession all are willing to do within the densely populated city centers.

For the AOH, we're humming right along and I'm excited to report that all divisions in the southwest have either adopted or will be using Zoom to consider their division's business. Further, the Texas State Board will have hosted a virtual happy hour fundraiser to benefit the Hibernian Hunger project of the Hibernian Charity. I look forward to sharing its success in my next dispatch. I hope you were able to join us!

I am excited for the progress coming from the Southwest Hibernians and I am hopeful that the state's incremental openings work out as we learn from each other and navigate this pandemic together

North Carolina

Successful online fundraiser

Wake County, NC, Division 1 worked with the local Knights of Columbus council to adapt their regular monthly quarter auction to an online fundraiser. This month's charity was for the New Bern House, which is a transitional housing shelter and soup kitchen that the AOH division works with throughout the year, and they did not want to miss this opportunity to help raise funds for this charity. Vendors generously gave donations that were raffled off in addition to a silent auction. They were able to raise \$1,400 for the Helping Hands Mission and New Bern House in Raleigh.



pro-life

By *John Patrick Walsh, chairman*

Keep The Faith

Brothers and Sisters, it has been my honor to serve as the National Pro-Life Chairman for the past four years, and I thank President McKay for the trust he placed in me. This appointment has allowed me to walk with you on a journey aimed at discovering what pro-life really means. Along the way, we both have been challenged to grow in understanding and compassion. While I intended for this column to be a short goodbye, recent events have caused me to reflect and offer one more challenge to us all, keep the faith.

The recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery are as senseless as they are tragic. Their lives mattered; collectively and individually they mattered. They were formed in His image, each holding within themselves the divine spark that our faith demands be protected and respected. Yet our shared society failed them.

I do not say this to shame anyone, but rather to challenge each of us as we explore our conscience and emotions. As we watch the national response to these tragedies unfold, Christ calls us to react with compassion. The individuals we see gathering at protests and marches each carry wounds; some visible after repeated attempts to make their voice heard or action taken in anger, some invisible, carried each day only to be passed down to the next generation. However they were received, these wounds are not so different from those suffered by our Lord, each carry meaning and a need for healing.

Keeping the faith is hard during these events. My anger over increasing violence and riotous behavior clouds my ability to focus on productive conversations or solutions. Christ laid out the path to righteousness in the Sermon on the Mount, but each beatitude seems to invite a qualifying editorial from me. I must repeatedly remind myself that I am a sinner, requiring confession and absolution, as I scroll news stories and Facebook posts.

Accepting a stranger's value as equal to our own is incredibly difficult, but that is what our faith requires. We must pray for the Holy Spirit to remove the barbs and arrows from our thoughts, as once Christ took the sword from Peter. Stay consistent in your advocacy for life, defend it outside the womb as ardently as inside. Let compassion be your guide to identifying the wounds inside yourself and others, then try to heal them. In doing so we not only keep, but live, our faith.



veterans affairs

By Jim Green, chairman

Entering the summer months of 2020, it seems that our country is slowly re-opening and, hopefully – pray God – good health and jobs will follow very soon. Heartbreakingly, we have lost brothers to this virus and we all pray that they are embraced by our loving God in Paradise. Also, our National Convention is right around the corner and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the National Officers and local committee teams that have worked especially hard for this event. Thank you!

As I anticipate and look forward to the Convention, it's appropriate to look back, and forward, regarding the goals of this chair. I served for four years in Naval Aviation in the Pacific, but I did not suffer injury or harm. There was always risk as an aircrewman as I flew in some very dangerous weather and sea conditions, but my thoughts and prayers these days as Veterans Chairman are primarily focused on our brothers who were mentally or physically (sometimes both) harmed while performing their duties in more dangerous conditions and places than where and when I served. In that regard, I don't feel that I personally did enough during my four-year appointed term to aid and assist these brothers. However, I KNOW that there are other Veterans Chairmen around the country who HAVE done great work with helping these brothers dealing with physical and mental injury, as well as homelessness and hunger. Thank you!

If I am granted more time in this honorable position, or if not I will advise my successor, to focus more on providing proactive support and advice to help veteran brothers in need. The information and assistance that I've tried to provide to all of you have been from what other veterans have sent to me via veterans' assistance links and articles, forwarded to you via these articles and email blasts. I am extremely grateful for their support. I don't want to name names for fear of offending or leaving anyone out, but the brothers who have shared this information with me over the years know who they are. Thank you!

Another goal that I had, and also had limited success, was improving communication with all of our veteran brothers. I had envisioned monthly, or periodic, teleconferences with all of the State's Veterans Chairmen, but the reality turned out to be more in the way of email communications with a limited number of these brothers. It was an improvement from the past, certainly, but was not as robust as I had hoped. That said, with the creation and maintenance of the Veterans database, I was able to communicate with our base occasionally. The National Email Blasts also helped with veterans communications, and I thank Vice President Danny O'Connell for that. Now that we can add video clips to those, they will improve even more.

Lastly, I want to extend my deep appreciation to our Worthy President, Judge Jim McKay, for the faith he has, and continues to place, in me. His leadership over these four years has been outstanding, and I will always consider him a mentor and friend. Also, my sincerest thanks goes to brother Danny O'Connell who, likewise, has shown great faith in me and always encourages and pushes me to greater heights in my service to the Order. I anticipate that he will make a great National President. I also have had great support from brothers Jere Cole and Joe Ryan, as well as from brother Sean Pender when I've needed him. What a great National Board!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the National Convention, and I'm looking forward to exchanging ideas with you in the days and years ahead. In the meantime, may God bless you and your families and keep you safe, and may God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, Jim Green.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

Greetings to you all, and I pray that you are remaining safe during this stressful and dangerous time in our nation's history. These times of Coronavirus have required all of us to do some extraordinary things, and also for some of us to try to do more for our fellow man that has ever been asked before. The obvious, and heroic, contributions of our medical and public safety professionals have set a standard for all of us to hope to emulate.

Another example of the call to that type of extraordinary service was when the President of the United States called on an arm of the military to build temporary hospital shelters and other facilities to aid our front-line medical teams during the pandemic. This group – whom we normally associate with locks and dams, is the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corp, also known as USACE, is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has a history of service dating back to the foundations of our country. According to Wikipedia, it is the engineering branch of the United States Army, primarily overseeing dams, canals and flood protection in the United States, as well as a wide range of public works throughout the world. USACE is made up of some 37,000 civilian and military personnel, making it one of the world's largest public engineering organizations. Surprisingly, its hydroelectric projects provide 24 percent of U.S. hydropower capacity.

The history of United States Army Corps of Engineers can be traced back to the Revolutionary era. In 1775, the Continental Congress and General George Washington organized an army whose staff included a chief engineer and two assistants. One of its first tasks was to build fortifications near Boston at Bunker Hill. The official "Corps of Engineers," as it is known today, was established on March 16, 1802, when President Thomas Jefferson signed the Military Peace Establishment Act.

Dennis Hart Mahan, born in Ireland in 1802 but baptized in New York City, grew up to become a respected civil engineer and professor of civil and military engineering at the military academy at West Point, the original home of the Army Corps of Engineers, and graduated from West Point first in his class. As the eventual Chairman of the Engineering Department there, he had a great influence on the development and evolution of the Army Corps.

From the beginning, many politicians wanted the Corps of Engineers to contribute to both military construction and civil works. Assigned to military construction missions in

December 1941, the Corps built facilities at home and abroad to support the U.S. Army and Air Force. During World War II the program expanded to more than 27,000 military and industrial projects in a \$15 billion mobilization effort. Included were aircraft, tank assembly and ammunition plants; camps for 5 million soldiers; depots, ports and hospitals; and the rapid construction of such landmark projects as the Manhattan Project in the desert at Los Alamos. Also included was the building of the Pentagon – the Department of Defense headquarters across the Potomac from Washington, DC.

Occasional civil disasters, including the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, resulted in greater responsibilities for the Corps of Engineers. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans provides another example of this.

USACE supports the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency through its security planning, force protection, research and development, disaster preparedness efforts, and quick response to emergencies and disasters. It was in this capacity that the USACE was called on to build the temporary hospital facilities during the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020.

Let us celebrate the contributions of the United States Army Corp of Engineers throughout all of our country's history and remember them for all of their contributions in history, but also as part of the heroic team that helped care for the sick and dying during one of the most frightening epidemics our country has ever known.



irish american heritage month

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the Irish American community. Hitting America as it did in March, when many Irish-American-owned businesses count on making the money that carries them throughout the year, the economic impact was devastating. The prolonged mandated shutdown of business in April and May meant that not only did they lose traditional St. Patrick's Day business, but Mother's Day, First Communions, Confirmations, weddings, and graduations. Many of these businesses, particularly in major cities, were already under stress from changing demographics and rising rents. In announcing the cancellation of St. Patrick's Day celebrations to contain the disease, a decision that has been vindicated, more than one public official stated, "We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day next year." There is legitimate reason to be concerned about where.

We can take pride that as a people, the Irish have historically come back stronger from any adversity. As Hibernians, it is our duty to rebuild our Irish American community; frankly, no one else will if we don't. At the July 2004 National AOH Convention, a resolution that endorsed Project Irish-American Heritage Month was unanimously adopted and stated: "... local AOH Divisions are hereby urged to unite in this worthy mission by appointing Divisional IAHM Committees charged with developing and implementing strategies for the promotion and expansion of Irish-American Heritage Month." Our communities were understandably distracted in March 2020. We need to make Irish American Heritage Month 2021 stronger than ever. I encourage you now to think about how your Division can reestablish and enhance the celebration and rightful recognition of the contribution of Irish American men and women in your community. While outside the portfolio of Irish American Heritage Month, I ask you not to wait 'till March to reach out, reconnect and support your local Irish businesses nor delay in rebuilding the sense of community that makes the Irish unique.

National Park Service Sites and Irish American Heritage Month By John Schell, Chairman, IAHM Committee, Maryland State Board

Presidents of the United States have now proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month for 30 consecutive years, from 1991 through 2020. Some National Park Service sites posted Irish American related stories and subjects using their Facebook capabilities during March 2020.

For instance, the following sites provided these posts:

- Independence National Historical Park – Provided a link to the U.S. Presidential Proclamation on the White House website;
- Ellis Island, part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument – Provided a post about Annie Moore, the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island;
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park – Provided a post about the Irish labor and the construction of the Canal;
- Gettysburg National Military Park – Provided a post to link to the Gettysburg Seminar Paper titled "Casualties of War: The Effects of the Battle of Gettysburg Upon The Men and Families of the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment," by D. Scott Hartwig. This Regiment was located directly in front of the Copse of Trees at the High Water Mark during the third and final day of the battle. The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment contained many Irish immigrant and Irish American soldiers. The Regiment's monument at this location has the symbol of a harp at the top of the monument.

Some NPS sites around the United States clearly have stories relating to the Irish American history and experience. It would be most appropriate for AOH Division members to diplomatically contact those NPS sites in their localities that have Irish American stories. AOH members can contact the NPS sites via email starting in September of each year. The purpose of the emails should be to ask the NPS site's staff to begin researching Irish American stories for presentation on their Facebook during the following March. Successful actions will increase the visibility of the Irish American history.

It is very easy to send an email to NPS sites: Go to the NPS site's Homepage of its website; scroll to the bottom of the Homepage; click on Contact Us, and locate the email function to write and send your email.



Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, Chairman

Remembering Paul McNulty, 25 Years Later

Archibald "Moonlight" Graham. He played in just one Major League Baseball game for the New York Giants, on June 29, 1905, and was immortalized forever through the literary works of W.P. Kinsella and in the movie, Field of Dreams.

Brother Paul McNulty. He participated in the exemplification of just one Major Degree Ceremony, for the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team, at the historic Bristol, PA, AOH Clubhouse, on March 26, 1995, the day Isle of Erin MDT was certified as a Major Degree Team. Yet his memory is invoked at the end of each and every Isle of Erin Major Degree when addressing the newly conferred candidates with these words. "On behalf of the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team, founded by our late Brother, Paul McNulty, we welcome you to the Order."

Yes, Paul McNulty was the driving force behind the establishment of Isle of Erin, now celebrating their 25th Anniversary as an Order MDT, and was their first Chief of Escorts. He certainly experienced much joy and satisfaction on that March day when his efforts culminated in Team certification.

However, Paul held a secret unknown to most of his MDT peers. Paul had a serious cardiac issue and had had an artificial heart valve installed.

April 9, 1995. Just two weeks following his Team's certification, Paul decided to further hone his Major Degree skills by assisting the legendary Round Tower (NY) Major Degree Team in a Philadelphia area Major Degree. In this exemplification, Paul was at the side of Round Tower's Chief of Escorts, Al O'Hagan, who trained Paul in the role.

During an encounter with candidates in the Outer Chamber during the Degree, Paul was stricken and collapsed to the floor. CPR was administered at the scene and Paul was rushed to a local hospital.

Current Isle of Erin Team Chairman Jim Murphy was one of two Brothers who followed Paul to the hospital. A priest emerged from a room and advised Murph that Paul had passed. Murph then had the most difficult task of notifying Paul's family that Paul was gone. Paul was only 45 years of age.

Now deprived of their leader, the fledgling Isle of Erin Team could have floundered in its grief, but chose instead to move forward with resilience and vigor as they knew that's what Paul would have wanted. A new Chief of Escorts assumed Paul's role, and less than two months after the tragedy, Isle of Erin returned to action with their second Major Degree in historic Jim Thorpe, PA, location of some of the Molly Maguire hangings. A third Degree soon followed with Isle of Erin's first Pennsylvania State Convention Degree. Paul's dream was now secure.

As Isle of Erin celebrates its 25th Anniversary while closing in on, now, 100 Major Degree exemplifications, Paul's legacy continues. As Brother Murphy noted, "We always feel Paul is looking over us. Coordinating a team for a Major Degree can be quite challenging in terms of getting all the members out to a venue and all required roles filled. Yet, almost magically, things always seem to fall into place."

Brother Paul's influence in the Major Degree Works of the Order extends beyond Pennsylvania. Paul's closest friend, Brother Jim Cahill, relocated to Florida and was influential in the founding of the Innisfail Florida Major Degree Team, the Order's second newest team, achieving certification in 2017.

May the story of Brother Paul McNulty serve to forever inspire all Major Degree team members in continuing forward with our traditions of the Major Degree Ceremony.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

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

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence: In response to the Covid-19 epidemic, Division 8 donated more than \$1,000 in food to several pantries in their area. In addition, Division meetings have switched over to virtual meetings so brothers can meet, stay in touch and continue the business of the Order.

On May 17, Division members their families and friends participated in a Drive-By Car Parade to honor and celebrate with their Division Chaplain, the Very Rev. John Delaney, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Fr. Delaney stood outside Sacred Heart's Parish Church, in Bradford, where he serves as pastor, as a two-mile-plus parade of cars and trucks drove by and greeted him. This fall it is hoped a celebration will be able to take place to continue to honor this highly respected and beloved priest.

Division 14 Watertown: Division 14 has been working with local Catholic collaborations reaching out to parishioners, reassuring them they aren't alone, offering prayer and looking for ways to support urgent needs of food at local pantries.

James C. Campbell AOH Division 19 Lowell: The Division is holding fast, praying for its brothers and sisters and looking forward to meeting when safe. Be well brothers.

Division 1 Holyoke: 2020 Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship applications are now being accepted. The Division continues to pray for all members during this time.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

A chairde, tá súil agam go bhfuil gach duine díbh slán folláin agus go bhfuil bhur gcairde gaoil go maith freisin. *Friends, I hope every one of you is safe and healthy and that all your friends and relatives are also well. Níl amhras ach go bhfuil brón ar dhaoine dár gcuid. No doubt, some of our people are sorrowful. Tá aithne a lán againn ar dhaoine a raibh trioblóidí acu mar gheall ar an gcoróinvíreas. A lot of us know people who had troubles from the coronavirus. Tá sibh féin fós ann ag léamh an cholúin seo, buíochas le Dia. You're all still there reading this column, thank God. Táimid go léir dubh dóite den víreas agus de gach a bhaineann leis, sin rud cinnte. We're all sick and tired of the virus and everything to do with it, that's for sure.*

Pé scéal é, tá súil agam gur bhain sibh feidhm as aon am a bhí sa bhaile agaibh, mura raibh sibh ag obair sa bhreis mar a bhí mórán daoine dár gcuid. *In any event, I hope y'all used your time at home well, if you weren't doing extra work like a lot of our people. Is minic nach mbionn sé éasca tairbhe a bhaint as aon am nuair a bhímid buartha nó faoi strus. Often it's not easy to benefit from any time when you're troubled or under stress. Agus tá teoiric agam: An mó ama atá ann chuige, is amhlaidh is lú a dhéantar de. And I have a theory: The more time you have for something, the less you do of it. Ach mar sin féin, ná failligí bhur ndeis chun rud nua a fhoghlaim nó é a fheabhsú – bhur gcuid Gaeilge, mar shampla! But just the same, don't lose your chance to learn something new or improve it – your Irish, for example! Agus daoibhse a bhí agus a bhíonn níos gnóthaí ná mar is iondúil, tá gá agaibhse le caitheamh aimsire chun an strus sin a mhaolú. And for y'all who were and continue to be busier than usual, you need a pastime to relieve the stress. Ná déanaigí dearmad den teanga s'againn! Don't forget about our language! Tá áiseanna go leor ar fáil ar an idirlíon na laethanta seo, idir fhíseáin, thaifid fuaime agus ábhar léitheoireachta. There are plenty of resources available on the internet these days, with videos, sound recordings and reading material. Bionn deiseanna ann, fiú, chun chomrá a dhéanamh agus teagasc a fháil. There are even opportunities for conversation and getting instruction. Tosaigí anseo, b'fhéidir: www.scoilgaeilge.org. Maybe start here...*

D'aon duine atá tinn, go raibh biseach luath ort. *For anyone who is sick, get well soon. Do gach duine, go raibh sláinte oraibh uile. For everybody, may you all be healthy. Beimid le chéile arís, le cúnamh Dé, agus beidh tuiscint níos fearr againn ar luach an chaidrimh sin! We'll be together again, God willing, and we will have a better understanding of the value of that companionship!*

New Hampshire

Hibernians employ tech to continue community service

New Hampshire Hibernians found a way to continue their good works within the community while maintaining social distancing to keep all brothers safe by using technology to help conduct their May general meeting. The monthly meeting took place at its normal day and time – Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. – thanks to the invaluable skill and knowledge of Brother James Murphy, who single-handedly harnessed the wonders of the Internet to bring the members together using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was conducted in normal fashion, opening with prayer and the pledge of allegiance, and including officer reports and discussions of new and old business before concluding with the traditional prayer. Twenty brothers attended the meeting (a typical "in person meeting" usually has 25 – 36 attendees), and it was a pleasure for all to see one another's faces and to chat and catch up.

Several important pieces of business were discussed, including innovative ways the Division can serve its members and our community during these challenging times. It was decided to create a phone tree to make sure no brother is left alone or isolated, and work has begun to implement that. Also, brothers voted to make a \$600 donation to the St. Anne/St. Augustin Parish Food Pantry, in Manchester, in response to a request for aid from the parish.

If necessary, the Division will use this technology to conduct its June meeting. And the Division continues to look for innovative ways to continue our mission in the face of these new challenges.



Hibernian Brothers attended the Division's May meeting via Zoom: From top to bottom, left to right, Gerry Carney, James Murphy, Rick Walsh and Colin Glennon, Tom O'Keefe, Kevin Burns, Brian Cronin, Mike Farley, Dan O'Neil, Mike Dolphin, Mike Glenn, Brian Doehner and Tim Doehner, John Queenan, Larry Hennessy, Dennis Walsh, Ken Robinson, Jr., Cullen Madden and David Ceplinskas.

Wisconsin

Remembering Fr. Kelly

Rev. William Kelly, S.J., passed away on April 16, 2020, at the Jesuit Residence in Milwaukee, WI. Father Kelly was a remarkable individual in terms of his intellect, varied interests and devotion to those people and organizations to which he had a bond.

Father Kelly was born and raised on the West side of Chicago, and family was always an important part of his life. He attended a Jesuit High School and entered the Jesuit order right out of high school. He earned a master's degree from St. Louis University, in Latin; a master's in theology from St. Mary's College, in Kansas; and his doctorate in theology from the Catholic University of Paris, in France.

Father Kelly arrived at Marquette University in 1961, and from 1978 to 1985 was chairman of the Theology Department. Outside of academics, Father Kelly became the chaplain, and provided the Jesuit presence, for the Marquette University men's basketball team for 31 years.

Father Kelly considered himself somewhat of an athlete and enjoyed playing tennis and golf. One of his favorite golfing partners was Dr. John Conley, who was chairman of the Languages Department at Marquette and taught French. Father Kelly and Dr. Conley golfed regularly, and while Father never really commented (or admitted) as to how they played, in recounting the rounds what he did talk about was the constant banter and the smile on both of their faces in sharing each other's company.

One of Fr. Kelly's other involvements of which he was very proud was being the chaplain of the Sixteen Inch Society of Milwaukee. This is a charitable organization that plays a game of Sixteen Inch Softball once a year for a Milwaukee charity with a Chicago connection.

In remembering Father Kelly and knowing him, one knew how proud he was of his Irish heritage and his affiliation with, and being the chaplain of, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Milwaukee Division. When the Milwaukee Division was renamed the Rev. William J. Kelly S.J. Division, he was honored and thrilled to receive this recognition.

Fr. Kelly was a proud man, who was conscientious, very principled and loyal. He always carried himself in an erect manner with a dignified posture and was proud to be a member of the Jesuit order. Wearing the Roman Collar was a privilege and a pleasure for him.

He enjoyed people and loved making connections. If there was a quiz show titled "Six degrees of separation," Fr. Kelly would have been the all-time champion on the show. He listened well, thoroughly enjoyed socialization, and had a remarkable facility for remembering people whom he had met.

So, we say goodbye to Father Kelly: A son of Chicago, proud and caring... A devoted priest all lifelong... A fellow Hibernian brother until the end... We remember his spirit... His love of his God... And we pray he will help us... As we carry on.



Past Division President Ed Shanley, left, spoke with the division's namesake, Fr. William J. Kelly, S.J., during the unveiling of the new banner at a December 2015 division meeting.

Montana



Helping the hungry
Joe Mehrens, left, of the Anaconda AOH, presents a check to Andy Kovacich, of the Anaconda Deerlodge County food bank, a check for \$300 that was collected for the annual food drive as part of St. Patrick's Day Race celebrations. In addition, 4,918 items totaling 2,640 pounds of food was collected.

To the Editor...

In support of Brendan Boyle

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my approval of the National Board and voters for the nomination and selection of Congressman Brendan Boyle of Pennsylvania for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal. Several Hibernians have expressed distress to the point of threatening resignation because of Congressman Boyle's pro-choice political stances and votes while a member of Congress, and throughout his political life. Specifically, they have cited Article XXVI, Section 7 of the Hibernian Constitution reading, "Nominators shall certify that nominees do not stand in opposition to the moral principles espoused by the Ancient Order of Hibernians."

The selection of my Hibernian Brother, Brendan Boyle, as the JFK Award recipient award is based on his unswerving and active commitment to the Good Friday Agreement when it was under attack, and what a valuable ally the congressman has been on issues of Brexit, Immigration and perseverance for a united Ireland. Brother Boyle has defended and advocated for a fair immigration policy and expanded access to healthcare and childcare, all of which indicate a desire to uphold life. His demand for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement is fully informed by our shared Catholic faith.

Brendan Boyle is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in good standing. He is the son of Irish immigrants to America, and his father is also a member of the Order. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has been vouched for by his pastor at St. Christopher Parish in Philadelphia, who affirmed to his nominators that he is in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church.

I must vehemently dispute the moral certainty with which some of those who have protested have called Brother Boyle's character into question. I have neither the qualifications nor the authority to determine the sincerity of another individual's faith, particularly when he has been affirmed by the Church we love and defend to be in good standing. Rather than attempt to remove the speck from the eye of Brother Boyle (or even larger plank), let us instead offer a prayer of celebration and thanksgiving for a fellow Irish-American Catholic who has reached a level of personal achievement that now allows him to promote and protect the culture and people of our race.

Finally, I ask my Brother Hibernians who both support this award and who maintain reservations about it to join with me in prayer that we develop a true defense of life that transcends political positions and who sits on the judicial benches. Brother Boyle will accept this award from an organization that promotes a comprehensive definition of life in communion with the teachings of the Catholic Church; I personally hope he will continue to examine his own beliefs and positions and refine them accordingly. Let all of us who are members of this Order also adhere to those teachings of Our Holy Mother Church and rely on the mandate contained in St. Matthew 7, Verse 1: Judge not lest thou also be judged.

John D. Fitzmorris III
National Catholic Action Chair

Opposed to JFK Medal recipient

Dear Editor:

"Disappointed" cannot capture my reaction when reading that Rep. Bendan Boyle was selected for the 2020 John F. Kennedy Medal. "Shock and horror" would better express it.

Brendan Boyle has a 100 percent approval rating from NARAL, the leading pro-abortion advocates in the U.S. and beyond. He has voted for every pro-abortion measure in Congress, including the "Enforcing the Refusal of Care Rule" to kill born children by neglect, and against every measure to in any way limit the killing of children in the womb. If Brendan Boyle is the exemplary Hibernian then I want no part of AOH.

Charities, political education, history, etc. are all important efforts of AOH but there are no worthy efforts for those who are killed in the womb. There are no rights without the right to life.

From initiation on we are told that a Hibernian is a Catholic organization and that we are to be practicing Catholics. Brendan Boyle is not a practicing Catholic; he should not be a member of AOH let alone be honored by it. This is a black time for AOH.

Fr. W. Patrick Resen
Tennessee



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

Minnesota

Shamrock Division awards \$5,500 in 2020 Scholarships

The Shamrock Division recently awarded eleven \$500 scholarships to local graduating Irish high school seniors. To qualify, each applicant would typically give a brief presentation at the Shamrock Division's Founders Day Celebration. They would discuss their Irish heritage, educational plans and how they can promote their Irish heritage in the future. This year we had 11 nominated well qualified applicants, but due to the COVID 19 restrictions, no personal face to face interviews were allowed. Scholarships were awarded to all applicants. Since starting the scholarships in 2008, the Shamrock Division has awarded \$39,000 to local young Irish Scholars.

Funding for the listed scholarships comes from the Shamrock Division's Scholarship Raffle, which is held during the winter-spring with the drawing during our meeting after St Patrick's Day. This year, due to the COVID19 restrictions, it was difficult to sell tickets since all events were cancelled. The Shamrock members were able to sell tickets in spite of the difficulties and the scholarships will be funded. The drawing was held recently in an open park following all safety precautions.



Scholarship Chairman Rob O'Brien and Vice President Mike Collins drew the scholarship raffle winners at a recent outdoor meeting.

Division 4 celebrates the spirit of St. Patrick's Day

It was with a heavy heart that the Archbishop John Ireland Division 4 canceled the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The sudden shutdown over Covid-19 devastated us as the mass, the parade and all other St. Patrick's Day festivities were canceled. Still, in keeping our commitment to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, we maintained our support of the Catholic community by providing our annual scholarships to students of local Catholic high schools and donating \$1,000 to the St. Paul Seminary

Normally, the scholarship recipients are welcomed at the St. Patrick's Day Mass and a check is presented to the seminary before the dismissal of mass. This is always a highlight for us, beginning the biggest day of Irish celebration each year with a thankful recognition of our patron saint who brought the Catholic faith to our ancestors, followed by our short brunch and participation in the parade in downtown St. Paul, after which some join the array of celebrations around the city throughout the day. While it is unfortunate that we were unable to celebrate in our usual grand fashion this year, we wish to recognize publicly our 2020 scholarship recipients and acknowledge the St. Paul Seminary for its continued formation of our future priests.

The Archbishop John Ireland Division 4, Ramsey County AOH Scholarship recipients are Jake Donahue of Cretin/Derham Hall, Sam Lehner of Hill Murray, and Sheila Ryan and Maura Walsh of St. Agnes. Our division donated \$2,000 to each of the Catholic High Schools in Ramsey County. Also, our check of \$1,000 has been received by the St. Paul Seminary.

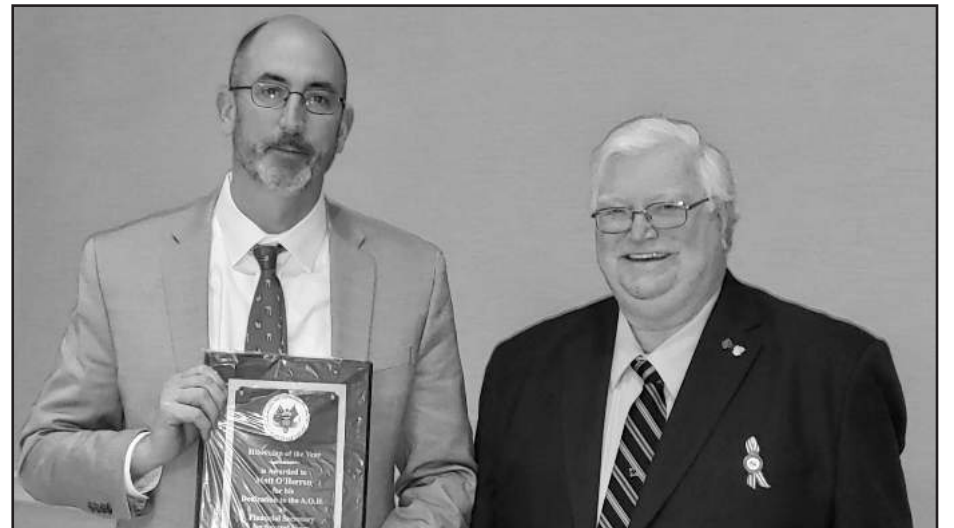
Division 4 has tightened its belt a notch and our green, white and orange sash may hang just a little more loosely because key fundraising events, including the annual Irish Fair in August, have been canceled, but due to our continued commitment over the years, we are stable and continuing our support of the Catholic Church and our local Irish community. We look forward to resuming activity and hope to reschedule our annual golf tournament from June to sometime this fall, so please keep an eye out for upcoming Hibernian events and join us in the future. The Irish always survive, and we are always stronger when we are together. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to share our faith and celebrate our heritage again in large numbers. In the meantime, please keep these scholarship recipients and the priests and seminarians at the St. Paul Seminary in your prayers.



Virginia

Virus doesn't stop Roanoke Hibernians

Due to the success of our St. Patrick's Day Dinner, we have been able to demonstrate Christian Charity by awarding \$5,500 in scholarships to Roanoke Catholic School. More than \$25,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Roanoke Catholic School students since 2015.



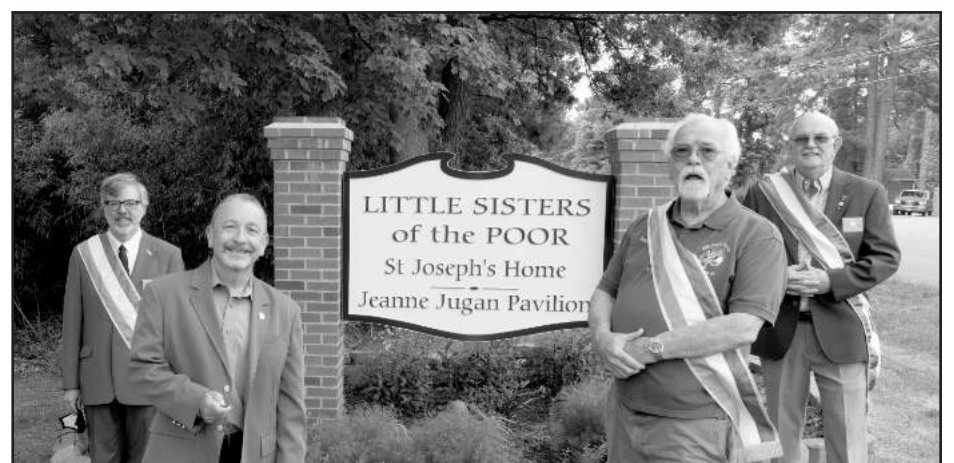
The Fr. Lynch Division in Roanoke, Virginia has remained active in spite of the virus. Pre-Covid, we named our 2019 Division Hibernian of the Year, Matt O'Herron, left, pictured with President Glen Waldis.



In January, State President Jay McCarthy installed 2020 officers. Seated, from left, Past President Bill Howard, President Glen Waldis, Virginia State President Jay McCarthy, Vice-President Paul Miller, Treasurer Jon Templeton; standing, from left, Sentinel Tom Huck, Pat Reidy for Marshall Rick Vitolo, Financial Secretary Matt O'Herron, Joe Summer for Recording Secretary Roger Vest, and Chairman of the Standing Committee Paul Yengst. Not pictured is Chaplain Fr. Steve McNally

Kelly Division helps Little Sisters of the Poor

Maintaining social distance, from left, Past-President Matt Dullaghan, President Jack Simila, Dan Harrington and Past-President Larry Kelly of the Msgr. Charles Kelly Division, Chesterfield County, Virginia, met at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home after an April donation of \$1,000 was sent by the Division to provide much needed help for the Order during the COVID-19 lockdown. Our donation was graciously acknowledged by Sister Rosemarie, saying it will greatly assist their ministry during the lockdown. The Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in Richmond on October 13, 1874, to establish a home to provide caring for the elderly poor, regardless of race or religion. This care was desperately needed due to the poverty and hardships caused by the Civil War. More than 146 years later, the same work is still very much alive here in Virginia, ministering to the poor both physically and spiritually. — Photo: Daniel Harrington



Texas

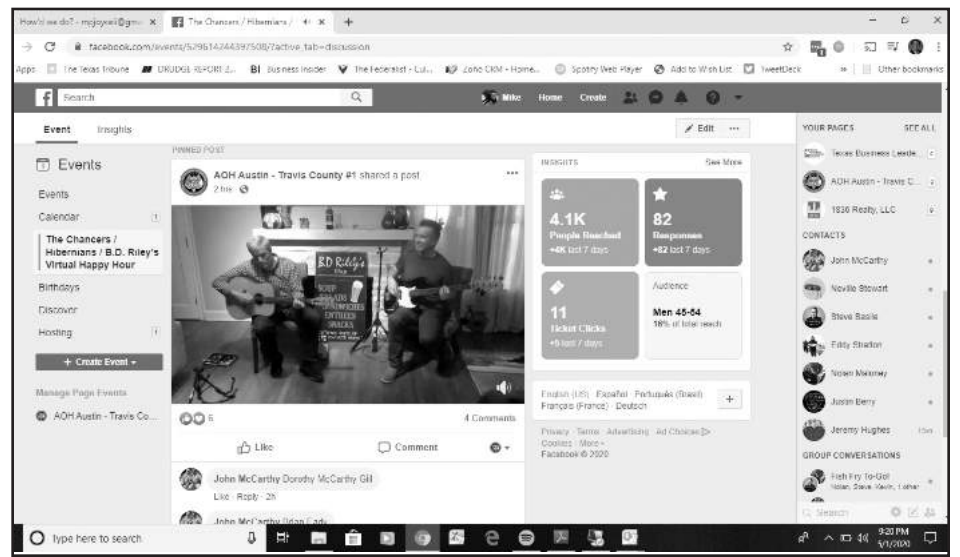
Virtual fundraiser; real funds!

The Brothers of Msgr. Richard McCabe Division 1, in Travis County, Texas, hosted a virtual happy hour on May 1, to benefit the B.D. Riley's Irish Pub Employee Relief Fund, featuring a Facebook Live performance by Daithi Arwine and Neville Stewart, of The Chancers, who are regular performers of the division's Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event.

As a result of the division's efforts, the relief fund raised more than \$650 — six times more than any other virtual show The Chancers have hosted, while boosting viewership by four fold.

Texas State President Mike Joyce said, "We jumped at the opportunity to team up with The Chancers to help out our friends at B.D. Riley's. This shelter-in-place has been hard on us all, and to invest a couple of bucks into Facebook ads was a no-brainer to spend a couple of hours with great music and great friends, even if it was only in the Facebook chat!"

For more information on how you might pull off your own virtual happy hour, you can contact Mike Joyce at mpjoyceii@gmail.com.



Colorado

Carrigan Division meets via Zoom

In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak across the U.S., Colorado's Joseph P. Carrigan Division came together on Zoom for a virtual meeting April 7.

About 16 people met for the video conference, including three new potential recruits. Father Charles Polifka, O.F.M. Cap., the division chaplain, was also a part of the meeting and led the division in prayer.

While the Carrigan Division didn't discuss any formal matters, there was no shortage of entertainment or things to catch up on.

Members discussed their whereabouts and how they were dealing with social distancing and isolation. One member, Naval Petty Officer Second Class Joseph Chappell, called in from a sailboat in South Florida. Michael Grady, a potential recruit, played the banjo and sang for the group. Michael O'Hara, a member currently living in New Orleans, introduced the division to his daughter, who is just a few months old.

"There is a lot to think about, including how many things we can do over the Internet ... Long-distance members can now attend." Division President Jim Chappell said.



Carrigan Division Vice President Dan Queen in Centennial, Colorado, joined the meeting.

Carrigan Division virtually initiates 5 Hibernians

Colorado's Joseph P. Carrigan Division virtually initiated five people last month to keep cautious amid the spread of coronavirus. The division met May 19 via Zoom, the video conferencing application that has been used by millions for virtual meetings during the pandemic.

The division gave brother Patrick Maguire — the division's treasurer and former state president from both Michigan and New Jersey — the honor of conducting the initiation in what may have been the first Zoom initiation in the Order's history. The division's new brothers are Tom Cowhick, Kevin Coates, Mike Costello, Matt Steck and Chuck Tuffeld.



Brother Patrick Maguire conducting the initiation.

New York

Bronx AOH helps the needy through local churches

The East Bronx Hibernians have allocated \$3,000 from their treasury for the needy of various East Bronx Catholic parishes thru local pastors, reported President Roger Fahey.

"My Brothers in Division 3 join me in responding to the COVID-19 virus and resulting unemployment by providing these funds so that we can assist our parishes' food pantries and other direct food distributions," said Fahey, a retired court clerk.

The following parishes have been awarded \$500 each: St. Clare of Assisi, St. Benedict, St. Frances de Chantal, Our Lady of Assumption, St. Theresa and St. Lucy.

Some of these parishes have graciously suggested the donation be given to more needy churches or nursing facilities.

"As the Chaplain of Division 3, I am always so proud of the Hibernians and the generous ways they help so many, but especially during this time of COVID-19. I am grateful to my Hibernian brothers for giving \$500 to St Benedict's as well as to the other parishes in the Bronx because we are able to purchase gift cards at local supermarkets for people struggling during this pandemic. These gift cards help many families thanks to the Hibernians," said Fr. Stephen Norton, pastor at St. Benedict.

Since 2011, Division 3 has awarded at graduation \$20,000 to 68 graduates of Catholic schools, the funds used to reduce the cost of high school tuition. The Commodore Barry medal and stipend has also been awarded at graduation to a student who excelled in American History at six schools. Also, a different student at St. Raymond's Gaelic Football Club has been awarded \$500 each spring for almost 20 years. The Division has suspended these awards for this year due to funding needs to combat the virus and resulting food needs.

Bob Nolan, District 4 Director and past Division president noted, "Our Hibernian

motto is Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity and the funding of this new initiative is an outstanding example of leadership by my Brothers during these difficult times." Past Division President Joseph McManus stated, "Our Brothers have a history of being extremely generous and responsive to community needs. I salute them."

The Division has sponsored golf outings, dinners and sold raffles for a basket of cheer to raise funds, which have been awarded to dozens of local organizations.



In front of St. Benedict Church, from left, Past Division 3 President Joe McManus and Division President Roger Fahey presented a check to Fr. Stephen Norton, pastor, with District Director and Past Division and County President Bob Nolan.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

I start this column of the Hibernian Digest with good news from Don Valdez: the Waterbury AOH Club is now open on Thursday and Friday from 3 to 8 and Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 4 for outside light menu and drinks! Hopefully, this trend will continue in Waterbury and expand to the other Connecticut AOH Halls.

Shaun Regan reported that the annual Waterbury AOH Memorial Remembrance was held on May 25 beneath the Celtic Cross in the Hibernian plot at Old St. Joseph's Cemetery. Graveside prayers were said with proper social distancing, but the usual Mass was not conducted due to the COVID-19.

Newly elected President Michael Enright reported that the membership of Hartford Division 2 has remained active during the current health crisis, holding monthly meetings via Zoom. The Division held a food drive on May 17 with the collection taking place at Christ the King parish in Wethersfield to benefit the food pantry at St. Augustine parish in Hartford. The Division has also made monetary donations to the Sandwich Ministry at Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony and the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, and the Malta House of Care (both in Hartford) and the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund.

The Hartford Division felt proud that the Vigil Mass on May 16 at Our Lady and All Saints parish in Stourbridge, England, was said in their honor. The parish priest, Father Desmond Devenney, is a brother to Division member Kieran Devenney.



Past Division President and Fairfield County VP Brian Hearty became the 4th member of his family to receive the Danbury Hibernian of the Year Award when he became the 50th recipient.



President Michael Enright and members of Division 2, of Hartford, collected food for the needy near Christ the King Church, in Wethersfield.

Connecticut State Board president Brenden Walsh conducted a successful State Board Zoom meeting at which a number of candidates for the AOH National Board introduced themselves and presented their vision for the future of our Order. In addition, Connecticut Hibernians were brought up to date on the status of the Orlando Convention.

Presidents David Albright of Danbury and Mark Ryan of Bridgeport followed the lead of the State Board and held their May meetings via Zoom. More Divisions may be following suit as the quarantine continues. I can see the Zoom venue eventually being used as a tool in the future to avoid the hazards of travel during severe winter!

For news or info contact me at jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net.

Indiana

Kevin Barry Division awards scholarships

The grand event of the year for the Kevin Barry Division in Indianapolis is our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, postponed this year due to the pandemic.

One of the culminating events of the celebration is the awarding of \$1,500 scholarships to outstanding local high school senior students. This year we awarded five scholarships, the most ever.

Our first scholarship, The Hibernian Kehoe Scholarship, is sponsored by AOH. It is in honor of Pat Kehoe, who sponsored many scholarships in memory of his father, Frank Kehoe, a past president. Since Pat's passing, Kevin Barry Division has continued his tradition of sponsoring a scholarship.

The Hibernian Kehoe Scholarship winner is Samuel Baugh, the son of Monica and Eric Baugh and a graduate of Roncalli H.S. He is an active member of St. Jude Parish. Displaying high academic and athletic achievement, Samuel has earned a 4.462 grade point average and this past semester earned a 4.73 GPA. He has earned two varsity letters in football and baseball and was named to the Academic All-State Team for football. He was a Kiwanis Club Finalist for Marion County Academic MVP. This year he was football captain.

The other four scholarships are sponsored by three Hibernian families.

The first of this group would be the Denis Moriarty Scholarship. Denis Moriarty was born in Sneem, County Kerry, Ireland, and came to the United States and Indianapolis in 1950. He married Ita O'Brien, from Co. Limerick, and they have five sons and nine grandchildren. Denis is a charter member of Kevin Barry Division and has held many offices including president, state president, etc. He has attained numerous other achievements and awards throughout his life.

The Moriarty Scholarship winner is Bailey Sims, a graduate of Fr. Thomas Scecina Memorial H.S. Bailey is the daughter of Valerie Jackson-Sims and Gus Sims and is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Bailey has received numerous academic awards at Scecina, as well as having been a varsity cheerleader and varsity softball player. Valedictorian of her class with a GPA of 4.32, she has served as her student council class president her sophomore and senior years. She has participated in numerous school clubs. A competitive Irish Dancer, Bailey has been with the Richens/Timm Academy of Irish Dance for 14 years.

The Jim McCaughna Scholarship was donated by the family of Jim McCaughna in his memory. Jim was a Kevin Barry Division member for nearly 30 years and was elected to almost every office, including president three times. Jim's contributions to the AOH were

extensive and he was honored with several Hibernian awards for his effort and dedication.

The winner of this first McCaughna AOH Scholarship is Quentin Gallagher. The son of Rhonda and Brian Gallagher, Quentin is a member of St. Jude parish and a graduate of Roncalli High School. Active in service clubs at Roncalli, Quentin has been involved with the tech crew for plays and musicals for four years. He premiered his short film, "Die Ausbeider" (The Runaways) at Roncalli during National Germany Week in October 2019. Quentin appeared as an extra in "The Miseducation of Bindu" that was filmed in Indianapolis in 2018. He will be working as the sound engineer for an independent film, "Moirra," this summer. Quentin plans to attend Ball State University and major in the communications field, where he would like to expand his career in writing and directing films.

Two scholarships are sponsored by the Katie White family in her memory. Kathleen "Katie" O'Gara White was the mother of 12 children; she earned a master's degree in nursing while raising her children. Katie's Irish heritage (her parents were from Co. Donegal) and family were so important to her that she made sure that her husband and each of her children had the opportunity to make at least one trip to Ireland to visit family and see where their grandparents lived.

The Katie White Scholarships were awarded to Mary Kathleen White and Liam Murphy.

Mary Kathleen White, the granddaughter of Katie, is the daughter of Sean and Stephanie White. She graduated from Cathedral High School where she participated in basketball, soccer and achieved high academic honors for the past three years. She is a member of the American Sign Language Club, Lumberjack Club, and served on the Prom Committee in 2019. She participated in a two-week mission trip to Lima, Peru. There she worked at a Hogar, a home for disabled children. Mary plans to attend either Indiana University or the University of Cincinnati to study physical therapy, international studies or criminal justice.

Liam Murphy, the son of Brian and Dayna Murphy, graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory H.S. and is an active member of his community, parish and school. While a participant in student council at Brebeuf, Liam has earned High Honors every semester and achieved a cumulative 3.7 GPA and an ACT score that places him in the 90th-percentile nationally. Active in Scouting since the first grade, in 2016 he achieved the rank of Eagle. On a visit to Ireland, he hiked the pilgrim's trail of Croagh Patrick, an important and unforgettable experience. Liam plans to earn a degree in biology, and then pursue a medical degree.

— Jim Lynch

Illinois

Illinois, like so many other parts of our great country, has been observing a stay-at-home order. This is soon to be lifted and, please God, by the time you read this we could be on a path to recovery.

Our Hibernian brothers in Illinois, either as members of the AOH or individuals, have partnered with other community organizations to give support to their neighbors.

In carrying out our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, they have made \$1,500 donations to churches, community centers and food pantries, they have distributed over 500 lbs. of food to families and elderly while also serving 85 meals in remembrance of World Hunger Day.

Our gratitude goes to AOH/LAOH who have continued to serve as well as all front line, service industry and tradesmen who have stayed on the job.

— Sean O'Dowd, State President

New York

Christian Charity on Long Island

St. Patrick's Division 2, in Babylon, NY, donated dinner to the front-line healthcare workers at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, Long Island, part of the Catholic Healthcare System on Long Island. More than 250 front-line staff in five hospital units had a brief respite from their duties to enjoy shepherd's pie donated by Division 2. A few days later, Division 2 members of Saffron United Pipe Band entertained the hospital staff during the 7 p.m. shift change, so those coming and leaving could enjoy the music.

Pennsylvania

Doing their best for the best

On April 17, the Brothers of Msgr. Wm. Farrell Division, Carbondale, PA, got together with a call from Brother Harry Smith. He had an idea to prepare meals for the First Responders and Police in the area as well as the needy. Chef Smith put together a pasta dinner with the help of Brothers Pat Moran, Bo Tyrell, Dave Sutton, and Joe Hosie on delivery. When Brothers Smith and Moran delivered to the Police Station, a special plate from Brother Smith was also delivered to the new canine recruit with doggy treats.

Brother Paul Browne solicited donations from many business and organizations to help feed the hungry during this time of crisis.

On April 24th, we went to aid Catholic Social Services Food distribution at Saint Rose Parish. Brothers Don McCarthy, Bo Tyrell, Pat Moran, Jeff Sears, Rick Burnett Joe Hosie and his wife Katie, were there to help pack the donated supplies into shopping bags. Two hours later, the parade of vehicles rounded the beautiful Church. It's amazing the hands of few can bring joy and happiness to others. There were over 400 families that were helped with this distribution. There will be other distributions in the future and Brother Browne will contact the Division and we will be ready and willing.



President Jeff Sears, Financial Secretary Rick Burnett, Bo Tyrell, Immediate Past State President Joe Hosie and Hunger Chairman Paul Browne.

Montgomery Co. Division donated pizzas to front-line workers

The brothers of "Yellow Jack" Donohue Division 4, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, purchased 21 pizzas for the doctors and nurses of Jefferson Hospital of Lansdale. Division President Mark Kaiser and brother Harry Green delivered the pizzas from Vinny's Pizza in Hatfield (a longtime supporter of the division) on April 6. The nurses were appreciative of the gesture. "I have several family members who are medical professionals; this is the least we could do for these heroes," said Division President Kaiser.



Division President Mark Kaiser, left, and brother Harry Green delivered pizzas to the nurses at Jefferson Hospital of Lansdale.



Hook O'Malley Division helps local pantry

The Hook O'Malley Division presented a \$1,000 check to the St. Patrick Food Pantry to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. From left, first row: 2020 Man of the Year Father Richard Fox, of St. Patrick's Parish, presented the check is AOH President Patrick O'Malley; from left, second row, Joseph Holland, Mark McDade and Robert Sherry. The check was a donation from the members of the Division, who believe that it is necessary to give back to the community during the current situation and that we all must stand together as a nation. The Division has presented other checks to several organizations to sustain them in this time of need.

New York



NY holds spring state board meeting

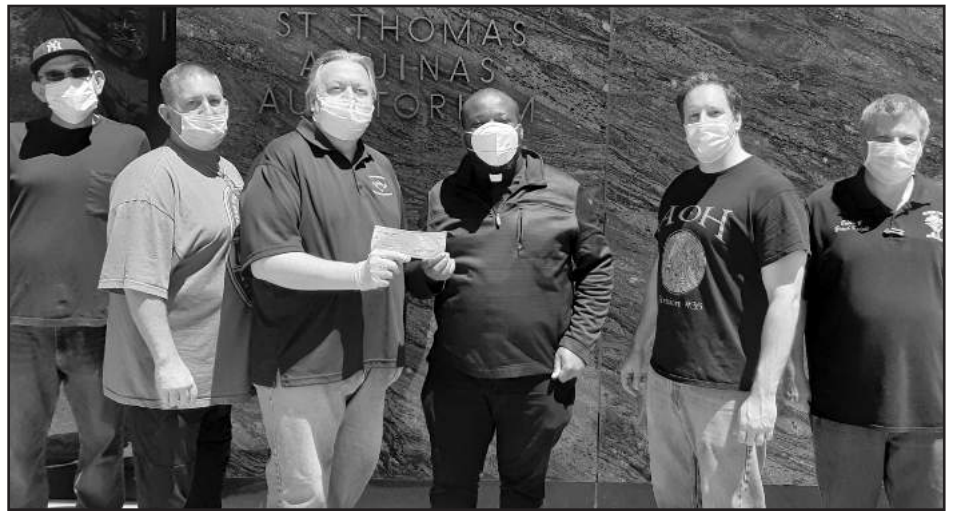
The New York State Board held its annual spring meeting online on May 2nd this year, instead of in its traditional venue in historic East Durham in the beautiful Catskills Mountains. More than 80 Hibernians participated in the productive and enjoyable meeting, which was led by State President Tom Lambert, with the technical assistance of State Co-Webmaster Lee Patterson.

Kings County Division 35 called to action

Saint Thomas Aquinas parish contacted Division 35 to assist with a Food Distribution/Pantry, part of the parish's efforts to feed the neighborhood during the Covid-19 virus, especially with so many people out of work. Division 35 not only donated \$250, they donated over 2,000 man-hours as the members donated their time, four days a week for more than 14 weeks. They do this in concert with many Knights of Columbus councils.

Kings County President Eddie Velinskie and Division President/District 5 Director Steve Kiernan posted on social media that they needed a volunteer to pick up a box freezer from Dutchess County and bring it to Brooklyn. New York County member and NYS Catholic Charities Officer James Hamilton answered that call and made that pickup and delivery along with his wife, a 200-mile round trip. Thank you, Brother Hamilton.

This food distribution, with the help of the membership of Division 35, started in mid April and is planned to go through August.



Div. 35 members Michael Yanders, Fred Coulson, Div. 35 President and NYS District 5 Director Steve Kiernan, Fr. Dwayne Davis, Paul Napoli and Kings County President Eddie Velinskie.



Helping at Brooklyn food pantries

The John T. Rogan Division 12, in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, has been out at our local food pantries, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Angels, to assist in distribution of food. The Division will also be presenting each pantry with a check for \$400, and our continued help. Pictured at OLA, Division President Marc Reilly, far left, and Brother Eric Diramio, center, with other volunteers from the pantry.

Ladies hibernian news

California



Peggy Cornish (California's State LAOH President) Wearing Irish themed mask, and a lovely black one for our Priest.

www.ladiesaoh.com

Ladies AOH National Board

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President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer

Hard to believe it's almost two years since I was installed as your National President. It has not been an easy two years; there were many trials and tribulations along the way.

President Jim McKay and myself along with the National Board Convention Liaisons, Danny O'Connell and Kathie Linton, made the decision after much discussion to cancel the Convention in Orlando and to move forward with the virtual Convention.

Needless to say, the one issue which caused quite a controversy was the 2020 National Convention. To set the record straight, at no time was there any thought about the financial loss if the Orlando Convention was cancelled. Many LAOH expressed their concerns about traveling to Florida. As I had said in a letter to the State Presidents and State Secretaries, since the middle of March, LAOH National Convention Liaison Kathie Linton, some of the National Officers and myself have been discussing an alternative solution if we were not able to travel to Orlando. Your Officers were and are working in the best interest of the membership.

A virtual Convention will be a totally different Convention, one the LAOH has never experienced. The National Board had many meetings on how to handle a virtual Convention for over 800 delegates. New deadlines would need to be established. How to handle Committee Meetings? State Presidents will be given more responsibilities to make sure their delegation receives all the information on the Convention in order to make the Convention a success.

We should always remember to show respect to our Officers, even if it appears they are not working for the good of the Order. There is so much which occurs behind the scenes that the membership is unaware of.

I wish the incoming National Officers the respect and support which they deserve and I pray that we go forward in the spirit of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Together we can achieve so much.

In closing my wish for you is:

May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind always be at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 Rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



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

www.ladiesaoh.com

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016

Michigan

Although all LAOH Divisions meeting and events have been cancelled since early March due to Michigan's stay at home directive, our ladies continue to support those in need. With prayers for all our LAOH sisters who have suffered in any way through the pandemic, and that with God's mercy and grace this too shall pass.

Maureen Kelly, Rose Kennedy Division President, reports that in April they made a \$1,000 donation to the Pope Francis Center in Detroit to help their efforts during the pandemic. Due to the overload of people needing services they had to move their operations outdoors and our donation went towards installing portable hand washing stations, restrooms, mobile shower units and heated tents so the guests could enjoy a hot meal while keeping a safe distance from each other. Our State Chaplain, Fr. Tim McCabe, S.J. is the Executive Director of the Pope Francis Center.

Our Lady of Knock Division President, Margaret Noe states their Division donated to the local food pantry at St Vincent De Paul society, which provides food to families from Holy Family Parish in Adrian. We did this because we know that people are in need and to show appreciation for the people of our church who are continuing to provide food for those in need. We continue to pay knowing that one day we will safely gather at our meetings in prayer and thanksgiving.

Barb Weir, President of the Elizabeth Fagan Division, announced they made donations totaling \$1,000 to First Step, St. Christine Soup Kitchen and Pope Francis Center, and Forgotten Harvest.

Nomination Mary Ann Lubinsky

October 4, 2019

Carol Sheyer
LAOH National President
121 South B Street
Hamilton, OH 45013

Dear President Sheyer,

We the members of John F. Kennedy Division 2 Pottsville and the Schuylkill County Board are proud to place into nomination the name of our Sister, Mary Ann Lubinsky, for the Office of National Secretary or any higher National office that may become available.

Mary Ann joined the LAOH in 1994 and is celebrating her 25th Anniversary. She received the Degrees of the Order in 1995. She has been very involved with her division, John F. Kennedy #2, Pottsville, PA, previously serving as Irish Historian and Vice-President and has been Division President since 2004. Mary Ann also serves as Webmaster.

On the State level, Mary Ann was Catholic Action Officer, Irish Historian, Secretary, Vice-President, and 2007-2009 State President. She was the 2005-2009 Webmaster and 2011-2017 Webmaster/Publicity Chairperson, and is currently the 2019-2021 Webmaster. She also served as Convention Secretary for the 2017 Pennsylvania State Convention.

On the National level, Mary Ann is currently the 2018-2020 National Treasurer and previously served as 2016-2018 Missions & Charities Officer, and 2014-2016 Catholic Action Officer. She was appointed the 2006-2008 National Webmaster by National President, Dorothy Weldon in Boston in 2006; and in 2008 in New Orleans, was re-appointed for 2008-2010 by National President Mary Ryan. On every level—Division, County, State and National—she has admirably served in all offices.

She has served as a Pennsylvania Delegate to many of the National Conventions, 2006 and 2014 Constitution Conventions. She was a National Board Delegate in 2008, 2016, and 2018.

She is the daughter of the late John J. and Anna Valent Rehnert. Mary Ann is the widow of Edward P. Lubinsky, to whom she was married for almost 33 years. She has two sons Eddie and Kevin, daughter-in-law, Julie, and two granddaughters, Elise and Anna. She is proud of her Irish roots which originated in the counties of Sligo and Monaghan.

Mary Ann retired from her job with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Welfare in 2006 and had been employed part-time as St. Stephen Parish Secretary September 2009 to July 2017 when she became full-time Administrative Assistant serving both St. Clare of Assisi and St. Stephen Parishes. She is very active in both parishes where she is a Lector and Extraordinary Minister, Local Safe Environment Coordinator, St. Stephen Parish Sacristan and member of the Parish Finance Council.

In addition to the LAOH and her church, she is active in her community including a member of the Board of Directors and Webmaster of the Schuylkill County Historical Society, and photographer for the Phoenix Fire Co. #2, Pottsville.

We believe that after you have read this letter, you will understand why Mary Ann Lubinsky is the best candidate for any National Office. It is with the utmost pride and enthusiasm that we nominate our worthy sister, Mary Ann Lubinsky, to the Office of National Secretary or any higher National office that might become available.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Alice Henry
PA Past State President
Division Sister
Lydia Laughlin
Schuylkill County President
John F. Kennedy Div. #2 Vice-President

CC: Marilyn Madigan, National Secretary

Carol Sheyer
LAOH National President
121 South B Street
Hamilton, OH 45013
October 8, 2019

Dear President Sheyer,

The LAOH Pennsylvania State Board is proud to place into nomination the name of our sister Mary Ann Lubinsky for the office of National Secretary or higher.

Mary Ann has served the LAOH Pennsylvania State Board well. She is a Past State President and has served as Vice-President, State Secretary, Irish Historian and Catholic Action officer. She currently is the State Webmaster. She also served as the Convention Secretary for the 2017 state convention.

Mary Ann currently serves on the National Board as Treasurer. In addition to her present position, Mary Ann has served the National Board as the Missions & Charities Officer and Catholic Action Officer. Mary Ann was appointed National Webmaster in 2006 and 2008. In all of these positions, she has performed her duties with the utmost efficiency and will continue to do so.

It is with great pleasure that the LAOH Pennsylvania State Board endorses Mary Ann Lubinsky for the office of National Secretary or higher.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Mary Ann Amesbury
LAOH PA State President

Ohio

Carol Jane Kelly
02/09/1948-05/24/2020

Mahoning County Division 6, Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland is heartbroken to announce the passing of our sister and founding member, Carol Jane Kelly. Carol's son, Raymond Kelly IV, is the current president of AOH Mahoning County Division 6, Joseph T. Nally and her daughter in law, Melissa Kelly, is former president of LAOH Mahoning County Division 6.

Carol passed away Sunday, May 24 at her home. She was born February 9, 1948, in Youngstown, a daughter of the late John and Jane (Booth) Theil.

Carol was a 1966 graduate of Poland Seminary High School. She worked in the catalog and credit department at JCPenney for over 20 years. She was a founding member of The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernian's Golden Rose Division 6 and was honored as the 1998 Irish Woman of the Year. Carol was also a member of the JFK Women's Democratic Club and Precinct Committee Person. Carol enjoyed reading, watching movies, traveling and playing cards with her card club. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren.

Carol is survived by her four children, Colleen (James Yukech) Kelly of Boardman, Brian Kelly of Youngstown, Timothy Kelly of Youngstown, and Raymond P. (Melissa) Kelly IV; four grandchildren, Patrick Kale, Rory Kale, Mackenzie Kelly, and Kasey Kelly; a sister, Ruth Mozzzy of Boardman; and her former husband, Raymond P. (Susan) Kelly III of Canfield.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, May 30 at St. Christine Church. Carol's Hibernian Sisters honored her with their traditional ritual and placement of roses, including one Golden Rose.

Following the ceremony, Hibernian Sisters placed the remaining roses at the St. Brigid's feet. This statue had been found by AOH State of Ohio Chaplain Father John Keehner and restored through donations from the LAOH and Division 6's founder, Bessie Spangle. Bessie's daughters Joyce Kale-Pesta and Sharon Sabatka shared the history not only of the St. Brigid statue but of the founding of Division 6 and memories of the early days with Carol and Bessie.

Hibernian Sister Susan Henley handcrafted and distributed masks to individuals for the ceremony.



Members of Ohio's Mahoning County, Division 6, Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland laid roses at the feet of St. Brigid following services for founding member Carol Kelly. Pictured are (L-R): Front Row: Division President Shannon Lehn, Linda Lambert, Division Missions and Charity Kathi Porter Snow, LAOH Ohio State President Theresa Cory, Division Sentinel Mary Kay Sharp, Kathy Maloney, Division Financial Secretary Donna Marsolo. Back row: Ingrid Cassidy, Sharon Sabatka, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Tracy Bonilla, Division Vice-President Michelle Neal. Present but not pictured: Melissa Kelly, Cindee Case, Susan Henley, Julie Klacik, Phillis Perrine, Aileen Rebic.

Deadline for the Aug-Sept issue
is NO LATER than Aug. 1

New York

LAOH Division Nine (Brooklyn, NY) member Mary E. McMullan (nee McTaggart) died on May 2nd, 2020 at age 89, her cause of death was Covid-19 with underlying complications. Mary, a native of County Antrim, was an active member of the LAOH, former president of the United Irish Counties, the Derry Association (her husband John's county), and the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee.



A proud native of Rasharkin, County Antrim, Mary was a longtime delegate to the UICANY from the County Derry Society. "A soft-spoken lady and an unassuming yet effective leader, her involvement in and dedication to so many organizations are numerous." Mary served as the 37th President of the UICANY from 1995 to 1996, the 2nd woman and the first from Northern Ireland to serve in this role. Mary was elected the first woman President of the County Derry Society of NY in 1979 and twice served in that capacity. Mary was a founding member of the NY Irish Center and served as their Treasurer and Secretary. Mary was a woman of great faith. She was an active and devoted parishioner of St. Patrick's in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, for 45-years, she also served on the parish Finance Committee. The UICANY said, "There is no doubt the Gates of Heaven were opened wide awaiting her arrival before she took her last breath." Mary was a Degreed member of LAOH Kings County Division Nine, for many years she served as the Division's Treasurer.

Mary's accomplishments in the Irish American community are many. She was honored to have served as the 1995 Grand Marshal of the Brooklyn St. Patrick's Parade. She also served as a member of the Parade Board of Directors and Journal Chair for many years. Mary represented the LAOH Kings County as a Deputy of the Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Parade. Mary was the recipient of the UICANY's Distinguished Service Award in 2009. Mary is predeceased by her husband John, the love of her life. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to Hugh McTaggart, Francis McTaggart, Anne O'Sullivan, and the McTaggart and Naughton Families on the passing of their cherished sister, aunt, great-aunt and friend.

Division 17 Oneida County, Utica, New York

The Utica, New York St. Patrick's Day parade, scheduled for March 14, 2020, was cancelled due to Covid-1 and by order of the Governor of New York State. However, that did not stop the LAOH Div. 17, Oneida County, Our Lady of Knock and the AOH Div. 1, John C. Devereux Chapter, Utica, New York joined forces on Friday, March 13 for our annual St. Patrick's Day Mass the evening before the parade. The gentlemen in the front row, with sSisters on each side of him is Nicholas Patrick Durr, 2020 Grand Marshall of the Utica St. Patrick Day Parade and Past President of the AOH Div. 1.

Little did we know that evening would be the last time we would meet as brothers and sisters to praise and worship together for some time. After the mass, we headed across the street to the Five Points Public House for some dinner, conversations, and a few libations. On Monday, March 15, all restaurants and bars were closed and have yet to reopen.

PLEASE NOTE THE HIBERNIAN DIGEST SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Submissions are due the first day of even months.

Please email submissions to assthibernianeditor@gmail.com

Please email story, tagline and photos separately.

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

Please enter DIGEST into subject line of email.

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

Please feel free to email with any questions.

assthibernianeditor@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

COVID-19 Does Not Stop the PA Ladies Charity

This historical period of shelter at home has affected many aspects of everyone's lives, including attending Masses, parades, meetings, and get-togethers. Nevertheless, the strong Ladies of Pennsylvania continue to fulfill our motto as their spirit of service shines through the pandemic. Throughout the Commonwealth, the Ladies, often in conjunction with their AOH counterparts, organized food drives and clothing donations, helped with food distributions, donated funds to assist food banks, brought treats to new Moms, and are donating all proceeds from a basket of cheer raffle. Many Ladies have taken to their sewing machines and made masks, while others have worked so very bravely on the frontlines. Pennsylvania has had a rough go with this unfortunate virus, with some parts of the state opening, while others stay closed, regardless, our spirit remains true to our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity in our daily living.

Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to our people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise: "Ask and you shall receive, Seek and you shall find". Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick or lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the holy Mass. Pray for me now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.



COVID-19 Does Not Stop the PA Ladies Charity

North Carolina

Virtual Górtá Mór Memorial Mass

Normally, during the month of May, the Brothers in the state of North Carolina remember an Górtá Mór by holding Memorial Masses. Due to restrictions on gatherings, we were unable to hold our regular memorial masses this year. However, we were able to join North Carolina AOH State Chaplain Father William Lesak for a virtual Górtá Mór Memorial Mass. Besides streaming to Facebook Live we were able to have several brothers join father on Zoom to participate in the mass. Thank you to Brothers Bryan Somerville, Shane Lis, Edward Foley and Past State President Patrick Tracey for assisting with the mass, and to National Vice President Danny O'Connell, who joined us and spoke about the Hibernian Hunger Project after the mass. We were also honored to be joined by Honorary Consul Dr. John Young, who gave a very moving reading of a poem called "Quarantine," which was written by the recently deceased Irish Poet Eavan Boland, and Consul General Shane Stephens, who spoke



North Carolina AOH State Chaplain Father William Lesak

about the history of Górtá Mór and links to Irish America and Irish Government policy today.

In remembrance of those who suffered during an Górtá Mór the North Carolina State Board is making a donation to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and is running a virtual food drive to collect further donations for the food bank.

Raising funds to combat hunger

The NaCara division, in Guilford County, North Carolina, sponsored a fundraising event in early June. We advertised in the area to bring old documents, tax forms, etc., and they would be shredded for \$5 a box or bag. With about 15 brothers participating on and off for three hours, we raised \$1,400 to donate to local food bank. Shamrock Shredding provided the truck shredder and we provided the manpower. A good time was had by all in this time of social distancing.



AOH members receiving a Proclamation from Mayor John Aneralla, of the Town of Huntersville, designating March as Irish-American Heritage Month. From left, Seamus Curry, Shane Lis, Bernard Holst, Paul Mescall, Ray FitzGerald, Mayor Aneralla and Steve Witmer.

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KANSAS

continued from page 2

believe those efforts unify and strengthen the greater KC Irish community and serve to keep us together as Hibernians.

Christian Charity

Despite the cancellation of our April Irish Road Bowling fund-raiser, the Division decided to make donations totaling \$10,000 to several local students and charities. The Kansas Hibernians have awarded five scholarships to graduating 8th graders who plan to attend local Catholic high schools in August. With a reduction of applications during the height of the pandemic, we nevertheless awarded \$500 scholarships to four individual recipients and a fifth scholarship to a specific high school to award within their own application process. The Duchesne Clinic provides healthcare for those in our community who are under-insured or with no medical insurance. The Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund, or SAFE, provides immediate funds for families of first responders who fall in the line of duty. Along with our contributions of \$2,500 each to these organizations, at our most recent remote meeting we voted to contribute \$2,500 to our Diocesan Catholic Charities food kitchen. With more families in need during this crisis of high unemployment, our Catholic Charities food kitchen is in greater need of food and funds. Our now-passed brother, Fr. Pat Tobin, was one of the founders of Harvesters, our regional food supply network. Catholic Charities purchases their food from Harvesters to stock their separate locations. We also facilitated a contribution from Celtic Ranch to SAFE arising from the sales of Celtic-themed face masks. We hope to hold our October 3 Irish Road Bowling score albeit with altered format or rules to meet existing local reg-



Kansas Hibernians presented a check to Rick Armstrong, President of the KC Crime Commission, and Jan Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund, or SAFE, at the Kansas City Firefighters Memorial Fountain.

ulations. If we can make it safe, we will roll and continue our support of those in our KC community.

Through it all, we will change processes, but consistently lead with our AOH principles of Fraternity, Unity and Christian Charity.

Alabama

Trecy Division holds charity events amid Covid-19

The Father Trecy Division continued their charity efforts during this Covid-19 time. First, Brother Roque volunteers his time and talent by bagpiping to bring some joy to a local retirement community. The retirement community used to have live music indoors, which was stopped, as were visitors during the pandemic. Brother Roque plays a couple of times a week outdoors at the retirement village, which has been pleasantly received and has encouraged neighbors to safely venture out on their balconies to not only enjoy the music but wave at their fellow community members, whom they no longer see at the community center and other areas.

Our division also transitioned from our planned annual live event for the community that was to be held in March for our 5th annual Live Bald event on behalf of St. Baldrick's Foundation to conquer childhood cancers. This year, the in-person event had to be cancelled due to the virus, but continued virtually with more than 25 individuals participating and raising funds totaling over \$7,500. Our division was humbled by all the entertainers, barbers and volunteers who worked hard for the event although it was cancelled and are excited for next year. Over the five years of this event, the division raised over \$105,000 with all money raised going to support St. Baldrick's.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our community as we pray for essential workers, those infected, and for the safety and health of everyone around the world. Until we can resume our normal events bringing the community together in Unity and Friendship, we are humbled by all those helping with Charity during these surreal times. In our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Father Trecy Division bagpiper at nursing home

New York



LAOH Division 22 Brooklyn NY, delivered to Methodist Hospital water and snacks for the E.R.staff. AOH Division 35 Brooklyn NY Kings County, Fred Coulson was the driver and the photographer. They were thrilled and so appreciative. Thanks to the E.R staff for there assistance with this, and for all are doing whatever they can to keep us Safe and healthy.



Saluting the heroes
The Saffron United Pipe Band, from Division 2, in Babylon, Long Island, played for the doctors and nurses at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip on May 5.



Patron Saint was celebrated in East Islip!
Members of the St. Patrick's Division 2 — including officers and division members of Saffron United Pipe Band and Color Guard — gathered after the Suffolk County St. Patrick's Parade in East Islip, Long Island, on March 1.