

## National convention a huge success



The new National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, from left, front row, Secretary Jere Cole, of Roseland, NJ; President James McKay, of New Orleans, LA; Vice President Daniel O'Connell, of Girard, OH; Treasurer Sean Pender, of Hamilton, NJ; back row, from left, Directors Liam McNabb, of Delmar, NY; Tom O'Donnell, of Philadelphia, PA; Daniel Dennehy, of Cortland Manor, NY; John Wilson, of St. Peters, MO; Dennis Parks, Akron, OH; and William Sullivan, of North Andover, MA. (Photo John O'Connell)

Hibernians came from all over the country to attend and participate in the 2016 national AOH LAOH convention in Atlantic City, NJ, from July 11 to 14.

More than 1,700 AOH and LAOH members, spouses and friends checked into the world class Harrah's resort to attend meetings and functions in the state of art Waterfront Conference Center.

From the time they checked in all were impressed with five-star amenities of Harrah's. Many arrived early or stayed late with their families and friends to enjoy the offerings of the New Jersey shore. Day trips to Wildwood, Cape May and Brigantine were taken, long walks on the Atlantic City boardwalk were enjoyed, and the weather was spectacular so that many could enjoy time on the beach. A few even partook in gaming options graciously offered by the casinos of Atlantic City.

As with all good things, our convention was opened with a mass, celebrated by LAOH National Chaplain Fr. Michael Martine, whose homily was so inspiring and contemporary in these challenging times.

For the first evening event of the convention the committee presented a fun, relaxing gathering to welcome all to the Jersey Shore. The Sounds of the Jersey Shore hosted almost 900 guests in the tropical surroundings at the Pool at Harrah's.

The opening joint meeting on Tuesday included welcome remarks from Presidents Brendan Moore and Mary Hogan, National Convention Liaisons Pender and Leathem, a representative of the NJ Senate and recognition of the local NJ committee chairs, Dennis McNerney and Theresa O'Connell. Recently

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## General Brady receives highest Hibernian honor

by William Allerton

### AOH President McKay calls him one of the greatest living Americans

Cheers greeted Major General Patrick Henry Brady as he was awarded the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Medal at the AOH/LAOH 2016 National Conventions in Atlantic City, NJ. Newly installed AOH National President James F. McKay III said General Brady was among the most distinguished recipients ever to receive the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians' highest honor.

In his acceptance remarks, General Brady spoke passionately about his deep-rooted Irish Catholic heritage. Eyes glistened in the ballroom as General Brady related how his Catholic faith carried him from mission to mission through the hellfire of the most harrowing battles in the Vietnam War. While serving as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, Brady was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for a series of heroic rescues, which began at sunrise and ended after dark. Brady's aircraft were so severely damaged that three aircraft were required to complete the missions and at the days' end the aircraft he flew had

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Major General Patrick Henry Brady was presented with the JFK Medal by AOH President James McKay and LAOH President Patricia O'Connell at the final banquet at the national convention on July 14. (Photo John O'Connell)

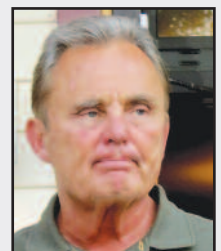
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## The National Hibernian Digest

"Ireland, One and Indivisible, Though the heavens Fall"

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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## South Carolina

### Hibernians participate in day of prayer to Our Lady

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the appearances of Our Blessed Mother to the shepherd children of Fatima, Portugal, Our Lady's messages are more urgent than ever. The International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima recently visited St. Gregory the Great Parish in Bluffton, South Carolina. The Bishop Patrick Lynch Division was honored to carry the statue into the church to begin a day of prayer and devotion to Our Lady. — Vince Colgan, Bishop Patrick Lynch Division



Shown carrying the statue of Our Lady into St Gregory the Great Church are President Mike O'Brien, left, and Past President Richard Kearns.

# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

September 22-25

1992 **North Wildwood** 2016

**25th Annual Irish Fall Festival**

**Thursday, September 22nd**  
A.O.H. Golf Tournament – 1:00 PM  
\$90.00 fee before 9/10 and \$100.00 on or after 9/10  
Cape May National Golf Course, Route 9 and Fairway Drive, CMCH

**Friday September 23rd**  
**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue  
**FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

**Saturday September 24th**  
**5K Run** - 8 AM SIGN-UP-\$15.00 fee Olde New Jersey Avenue (prizes awarded)  
**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**BRIAN RILEY PIPE EXHIBITION** - 10 AM - Bill Henfey Park  
Featuring some of the best pipe bands on the East Coast  
**IRISH DANCE LESSONS - FREE** - 11 AM till 1 PM – Food Court Stage  
**LIVE IRISH ENTERTAINMENT** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM Olde NJ Avenue  
**FOOD COURT STAGE AND BEER GARDEN** - 12 PM to 8:30 PM

**Sunday September 25th**  
**MASS** - 10:30 AM Saint Ann's R.C. Church Glenwood & Atlantic Avenue  
**PARADE** - 12:30 PM - 20th & Surf to Spruce & Olde New Jersey Avenue  
**VENDORS** - 8 AM to 7 PM Olde New Jersey Avenue

**BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
Anglesea Fire Hall-2nd & Olde New Jersey Avenue Surf Avenue to 26th Avenue  
Additional bus service to Wildwood and Wildwood Crest  
**For details call 609-884-5230 or visit www.gatrolley.com**

**1-800-IRISH-91 or www.cmcaoh.com**



## president's message

by Jim McKay III

By the time you read this, we will have a new set of National Officers as well as a new National Board of Directors. I hope that the Order will continue its confidence in me as a National Officer and have elected me to the exalted position of National President. Regardless, the last four years have proven to be very rewarding for myself and I believe for all Brother Hibernians. I have always tried to make the AOH the voice of the Irish in America. Historically, this has always been our goal.

As recently as a few months ago, we found ourselves on the national stage in New York City during the 1916 Centenary Commemoration, where we witnessed the recognition of our leadership in the Irish American community. We literally stopped the regular hustle and bustle of New York City for half an hour as we processed on 51st Street, from our standing room only crowd at Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, to Park Avenue. It was truly one of our finest moments.

We have seen successful conventions in St. Louis, Turning Stone, Cincinnati and New Orleans. We have also just finished one of our largest conventions ever in Atlantic City. These successes are due to the hard work and diligence of our membership throughout the country. Not only do we speak with one voice here, but our voice is heard loud and clear here and even in Dublin.

There will be many challenges confronting our Noble Order in the next year. Membership still looms as our greatest challenge. We must focus our attention on attracting the next generation of Irish Americans to our Association to continue working on the goals of our Founding Fathers. We exist to protect our Catholic faith, to promote Irish Culture, and work toward the unification of the 32 Counties of Ireland.

God Bless.



## chaplain's report

by Father Tom O'Donnell

### Labor Day's Irish Roots

As we celebrate Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5, members of the AOH can be proud that this national holiday had an Irish foundation. In 1863 Peter McGuire, a poor Irish immigrant, a husband and father of six children, enlisted to fight in the Civil War. With his father away in the service, his young son, also named Peter, took on the task of supporting his mother and five siblings. The 11-year-old Peter sold papers, shined and cleaned shoes and ran errands in New York City.

Like the McGuire clan, many Irish immigrants had settled in New York City. They came from the Emerald Isle but found out that the living conditions were not what they would have dreamed. At times as many as six families had to crowd into a house only suitable for one family. Men, women and children had to work long hours in factories and sweat shops for 10- to 12-hour days. They were permitted to stop only to eat. Even if they were sick, they had to show up for work or they might be fired.

At the age of 17, Peter began working in a piano shop. He was learning a trade but still worked long hours for low pay. In the hopes of advancing himself, at night Peter went to meetings and classes in economics and social issues of the day. Workers and students, tired of long hours and poor wages, spoke of organizing themselves into a union of laborers. In the spring of 1872, Peter and 100,000 workers went on strike and marched through the streets of New York demanding higher wages and a decrease in the long working day. This strike convinced Peter McGuire that the future of workers' rights needed an organized labor movement. Peter was given a hard time and tagged with the label of "a disturber of the public peace." However, he continued to travel up and down the east coast to speak to laborers about organizing. He then went to St. Louis and Chicago and founded a national union of carpenters.

Around the United States workers began to be organized according to their various trades. All over the country factory workers, dockworkers, steel workers and tool workers all began to organize and demand their rights. Thus, Peter McGuire and other laborers planned a holiday for workers on the first Monday of September, halfway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

The first Labor Day parade was held in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882. Thousands and thousands of workers marched down Broadway carrying signs such as "Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for play." The workers and their families celebrated by eating Irish stew, Irish bread and apple pie. Fireworks put the crowning touch to the glorious celebrations. The idea of celebrating a special day to honor laborers spread all across the United States. Congress officially voted Labor Day as a national holiday in 1894.

Today we celebrate Labor Day with a little less fanfare. Most Americans consider Labor Day as the end of the summer, and the beaches and other popular resorts are packed with people enjoying one last three-day weekend. No matter how we celebrate this Labor Day, let us be thankful to our Irish moms and dads who gave their sweat, blood and tears so that today we can live in a free society where social justice and the rights of workers prevail



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

My first term as National Secretary has been an exciting one with many positive experiences and many difficult challenges at the same time.

The foundation of this position was solidly set after 30 years of hard work by the Past National Secretary Tom McNabb. We now are in the era of ever-constant changes to technology. Therefore, this position must adjust to meet these changes.

I have taken these past two years as National Secretary to study the past processes and procedures and now have a deep sense of vision and mission for where the AOH National Board needs to go.

These changes cannot be achieved overnight, nor can I do them alone. Every Division at the State level must take an active role in implementing these changes as they occur. When we work together as a team, we can bring this organization up to the ever-changing technology era.

### Forms 40s

Occasionally, the national office receives a Form 40 without a membership ID number. It is the responsibility of the financial secretary to assign membership ID numbers. There is now a zero after the 2-digit division number. Why? The extra zero acts as a placeholder for divisions who are under the 1,000th number in their list.

When assigning a new member an ID number, please do not reuse past member ID numbers for new members. We ask that you go to the bottom of your membership list and use the next open number. An exception is if a member rejoins the same division - we want to use their former ID number, if it is available.

If you send in a Form 40 or the updated roster with a request to add a major degree year, it needs to be verified by either a major degree candidate list from the ceremony or a copy of the major degree card that was issued to the member.

In order to make our records more accurate, please fill in the Termination Reason number on all Form 40s. If we receive a termination without a reason number, we enter it as resigned.

Send in Form 40s throughout the year with changes/additions. It will be less work for you and for us at the end of the year.

### Transfer Cards

In order to initiate the transfer process, a transfer card must be completed by the division that the member is coming from. The member must be in good standing and a vote is taken. The current financial secretary submits a signed transfer card to the new financial secretary, who sends the card along with a completed Form 40 to the national office. The Form 40 should be marked with an "N" for new. Without a transfer card, we are unable to add the new member to your division.

### Returning Updated Membership Rosters

A roster is mailed to each division financial secretary in late October/early November for updating. You need to note any membership changes on the roster itself, including spelling, changes of address, transfers, deaths, resignations, suspensions, and status adjustments.

Please print as neatly as possible on the roster.

Sorry, but we can't accept a roster that was created by you in place of the October/November roster.

You do not need to include Form 40s to supplement the roster, unless it is for a new member.

Verify that e-mail addresses are up to date on the roster.

We encourage you to make a copy of the changes to your roster before you send it back.

Please keep in mind that we can only release the cards for the coming year once we have received the updated October roster; OR, if there are no changes to the October roster, you can send us a letter certifying that your roster is up to date. Mail changes to: AOH, PO Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007. Fax changes to: 973-575-0051. E-mail changes to: jcole4838@aol.com.

### Paying National Per Capita

Per capita is due to the national office by February 15th. Remember, we are always one year behind. For example, in 2016, you are paying per capita for 2015 based on your membership as of December 31, 2015. It is the dues that you collected during the 2015 calendar year. Divisions who do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in any AOH conventions.

Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members.

Divisions that were established in the current year also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in the year that it was organized. Again, clergy, active military, and national life members are exempt.

It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership total numbers, especially Lines 11 & 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to figure out why.

When sending your per capita payment, please remember to include your completed Form 11 so that we can credit your account properly. County and state per capita checks are handled separately and should not be mailed to the national office.

### Obtaining an EIN Number

You must include your division's EIN number at the top of the Form 11. If your division does not have an EIN number, you need to file for one immediately with the IRS. It is required by law. Go to [www.irs.gov/businesses](http://www.irs.gov/businesses) and click on Employer ID Numbers, or call the IRS at 1-800-829-4933. Please note that 23-7633959 is an invalid EIN number and you

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## Irish way & study abroad

by Bill Sullivan  
Chairman

Before the national convention, AOH National President Brendan Moore and the AOH National Board are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 AOH National Board's Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships.

The recipient of the 2016 AOH Irish Way National Board Scholarship was **Claire O'Connor** daughter of Michael O'Connor, a member of Division 1 in Guilford County, NC. Claire will take part in the 2016 Irish Way Program in Ireland this summer from June 30 to July 24. This year's program will consist of a wide variety of classes, workshops, and tours.

The AOH National Board Study Abroad Scholarship recipients were:

**Kiera McGeever** was awarded a \$500 Study Abroad Scholarship for study at Sacred Heart University Dingle Campus during the 2016 Spring Semester. Kiera's father, Kevin McGeever, is a member of Division 3, Pearl River, Rockland County, New York.

**Philip Nannery** will begin a full year of study at University College - Cork in September where he will pursue a Master of Fine Arts Degree in English with a concentration on Irish Writing and Film. Philip and his father, Philip Nannery Jr., are members of the Father Kelly Division in Prince William County, Virginia. Philip received a \$1,000 Scholarship.

**Molly Malone** will study political science for the 2016 fall semester at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. Her father, Timothy Malone, is a member of the Rev. Harold Flynn Division, Oswego, Fulton County, NY. Molly received a \$500 scholarship.

**Claire O'Reilly** will study for one semester this fall at the National University of Ireland - Galway. Her planned course of study will be Communications and Journalism. Claire's father, James O'Reilly, is a member of Division 7, Rochester, Monroe County, New York. Claire also received a \$500 scholarship.

Our sincere thanks is extended to Ed Dougherty, Tom Beirne, the Hibernian Charity Board and to the AOH National Board for providing the funding for the 2016 Irish Way and the 2016 Study Abroad Scholarships.

Information on the 2017 AOH National Board's Study Abroad Scholarships and the 2017 Irish Way Scholarships will be available in the November-December issue of the Hibernian Digest.



## veterans affairs

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

I recently had the privilege of meeting with Father Aidan Logan, O.C.S.O, Vocations Director for The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). Prior to coming to the Military Archdiocese as Vocations Director he spent twenty years on active duty as a Navy Chaplain. He can keep you fascinated for hours with his stories about Marines at Camp Lejeune and other places. Even better are his stories while serving as Ships Chaplain aboard USS ESSEX or USS BONHOMME RICHARD. Upon retiring from the Navy, he served for three years in the Civil Service as a priest with the United States Air Force at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Again more wonderful stories. But he becomes all serious when discussing the needs of the Archdiocese for vocations, which has been his responsibility since January, 2014.

In the past I have talked about the need for more vocations to serve our active duty forces, VA hospitals, and US government employees and families overseas. Some numbers are in fact encouraging. For example, since 1990, 45 priests have been ordained through the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, 19 since 2008. But we keep going down in numbers. More priests are retiring than are coming in. The need is great. Per Father Logan, there are currently only 48 Navy Chaplains. The Navy needs almost 300. Per Archbishop Broglio, there are now only 214 active-duty Catholic Chaplains. The need is for about 800 more!

One other program which Father Logan introduced me to is the Chaplain Candidacy Program. Chaplain Candidacy is a program offered by each of the three service branches (Army, Navy, and Air Force) to provide seminarians with the most thorough introduction possible to the realities of military ministry. Participating seminarians become commissioned officers and train with their respective branches several weeks a year, but primarily during the summer. This training generally involves an assignment to an active duty military installation under the mentorship and supervision of a Catholic priest-chaplain. Father Logan refers to it as ROTC for seminarians. Wrapping up my interview with Father Logan, I asked what I and other Hibernians can do. His answer: Encourage men to become military chaplains. Encourage Bishops to release their priests to be chaplains. Men must be invited to become chaplains. And contribute money to the Military Archdiocese.

What a fantastic choice we made this year in awarding the JFK Memorial Medal to Major General Patrick Brady, U S Army, Retired. I'm sure you had the opportunity to read all about him in the previous edition of The Hibernian Digest. But just as a reminder. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam. In two tours in Vietnam, he flew over 2,500 combat missions, and rescued more than 5,000 combat wounded. He holds both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. A true hero. God Bless, Major General Brady.

Finally, please remember to thank a Veteran or an active duty Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman or Coast Guardsman. They are a constant reminder that our cherished freedom is not free.



## catholic action

by Edward J. Wallace  
Chairman

### Creating a culture of vocations

What can we do to promote vocations to the priesthood? Many have heard preaching on this very subject in many parishes. Father Bryan Stitt, Vocation Director of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and former assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in Clayton, NY, speaks about three practical tips:

Prayer (Vocations are first and foremost God's work, so we must pray for priests!)

Words of encouragement to young men who we think have what it takes (Those invitations you make have great power for discerners!)

Living out our respective vocations the best way possible. (When we are joyfully following the call of the Lord in our lives, others will want what we've got!)

Okay, Outstanding. We can do that, many will say, but what else can be done? We want more priests!

In the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, they had 28 men in priestly formation in 2010. This year they're expecting 52 seminarians, an increase of 86 percent in six years. What's more, things are moving forward in such a way that they expect to be ordaining more priests in upcoming years than will be retiring! So what are they doing?

Father Kevin Bordelon, the Vocations Director down in Lafayette, just wrote: "One of the most helpful tools out there is the Melchizedek Project. Based upon Father Brett Brannen's book, *To Save a Thousand Souls, the Melchizedek Project assists vocation directors and parish priests form and lead discernment groups. Research and experience tell us that forming a community of support is crucial for young men to respond to the priestly calling.*

*Often those experiencing a call from the Lord feel isolated. If they have the courage to reveal that they are considering seminary they usually receive little support from family and friends. The Melchizedek Project not only gives them good information it also allows them to form good and holy friendships. It gives a glimpse of priestly fraternity."*

Father Stitt has been using Father Brannen's book since it came out four years ago and says it's a great handbook for understanding the diocesan priesthood and how the discernment/ application/ formation process works. He says he has been using it one-on-one with young discerners, but this year has "turned it up a notch," when he began using the Melchizedek program with the books. Father Stitt relates that the pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam, NY, asked about pulling together a discernment group for college students and for older high school students. "He took a leap of faith and set 14 dates on the parish calendar, and posted them for the parish and the surrounding parishes to see. It started slowly. In fact, no one came to the first session. But he persisted and by the third date, there was a core group - there were eight young men at the session in March. There is good possibility that there are two new seminarians from the group and hopefully a couple more next year."

**Prayerful Humor:** So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Thank you. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

## NOTICE

For resolutions and constitutional amendments

approved by the AOH delegates

at the 2016 National convention

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must apply for a different number. We forward a tax-exempt filing letter to the IRS that includes a list of divisions' EIN numbers. Apply for your EIN number as soon as possible so that your division is a part of our list. Your cooperation is appreciated!

### Have You Changed Financial Secretaries?

If you have recently changed financial secretaries, please let us know so that we can update our records. Lastly, if you receive the October/November roster and are no longer the financial secretary, please pass along the printout to your replacement as soon as possible.



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# pro-life

by Edward J. Wallace, Chairman

## Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

### Culture of Death manifested in our time:

Abortion – euthanasia – assisted suicide – death penalty, etc.  
We should recognize and respect the inherent dignity of every human life from conception (whether by natural or artificial means) until death. We should desire to help build a culture of life, with the idea that all human life is a gift from God, to be treasured. The life of every human being is an intrinsic good, not something whose value is conditional upon its usefulness to others or to the state.

Threats to human life include abortion, euthanasia, and many new forms of biotechnology. However, human beings need not prove their moral worth by demonstrating sentence, or self-awareness, or a certain level of cognitive ability. Neither scientific progress nor the desire to help others can justify the sacrifice of any human being's life or inherent dignity. Every human being, born or unborn, deserves the equal protection of the law.

Few things touch on the sanctity of human life more than the practice of abortion. A pregnancy should not simply be "terminated," as if it were something impersonal and problematic and it cannot be without physical and emotional consequences. A child in the womb is a distinct, developing, wholly human being and each time a mother decides or a father pressures to end such a life it is a profound tragedy. Abortion harms the mother as well and deprives society of the gifts of the unborn child.

### Supreme Court chooses riskier business on abortion:

It was a surreal day in America on June 27, 2016, when hundreds of young women stood outside the U.S. Supreme Court and cheered a decision that subjects them to dirty and dangerous abortion chambers.

Yet that's exactly what happened when five unelected justices decided to topple a law enacted by the leaders of Texas, which required that abortionists offer such "controversial" things as trained staff, up-to-date sanitation codes, or hallways wide enough to accommodate gurneys.

Justice Samuel Alito, who joined Chief Justice John Roberts in their dissent said; "When we decide cases on particularly controversial issues, we should take special care to apply settled procedural rules in a neutral manner. The Court has not done that here. A frustrated Justice Clarence Thomas called out the Court's uneven interpretation of the law. "The majority applies the undue burden standard in a way that will surely mystify lower courts for years to come. And the majority seriously burdens states, which must guess at how much more compelling their interests must be to pass muster and what 'commonsense inferences' of an undue burden this court will identify next."

In a nod to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, Thomas quoted from the man whose absences on this case was so keenly felt, arguing that this outcome 'exemplifies the court's troubling tendency 'to bend the rules when any effort to limit abortion, or even to speak in opposition to abortion, is at issue.'" Hair and nail salons, tanning centers and restaurants all have to meet basic health standards. Shouldn't abortion facilities?

As they've done with Obamacare, marriage, and abortion, five un-elected people are making it impossible for elected leaders to run their states the way they and voters see fit. And in the process they're putting millions of lives at risk.

Pray for a respect of life, a culture of life and an end of abortion on demand.

**National Secretary's Mailing Address:**  
**1120 Bloomfield Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 539 (07007)**  
**West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006**  
**973-575-0050      JCOLE4838@GMAIL.COM**

Danbury Hibernians are hoping that all roads will lead to the beautiful grounds of the Ives Concert Park the weekend of September 16, 17 and 18 when once again the Hibernian-sponsored Greater Danbury Irish Festival will be held. Chairman Bill Knowles and the committee have a great weekend of entertainment and family activities planned at this lovely venue located on the grounds of Western Connecticut State University.

The Annual AOH Father's Day Golf Tournament was held Saturday, June 18, at Sunset Hills Golf Club in Brookfield, CT. Chairman Jim Palardy reported that over 60 golfers participated in this annual event, which was begun by the late Paul Burns way back in 1981 when he served as President of the AOH in Danbury.

Chairman Jay King has announced that the 6th annual Connecticut AOH Softball Bash will be held on Saturday August 27, at Memorial Field in New Fairfield when the boys from Danbury hope to regain the title, which the boys from the JFK Division in Bridgeport snatched from them the last two years. This annual event always raises a sizeable sum for a worthy cause and Danbury president Brian Hearty and Bridgeport President Tom Keane are hoping that more Divisions from Connecticut and nearby states will join in for this annual fun filled fraternal event.

Members of the Bridgeport AOH were sad recently to have to say goodbye to their popular Chaplain Father Larry Ryan who was reassigned to the Campion Jesuit Community in Weston, Massachusetts. The equally popular Father Charles Allen S.J., of Fairfield University, has replaced Father Ryan as Bridgeport Chaplain.

The Bridgeport AOH brothers took their turn on June 24, in preparing breakfast at the Merton House for the homeless. This has been a long-standing charitable commitment by Bridgeport's JFK Division.

The AOH of Naugatuck received good press in the Waterbury Republican newspaper on June 16, for agreeing to prepare meals once a week at the Naugatuck Senior Center, which recently suffered cuts in state and federal aid.

State Chaplain, Monsignor James Coleman, celebrated Memorial Day Mass at the Waterbury AOH Hall. Waterbury Hibernians annually hold Memorial Day ceremonies at the Hibernian plot in Old St. Joseph's cemetery underneath the impressive Celtic cross, which marks the scene.

Some of the Waterbury brothers stop in at the Danbury Hall on their annual trip to New York to buy Irish meat for the annual Easter Week Commemoration breakfast. It is a nice custom, which the Danbury brothers appreciate.

The annual Waterbury AOH family picnic will be held at the Wolcott VFW on September 11. The picnic will feature appropriate ceremonies marking the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

The Annual New London AOH Luncheon at the Thames Club took place on July 17th. Bill Lacy organized the meal and Jim Gallagher arranged to have Cormac O'Malley be the guest speaker. Cormac discussed his reflections on "A Changing Ireland, 1169-2016, and American Influences on the Irish Rising of 1916."

The Hartford AOH will participate in the 2nd annual Connecticut Irish Road Bowling Tournament that will be held at Pipes in the Valley in Hartford on September 24th. Connecticut now joins West Virginia as another state where this fun Irish game has spread.

The AOH Pub in Stamford invites Connecticut Hibernians to stop in when in town, as it is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to closing.

Meriden Hibernians had their own triple crown as they hosted fun social events for all three of the races starting with the Kentucky Derby. It has become an annual event in Meriden.

On Sunday October 16, Hibernians from all over Connecticut will gather at the Hibernian Hall in Waterbury to honor Past State AOH and LAOH Presidents. The Honorees are Joann Noonan, Hilda Kelly, Bill Flannery and John Wiehn. Mark your calendars for this important date!

Any Connecticut news? Send to [jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net).



Connecticut Hibernians gather at the annual Softball Bash where a good sum of money is always raised for a good cause at this fun-filled fraternal event. (file photo)



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers by the time this reaches you, I hope that you all will be looking back on an enjoyable summer and have been able to “recharge the batteries” and reconnect with family and friends. Many divisions I know will be returning after a summertime hiatus and the “half way to St. Patrick’s Day” fundraisers will remind us that March and Irish American Heritage Month is but a short six months away. Will you and your Division be ready?

2016 and the Centennial of the Easter Rising showed what Hibernians can do to promote their heritage and culture; you all have much to be proud of. Let’s now take that same spirit and energy and ensure that the contributions that Irish American men and women have made to this country are appropriately recognized, and more importantly passed onto the next generation during Irish American Heritage Month. This is not a light or easy challenge, but it is an important one. We still see the story of Irish America marginalized by Academia even as they actively promote the accomplishments of other heritages. We have seen academics slow to correct the egregious statement by Professor Richard Jensen the “No Irish Need Apply” was a delusion, even though there is a mountain of evidence documenting that such discrimination did exist. The National Guard Museum does not have a single exhibit in its Militia gallery on the premier militia unit of the American Civil War, The Irish Brigade, nor any recognition of the Fighting 69th, a national guard unit that has so many campaign ribbons that the staff of its regimental colors is authorized to be one foot longer than regulation to accommodate them all. It raises the question Brothers that if we don’t tell the story of Irish America who will? Who will prevent the struggles and successes of Irish American men and women from being edited out from America’s story because the unqualified success of an immigrant group that came with nothing, asked for nothing and received nothing yet succeeded beyond? In a selfish sense, where are we to get the next generation of Hibernians if the trend of our youth being unfamiliar with their heritage and culture continues?

If you are interested in ensuring rightful recognition of Irish American Heritage Month please contact me at Neil.Cosgrove@aoh.com. Let us remember that there would have been no 1916 if it had not been for a cultural revolution first. The story of Irish America is a great American story that should still speak to us and guide us today. Let’s work to keep the faith and the tradition alive by recognizing those who have come before to ensure they will inspire those who come after us.



### BRADY continued from page 1

over 400 bullet holes in them. In the process two crew members were injured. During that day Brady evacuated over 70 patients, many of whom would have died without expeditious medical care.

In two tours in Vietnam, Brady flew over 2,500 combat missions and rescued over 5,000 wounded. In addition to his Catholic faith, he credits his Irish humor in lifting his spirits and helping him to persevere through the darkest hours of the war. That sense of humor was evident throughout his remarks that often had Hibernians breaking out in laughter.

General Brady is the only living Army veteran of Vietnam to hold both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation’s second highest award. His other awards include two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm and Silver Star and 53 Air Medals, one for valor. He is recognized as the most decorated living veteran. AOH National President McKay called him one of the greatest Americans living today and the pride of Irishmen on both sides of the Atlantic.

## Illinois

### Chicago Hibernians hit the links

Over 80 golfers hit the links on May 20, and all proceeds from this event and the golf ad book went to the Division 32 charitable account fund for local causes and across the pond causes in Ireland, too. The wagering hole was a mere 149 yards to the pin, and most golfers were goaded by brothers John Malloy and this mild mannered reporter into betting on a 2 for 1 whacking onto the green, and some 20 percent of golfer were able to double their money.

This successful golf event was chaired by brothers Michael O’Malley and Jack Morrissey with assists from many other brothers, such as Kevin Riordan, John Resch and Ray Prendergast for getting hole sponsors / ads and putting the ad book together.

The next event for Division 32, a BBQ for the less fortunate, was scheduled for June 22. For all events, please review our website of AOOH.ORG.

— Submitted by Division 32 Trustee John F. O’Donnell.



At the combined Division 32 / Irish American Heritage Center golf outing held on May 20, brother Jack Lydon readied his weapons for use in the scramble, but alas, Jack’s team did not win it, but rather the team of Bill Hickey Senior and Junior, Ryan Hickey, and J.J. Naughton did.

## Florida

Members of AOH and LAOH, Div I, Hillsborough County, attended a recent ceremony at the University of South Florida in which the AOH and LAOH made donations to USF. Immediate AOH Past President James J. Harkins IV donated a collection of books, papers and memorabilia to the USF Special Collections Department. LAOH President Rosemary Riley and several officers of the LAOH also made contributions to the collection of memorabilia, including a cash gift to Dr. Jennifer Dukes-Knight from the USF Department of History to assist with the establishment of an Irish Studies program. Dean Todd Chavez and Matt Knight, Assistant Director of Special Collections, thanked Mr. Harkins and the LAOH for their generosity.

Also in attendance were Hillsborough County Commissioner Stacy White, retired Judge E. J. Salcines representing Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, former Hillsborough County Commissioner Betty Castor, AOH National Director Greg Seán Canning and AOH State President James Cahill. Director Canning remarked that the date of the presentations was the anniversary date of the Easter Rising, a milestone event in the formation of the Republic of Ireland. Tom Harding, president of the AOH, presented a proclamation previously made by the Hillsborough County Commissioners declaring March 2016 as Irish Heritage Month in Hillsborough County. Approximately 150 guests, students and teaching staff also attended.



# Project St. Patrick

We've heard from dozens of young men and women who have received donations from the AOH and LAOH as part of the Order's Project St. Patrick. We couldn't possibly print all the grateful messages we've received, so here is just a sample.

— Digest editor

## Fr. Michael Niemczak

Thank you very much for having awarded me one of this year's Project St. Patrick grants. I was very honored and humbled to receive the letter and check from you last week upon arriving home for my ordination. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, and please keep me in yours as I prepare for my final year of studies. God bless you!

Fr. Michael Niemczak



## Kevin D. O'Connor

I want to thank you for the very generous donation of \$500! It will greatly help me offset some unforeseen expenses as I continue to follow God's Calling for me. I have been in the seminary for four years and have finished my First Year of Theological Studies. I have three more years of studies until, God willing, I will be ordained in 2019 a Priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Thank you again please be assured of my prayers for you and your members.

Kevin D. O'Connor  
Seminarian  
Diocese of Pittsburgh



## Mingwei Li

I'm one of the seminarian recipients of the Project St. Patrick grants by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Thank you very much.

Peace in Christ.  
Mingwei



## David Roman Jr.

Thank you so much for your generous PSP grant. I am most sincerely grateful for your spiritual and financial support. Please know that I am keeping you and the entire AOH & LAOH community in my prayers of thanksgiving!

David Roman Jr.  
Seminarian at Theological College  
in Washington D.C.  
For Diocese of Bridgeport



## Michael Wolfe

It was a very pleasant surprise to find the grant in my mailbox in the seminary. I am scheduled for ordination to the priesthood this May 21, 2016. Thank you all very much for your support in my preparation to the priesthood, and you can count on my prayers. Many blessings to all of you.

Michael Wolfe  
Saint Francis de Sales Seminary  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



## Chad Johnson

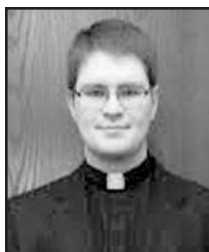
Thank you for including me in the Project St. Patrick. Chad Johnson  
Dio. of  
Youngstown, OH  
St. Mary Seminary & Graduate  
School of Theology



## Carignan Rouse

Thanks again so very much for the very generous check! God bless the AOH/LAOH.

Carignan Rouse



## Godfrey Musabe

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for your generous support. I received a check of \$500 and I pray that God will continue to bless your ministry.

Godfrey Musabe



## Robinson Aza

Receive a fraternal greeting in Christ our Lord. I would like to thank all of you for your support in many ways, especially for your prayers. It is very important in my formation process and vocation. Also for those things that all of you are doing for our Church in your Project St. Patrick. That our God keep blessing all of you. Sincerely, in Christ,

Robinson Aza  
Seminarian



## Michael Panicali

Thank you so much for the grant and all your work supporting vocations!

Michael Panicali,  
Pope St. John XXIII  
National Seminary  
Diocese of Brooklyn



## Noah Shoudt

I would like to thank you very much for awarding me the Project St. Patrick Grant. I am very grateful for the generosity of both the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America as well as the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Please be assured of my prayers for both the AOH and the LAOH. God Bless.

Noah Shoudt  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary



## Sister Brigid Mary Rock Sister Marie-Bernard Maney Sister Mary Elizabeth Gillin



Thank you for your generous grants for these three Sisters, Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We hope to expand our knowledge of Catholic Art through your kindness. Thank you and may God bless you and all your works! In Jesus through Mary,  
Sister Marie-Bernard, MICM  
Sisters, Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Saint Benedict Center, Massachusetts

## Chris Grevenites

I am a seminarian for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. I am very pleased to have received your grant of \$500. Thank you so much for considering me as a part of your financial aid and contribution towards the future Church here in the USA. I recently graduated from the Minor Seminary of St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and will be headed to St. Vincent DePaul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL, this fall as a first year theologian. This picture is of me at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in D.C. during the canonization Mass for St. Junipero Serra, which took place last September during Pope Francis' Papal Visit to the Americas. Again, thank you for your consideration and be assured of my prayers for the Hibernian Order and God's Will through it.

Peace of Christ and with great gratitude,  
Chris Grevenites



## Derik Peterman

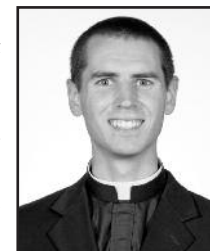
Thank you for the blessing of the grant from Project St. Patrick. It is a great help to me as I continue my formation toward the priesthood. Thank you again, so much, and may God bless you and your ministry.

Derik Peterman  
Archdiocese of Detroit Seminarian



## Joseph Scholten

Thank you very much for the grant which you recently awarded to me. Your support helps immensely as I prepare to be ordained a deacon this coming September. God bless you and your families; you'll be in my grateful prayers!  
In Christ,  
Joseph Scholten



## William Beechko

With sincere appreciation for your support, Christ's peace.  
William Beechko  
Diocese of Scranton  
St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD



## † VOCATION PRAYER †

LORD OF THE HARVEST,  
BLESS YOUNG PEOPLE  
WITH THE GIFT OF COURAGE  
TO RESPOND TO YOUR CALL.  
OPEN THEIR HEARTS  
TO GREAT IDEALS,  
TO GREAT THINGS.  
INSPIRE ALL OF YOUR DISCIPLES  
TO MUTUAL LOVE AND GIVING  
FOR VOCATIONS BLOSSOM  
IN THE GOOD  
SOIL OF FAITHFUL PEOPLE.  
INSTILL THOSE IN RELIGIOUS LIFE,  
PARISH MINISTRIES, AND FAMILIES  
WITH THE CONFIDENCE AND GRACE  
TO INVITE OTHERS  
TO EMBRACE THE BOLD  
AND NOBLE PATH OF A LIFE  
CONSECRATED TO YOU.  
UNITE US TO JESUS  
THROUGH PRAYER AND SACRAMENT,  
SO THAT WE MAY COOPERATE  
WITH YOU IN BUILDING  
YOUR REIGN OF MERCY  
AND TRUTH, OF JUSTICE  
AND PEACE.  
AMEN.

POPE FRANCIS

# Kansas

## Father Bernard Donnelly Division Scholarship Ceremony

On June 16, The Father Bernard Donnelly Division Scholarships were awarded at our monthly meeting. Scholarships were awarded to four students who will be attending Catholic high schools in the Kansas City area. The scholarship winners were selected based on essays that addressed how they value their Catholic education and their concern for making the world a better place.

Christine Pham graduated Holy Cross Catholic School and will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Olivia Rodriguez also graduated Holy Cross Catholic School and will be attending St. James Academy, Ariacna Andrade graduated Our Lady of Unity and will be attending Bishop Ward High School and Bridget Devers graduated St. Joseph Catholic School and will also be attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The four Scholarship winners, their families and Division members attended a small reception before the meeting.

— Charlie Lamont, Pres., Father Bernard Donnelly Division



At the ceremony were, front row, Christine Pham, Olivia Rodriguez, Ariacna Andrade and Bridget Devers; back row, Charlie Lamont, Division Pres. and Gordo Grohman, Division V.P.

# Wisconsin



## Bishop Noel Treanor welcomed to Milwaukee

The AOH Rev. William J. Kelly, SJ Division again hosted a V.I.P. Suite for AOH members, families and guests at the 36th Annual Irish Fest 2016 in Milwaukee, WI. They also participated as ushers for the Liturgy for Peace and Justice on August 21. The Liturgy included the wonderful Irish Fest Choir for Peace and Justice who participated with instrumental music and songs in both English and Irish. The Most Reverend Noel Treanor, bishop of Down and Connor, was the celebrant of the Liturgy and the Milwaukee Irish Fest was pleased and blessed to have Bishop Treanor from Northern Ireland with us for our 36th Anniversary Festival.

From 1989 to 1993 Bishop Treanor worked with the Commission of the Bishop's Conferences of the European Communities as Secretary General in Brussels to project Christian values to the European process. He is fluent in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. From 1994 to 2008 he was Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. He was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor in 2008.

The many Milwaukee Irish organizations with connections to Ireland and Northern Ireland, such as The Milwaukee Ulster Project, the Friends of St. Patrick Center and the Rev. Wm J. Kelly SJ Division of the AOH, welcomed Bishop Treanor to Milwaukee.

# Massachusetts

by William J. Sullivan

On May 9, Division 18 of Salem hosted the 2016 Mass AOH State Golf Classic at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club in Beverly, MA. A dinner followed the golf tournament at the Home of Division 18. The 2016 repeat champions were: Salem Division 18: Rick Larrabee, George Eleftheriades, Bob Roche and Pat Roche.

The Massachusetts State Board held their Annual John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial Exercises on Saturday, June 18, at Holyhood Cemetery in Chestnut Hill. Following a Mass celebrated by AOH/LAOH State Chaplain, the Rev. Patrick Armano at the O'Reilly gravesite, a reception followed at the home of Division 14 in Watertown.

On November 6 the State Boards Brunch will be held at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown. A Mass at the Home of Division 14 will proceed the brunch by Father Armano.

Division 1 Holyoke: Division 1 held a very successful Centenary Commemoration of 1916 on April 23. The day's events culminated with a Dinner Dance to benefit the Sisters of Saint Joseph Retirement fund. Over \$4000 was raised for this cause. The Division's 8th Annual Summer Picnic was held on June 26. On July 23rd, Division 1 will celebrate the 143 Anniversary of their founding back in 1873.

Division 1 Newburyport: Division 1 will hold their annual Yankee Homecoming Irish Sunset Cruise on August 3, and the Division will participate in Newburyport's Annual Homecoming Parade on August 7.

Division 8 Lawrence: Division 8 held their annual Scholarship social on June 8th. At the event, Robert R. Gauthier, Division 8's Scholarship Chairman, presented the awards to Brian Corrigan, Jr., Kevin Crowley, Kayleigh Fitzpatrick, Kaitlyn Murphy, Eileen O'Connor and Kasey A. Potvin. The Division is in the midst of planning their annual outing which will be held on September 11th on the grounds of the Lawrence Community Boating Program.

Division 10, Lynn: Division 10 held their Annual Communion Breakfast on June 12. Following the breakfast, five \$2000 College Scholarships were awarded to the sons and daughters of members. The Division will host a 1916 Centennial Commemoration on September 17.

Division 14 Watertown: On May 20, Division 14 held their annual Scholarship Social. Receiving scholarships were: Megan Lenihan, Kailey Jacobs, James Walter McKenna, Matthew McCarthy, Emma Rudser and Maggie Sullivan. The Division's Annual Golf Outing in memory of Dick Johnson will take place on July 22.

Division 18 Salem: The Division will hold their Annual AOH Summer Outing at Camp Naumkeag in Salem in early August. On September 16, the Division will dedicate their Division to Salem native, Major John Michael Tivan.

And that is the way we see it in the Great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!



On June 15, 2016 a Farewell Reception in honor of Vice Consul Meg Laffan was held at the Irish Consulate in Boston. AOH and LAOH members in attendance were: Bob Collins, Division 8, Lawrence; Jack Lahey, Mass AOH State Vice President; Bill Sullivan, AOH National Board Liaison to NE; Vice Consul Meg Laffan, Sue Fink, President, Division 8 LAOH, Lawrence; Patricia Burke, Lawrence and Richard Wall, Immediate Past Mass AOH State President.



Hibernians from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire on June 18 gathered at the grave of John Boyle O'Reilly in Holyhood Cemetery, Chestnut Hill, MA for the Annual O'Reilly Memorial Exercises sponsored by the Massachusetts State Boards. Following a Mass at the grave celebrated by the Rev. Patrick Armano, Mass AOH/LAOH State Chaplain, a reception followed at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown, MA.



# Virginia

## Father John Lynch Division (R001), Roanoke

On April 24, the Fr. John Lynch Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Roanoke Catholic School dedicated a Celtic Cross on the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, Ireland on the campus of Roanoke Catholic School. Committee chairman, David Bowers, Mayor of Roanoke and Division Past President, planned acquisition and dedication of the Celtic Cross to coincide with centenary of the Easter Rising. Located on the campus of Roanoke Catholic School it serves as a continual reminder of Ireland's long road to freedom. The inscription on the Cross reads "In solidarity with all who struggle for religious freedom, we dedicate this Celtic Cross on this the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, Ireland." Seated from left to right, Patrick Patterson, Principal of Roanoke Catholic School, David Bowers, Father Mark White, Pastor of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, and Bill Howard, President of the Father Lynch Division



## Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Division (LO01) — Hibernians in Action

Brothers from the Cunningham Division had the opportunity on April 30th to assist the John Paul II Assembly of the Knights of Columbus in bringing a dinner and Céili (song, music, dancing) to the residents and workers at the Boulder Crest Retreat Center in Bluemont, VA. Boulder Crest is a retreat center for veterans recovering from serious war injuries and their families. Brother Steve Toole and his band Capital Celtic provided the music, Brother Francis

## Herbert-Cady Division (AL01) Alexandria

Division founders Frank Herbert and Pat Cady were also founding members of the local Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). At our June meeting Andrew Healy of the Michael Collins Gaelic Football Club gave a brief history of the GAA. We learned the GAA was founded in the late 19th century by rebels to keep Irish customs, games and language alive, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel Thomas Croke became its first patron. GAA events frequently have a priest present. Hurling and Gaelic football are the most popular games. The Frank Herbert and Pat Cady Division continues to support the local GAA and invites other Virginia Divisions to promote Irish customs and sporting events. The Division will be supporting the annual Irish Festival on August 13th in Alexandria to raise money for the 2017 St. Patrick's Day parade. Please visit our website @ <http://www.aohalexandria.org/>

## Father Timothy Harris on the Rising

I want to share some thoughts with you on the monumental anniversary that is taking place throughout Ireland this year, marking the 100 years since the Easter Rebellion of 1916. Although my current assignment has taken me to Austria and away from Hibernian activities, it afforded me the opportunity to visit Ireland twice over the last year. I wish to reflect on these trips for a moment. I came back to America through Ireland, landing in Dublin on December 27, 2015. I spent a few days there and left on New Year's Eve. While in Dublin, I spent some time in Saint Mary's Pro Cathedral, passing through the Holy Door for the Year of Mercy, going to confession and attending Mass. It set the mood for my walk to the GPO where I sat outside, drank a coffee and thought about the sacrifice of not only the women and men of the 1916 Rising, but of those who gave so much over the centuries for a free Ireland. From the 12th century, when the English King Henry II "obtained" authority to invade Ireland until Easter Monday of 1916, the English oppressed the Emerald Isle in so many ways. And the Irish struggled to be free of their oppressors for 800 years. But what is so important to remember here is that one thing was at the heart of this struggle, especially from the 16th century on when Henry VIII came to power and began the persecutions of the Catholic Church: the Faith of Saint Patrick. Beginning at the end of the 1600s, the Penal Laws imposed by England against the Irish that followed the oppressive/hate filled actions of Cromwell, sought to destroy the Catholic Faith from Ireland forever.

The Irish fought for freedom, a freedom for all of Ireland, not just from oppressive living standards but especially for the freedom to live their Catholic Faith. Their faith was the heart and soul of their identity that allowed them to never surrender, never give up – no matter how bleak or dark the night might be. Their faith was a candle burning through the dark night, giving hope for a new morning. And no matter what atrocity the English committed against the Irish on their own island, they could not kill the Faith of Christ that burned in each Irish heart. I thought about this especially as I prepared to leave Ireland on the eve of the New Year – 2016, when the commemorations of the 1916



At St Patrick School (Spotsylvania), David Ivory with parents Danya & Mark Ivory and Meagher Division President Andy Link.



Our Lady of Hope, in Sterling, Casey Maguire with Principal Mary Beth Pittman, Fr. William Saunders, Cunningham Division Brother Bob Carmack.



Our Lady of Hope, in Sterling, Justin Kelly with Principal Mary Beth Pittman, Fr. William Saunders, Cunningham Division Brother Bob Carmack.



At St. Joseph School (Leesburg), Joaquin Del Rosario and Vinh Phan with Fr. Alberto Bueno and Cunningham Division President Jay McCarthy.



At Holy Cross Academy, in Fredericksburg, General Meagher Division Vice President Dan Mulhern presenting the award to Sean Sirks.

fight for freedom would soon begin. And I could not help but think, with the apparent lack of lived Catholicism in Ireland these days, that what the English were not able to take through force from the Irish, we have laid down without a fight. In fact, I wonder if the need arose once more for an organization like our own AOH to emerge and protect/defend our Catholic Clergy and the practice of our Faith, would it? Thankfully most of us will not be called to die for our Faith these days, but each of us is called to live for our Faith each day.

In January, I returned to Austria. Once more I flew through Dublin but only had a one overnight stay. I decided to spend it in Swords rather than head into Dublin again. I spent time walking around this beautiful small town again thinking about those Republican lads and lasses from a hundred years ago that were part of the Rising. Volunteers from the town were involved not only in the occupation of the buildings in Dublin, including the GPO, but also in raiding RIC barracks and disrupting railroad and communication lines. I walked through the cemetery at Saint Colmcille's Parish where some of these Irish patriots were buried. I prayed for the dream that they lived for and died for – a free Ireland: free of oppression and free to live in the Light of Christ. There is still much for Erie to be delivered from as we commemorate the Easter Rebellion of 1916. The three southern provinces of our Beloved Ireland are no longer under English oppression, but the North is still separated from us. And the faith of our sisters and brothers in Ireland is not where our ancestors would want it. They were willing to die for our Catholic faith, and because of this, we have received this precious gift of Salvation. Let us pray that during this year of remembering, we all remember there is nothing more Irish throughout the centuries than our Catholic Faith – Christ's gift of Salvation.

## Scholastic Awards

Each year several Virginia divisions award scholastic grants to Catholic elementary school students entering Catholic High Schools. Using guidelines provided by the respective divisions, the recipients are selected by the schools' faculty with input from the parish priests. This year the General Meagher Division and Colonel Cunningham Division provided a total of six scholastic grants to: Our Lady of Hope (Sterling) Casey Maguire and Justin Kelly; St. Joseph School (Leesburg) Joaquin Del Rosario and Vinh Phan; St Patrick School (Spotsylvania), David Ivory; Holy Cross Academy (Fredericksburg), St. Theresa School (Ashburn), Reilly Skorupski and Philip Haugh.



# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

In mid-June, your Historian's office was represented at the National History Day finals at the University of Maryland along with the very capable Ladies National Historian Marilyn Madigan, and National President Mary Hogan. Thanks to the assistance of the men and ladies of the Washington and Maryland State organizations we were able to handle all the presentations that we had to judge during the days of adjudication.

As usual, this historian came away totally blown away by the remarkable talent and creativity of the presentations, not to mention their historical accuracy. And these are school children in grades from 6 to 12. Our first prize of two round-trip tickets to Ireland was awarded to two students from Nebraska: Aubrey Bando and Elaina Madison. The Nebraska State AOH has been notified and will handle the presentation of the award to the young ladies. Mary Brao of Hamilton, MA, was awarded the LAOH second prize of a \$1,500 Scholarship Assistance Award.

The continued research for the sequel to Road to Rebellion is revealing some fantastic information and I can't wait to share it. One item is in this issue under Echoes of Irish History. Check it out.

## Kathleen Daly Clarke

We offer our sincere congratulations to the Hibernians of LAOH Division 8/9 of Suffolk County who just adopted Kathleen Daly Clarke as their namesake and patron. Kathleen was the wife of 1916 leader Thomas J. Clarke who was the man behind the Rising. Katty, as he called her, was also an important player in the drama that took place in 1916, having been a founding member of Cumann na mBan. However, her activities after the Rising were even more critical to the ultimate creation of the independent Republic of Ireland today. It was she who was chosen to safeguard the assets, personnel lists and documents of the IRB before the Rising. If the Rising didn't succeed, she was to pass them on to a man whom she would choose to lead the next Rising. She chose Michael Collins – enough said! The rest is history and the ladies were no small part of that era either.

As you may be aware, I spoke at the Centennial Commemoration in Dublin (my talk is on AOH.COM on the ABOUR HILL icon), and that was followed on Sunday by the government's huge parade. Leading the massive military units were five soldiers carrying huge white flags and on each was the name in bold black letters of the fighting contingents of 1916. They were: CUMMAN NA mBAN, the IRISH CITIZEN ARMY, THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS, na FIANNA HEIREANN, and, leading them all, the flag carrying the name HIBERNIAN RIFLES. I was so stunned and proud that the government remembered our brothers-in-arms that I just stood there tearing up. I never took a photo of that remarkable sight and I implore anyone who was there and who photographed that flag to please send me a copy of it for our archives.

I started penning this article just before heading for the National Convention in Atlantic City where I hoped to meet many State, County and Division Historians to determine the needs of our members with regard to keeping the tradition alive. That doesn't mean that if you couldn't be there, you can't participate. Drop me a line with your ideas and we'll discuss them. If you have any local history regarding our people and their contributions in your local area, share them with me and I'll share them with the rest of the Order and you will always get the credit as the author.

## I'm back!

The convention was extraordinary; from the opening Ice Breaker at poolside in Harrah's Hotel in Atlantic City to the final dinner. Everything was great and the best part for this writer was the chance to meet and greet brother and sister Hibernians; some who we haven't seen since the last Convention. You can read about it in the other sections of this issue, but I wanted to convey my sincere thanks to newly elected President McKay for considering me to continue in the role of National Historian; there's so much history left to tell!

I'll start that in this issue with the latest Echoes of Irish History. Until next time then, keep well, keep the faith and keep our traditions alive.

# Echoes of Irish History

by Mike McCormack

Now that we have seen most of the 1916 remembrances commemorated, you may think the story has ended. Nothing could be further from the truth; it has only just begun. The immediate aftermath of the Rising was a tragic time for the Irish people in that the British enacted Martial Law for six months. It was a time when they could not determine which of the Irish population had supported the Rising, so they considered all Irish guilty of conspiracy against the Crown and acted accordingly.

The significance of the Rising to the Irish people became personal. They may not have been aware of the coming of the Rising, but now they were beginning to see the reasons behind it. The British had destroyed a premiere Irish city – the second city of their own Empire – to get at the so-called rebels. In the process they had caused 254 civilians to be killed and 2,217 to be wounded. In addition, they had executed the noblest patriots of the generation – at least that is what they were now being called. Amid the rubble people prayed and Masses were said for the repose of the souls of the patriots who had given their lives for Ireland. Photos were sold to memorialize the executed leaders and assistance funds were set up for the families of those killed and imprisoned. The Irish people, who had been inspired to patriotism by the societies of the Gaelic Revival, now better understood the lessons they had absorbed over the years. Further, the courageous example set by the men and women of Easter Week had put an exclamation point on those lessons. Then on August 3, the British hanged Sir Roger Casement!

When Sir Roger Casement had landed in Kerry, it was his intent to halt the rising since the arms shipment he was bringing was only half what was expected. After his capture, he pleaded with intelligence officers in London to allow him to communicate with Volunteer leader MacNeill to prevent a rising in which his comrades would be slaughtered. According to Michael McDowell in the Sunday Business Post, March 27, 2016, "Casement's interrogators intimated to him that they thought it better to allow a rising to happen so that its perpetrators could be excised from the British body politic. There, if you want to find it, was perfidious Albion at its most cynical."

Britain's perfidious parliament had also altered the promised Home Rule Bill that so many had endorsed and worked for, making it little more than a useless document, verifying the position of the patriots that England could never be trusted to free Ireland without a fight. A new defiant opposition was born among the people.

Thousands were in jails – the innocent as well as the patriots – many suffering in the Frongoch concentration camp in Wales. The goal now was to get them out so they could continue the struggle and this time the people would support them. That support would be costly and require a great deal of sacrifice, but the people were fired up enough to give it a try. And that they did – to their everlasting credit – but what lay ahead even they could not imagine. As Martial Law was proclaimed, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Ireland, General John Maxwell, declared, "I am going to ensure that there will be no treason whispered here for 100 years." With that bold statement, he began the process that would drive Britain out of most of Ireland for the first time in 750 years, for the Rising had shaped the course of Irish history for much of the remaining century.

The military executions of the leaders whom most knew as merchants, musicians and poets, seemed extreme as there was not a military man among them. But it was the execution of a beloved labor leader that at last sickened the public when they learned how James Connolly died. Loyalist papers said he was shot in a chair, but Rev. McCarthy, who knelt to give Connolly the last rights, revealed: *Connolly was strapped to a chair but his wounds were so bad that his chair toppled over. Again it was put against the wall, but still Connolly fell on his face. Then a stretcher was brought out and Connolly was strapped to it. The stretcher was placed in a slanting position against the wall and the volley rang out. The image of the wounded Connolly, being so painfully treated just so he could receive his majesty's lead infuriated the public and lit the fuse for the War of Independence that was to come.*

Tom Clarke was right when he told his wife on the eve of his execution, "My Comrades and I believe we have struck the first successful blow for freedom ... it will not come today or tomorrow, and between this and freedom, Ireland will go through Hell, but she will never lie down again."

# Minnesota

## Shamrock Division Inducts Nine New Members

On a fine spring day, April 30, the Minnesota Shamrock Division met to celebrate Founders Day, install new members to our Order and award scholarships.

Established 36 years ago, the Shamrock Division has been celebrating Founders Day annually at St. Thomas Church in Jessenland, Minnesota. Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish settlement in Minnesota, gives a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of our Founders Day. The day was well attended by our local members and clergy.

Division President Tim Halloran oversaw induction of nine new members through the Induction Ceremony. New members included: Joe Fahey, of Belle Plaine; Joe Moriarty, of Jordan; Brent Shaughnessy, of Belle Plaine; Sean Moriarty of Jordan; Ashton Pankonin, of Belle Plaine; Marty Fahey, of Belle Plaine; James O'Brien, of Le Sueur; Rhett McSweeney, of Mpls; and Kevin O'Brien, of Shakopee. Following the Induction Ceremony, Fr. Hession celebrated Catholic Mass. Pictures and more information about the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our web site at [hibernians-shamrock.com](http://hibernians-shamrock.com)



**New Hibernians: Back row: Joe Moriarty, Sean Moriarty, Rhett McSweeney, Kevin O'Brien and Brent Shaughnessy. Front row: Bruce Kelly, Marty Fahey, James O'Brien, Joe Fahey, Ashton Pankonin and member Scott McDonald.**

# New York

## Dutchess County Division 1 reenacts 1916 Proclamation reading

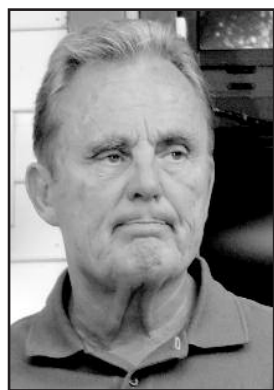
At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2016, members of AOH Div 1, Dutchess County, led by President Stephen Ren, along with some family members, assembled on the steps of the General Post Office, Poughkeepsie, New York.

They were there to reenact the reading of the 1916 Irish Proclamation of Independence, just as Padraig Pearse did at the GPO on Sackville Street, 100 years ago. Proud of their ancient heritage, and wearing their parade sashes; they paused to remember this very special centenary day in Irish history. They remembered, too, the signatories of that proclamation, Thomas J. Clarke, Sean MacDiarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P.H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, and Joseph Plunkett; all who proudly went to their death, so that Ireland might be free.

To read the Proclamation, the Division chose the Hon. William J. Schimpf, himself an active Past President, and son of a Bantry woman, who, as a young girl, actually grew up in Ireland, during the Easter Rebellion. It was a beautiful day, for this memorable occasion, and the event was attended by many passersby, some staying to hear those meaningful words. Here in America, we proudly boast of our freedom and independence from the hands of a tyrannical people and government; some 240 years ago. Yet, for the people of Ireland, freedom was unheard of, until 100 years ago, in modern times, if you will. We, the sons and daughters of that revolution, do well to remember that date in Irish history, and these words by poet William Butler Yeats, "Wherever green is worn, or changed, changed utterly; a terrible beauty is born."



Dutchess County Division 1 members assembled to read the Proclamation.



## Brooks stands up for Christmas in Utica

On May 1, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham presided over a Mass to celebrate the 175th anniversary of St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Church in Utica, NY. The pews were full and the Choir was second to none. More than 250 turned out for the celebration luncheon with top-notch speeches. One of the high points of the celebration was the presentation of an award for evangelism to AOH Utica Vice President and city Fire Chief Russ Brooks by Fr. Richard Dellos. Brooks held firm against a national atheist media onslaught in 2014 seeking removal of a sign on the Shepherd Place Fire House that proclaimed "Happy Birthday Jesus, We Love You" The homemade sign had been placed there by the firefighters

residing in and working there for the previous eight years. Chief Brooks gutsy stand was an inspiration to all Christians and Hibernians.

## Doing the honors



New York's Nassau County Division 17's Honor Guard presented the colors for our national anthem on Irish Heritage Night at Citi Field for the New York Mets game. From left, Michael Diamond, JPP Joseph Moran, Roy Doyle, Marshall Michael McGovern, Financial Sect. William Holtmeyer, Mal McGarry, Sentinel John Deely, George Innes, Recording Sect. Greg Schmalenberger and Bill Philips.

## Rochester AOH in Limerick

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, the Colonel Patrick O'Rourke AOH Division 7 of Rochester, New York, placed a commemorative wreath at the 1916 Memorial in Limerick City, Ireland. The initiative was spearheaded by the division's FFAI Committee. Edward "Ned" Daly, youngest divisional commander during the Easter Rising, was a Limerick native, as was his uncle, John Daly, the Fenian Mayor of Limerick. The placing of the wreath was conducted by Rochester's FFAI Chair Patrick S. Miller and an excerpt can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R6Eaf2Q4-A> or

<http://www/facebook.com/aohffai>.



# North Carolina



**Dr. Patrick Wadden, Belmont Abbey College, Brother Coleman O Clabaigh, O.S.B., Glenstal Abbey, Co. Limerick, Ireland and members of the St. Brendan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at Irish Lecture at Belmont Abbey.**

## Hibernians support Irish lecture at Belmont Abbey College

Members of the St. Brendan the Navigator Division in Huntersville, North Carolina, and Sons of Erin Division in Charlotte, N.C., provided financial support and attended two Irish lectures at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, NC.

The first lecture, "Saints, Shrines & Sinners in Late Medieval Ireland," was presented by Brother Coleman O Clabaigh, O.S.B. of Glenstal Abbey in Co. Limerick, Ireland. He spoke of pilgrimages and devotions in Ireland to relics and burial sites of Irish martyrs throughout its persecuted history.

The second lecture, "Seamus Heaney, Ireland and the Gospels," was presented by Prof. Richard Russell of Baylor University. Professor Russell discussed how poems, written by Irish poet, playwright and 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature recipient, Seamus Heaney, were impacted by his early Catholic upbringing. — Submitted by NC State VP Steve McEnaney

## Supporting Scouting in Charlotte

In March, Dan Callaghan, a member of the Sons of Erin Division 1 of the AOH in Charlotte, NC, presented the Bishop Michael J Begley Award for the year 2016 to Scoutmaster Carlos Martinez and Senior Patrol Leader Nicholas Martinez, of Troop 958 of the Boy Scouts of America.

Along with the plaque, awarded at the 2016 Charlotte Catholic Camporee, was a gift card to the Troop to show our support for Scouting and the Catholic faith. This was the 5th annual presentation of this award. The award was created by the late Brother Tim Lawson, Past NC State President, charter member of the Sons of Erin Division and the Division's first President. The Division continues his dedication to Scouting and the AOH.

On June 25, Sons of Erin Division, and Ladies of the Lough, Division 2 LAOH, of Huntersville, gathered to remember their deceased Brother and Sister Hibernians at the 3rd Annual Mass for Deceased Members and family members. It was well attended, a luncheon followed.



# political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, first let me congratulate all the newly elected members of the National Board, specifically Worthy President Judge McKay, and thank the former members of the board, in particular Worthy Past President Moore, for their service. The position of leadership of the oldest and largest Irish Catholic Organization is a great responsibility and often daunting task. We should be thankful that we continue to be blessed with wise and committed Brothers willing to take on the challenges of service to the Order at the sacrifice of their own personal and family time. Please be sure to thank them when you see them.

With the upcoming Presidential election we are entering an exciting time for our country, but also a period of caution for us as Hibernians. It must be noted that our constitution urges us to "encourage civic participation," chief among which is the exercise of the greatest gift in the world, the one our ancestors came to this country for and fought to protect, the vote. However, we must also note that Article XVII Section 6 states, "No member, Board or Division shall support or oppose any person for public office in the name of the Order." Article XVII Section 6 raises some serious challenges in the age of Facebook and Twitter; we have to be mindful that once something is posted or tweeted it is out there for everyone and never goes away. Sadly, there are a few people who are not well disposed to the Order or its mission who would love nothing better than to seize on an inadvertent post or tweet and use it for their own ends. Please make sure someone on your board is accountable and monitoring your web assets. Freedom of speech is one of our great freedoms, but be mindful that if you use your association with the Order in your signature block or post on an AOH web page it can now be construed as more than your opinion. Let's keep our focus on the issues of concern to the Order that transcends individuals and parties (Irish Reunification, an equitable U.S. immigration law for the Irish, Right to Life) and advocate for them.

Turning to other concerns, the recent decision by the voters of the United Kingdom to exit the European Union, referred to as "Brexit," is a matter of grave concern as regard the fragile peace in Northern Ireland. I do not wish to stray into the provenance of our worthy FFAI chair, but from a U.S. political standpoint it has been clear that there has been a growing (and misinformed) sense of complacency among U.S. leaders regarding Northern Ireland. The likelihood of the imposition of a "hard border" and the fact that the economic disruption caused by a Brexit will fall disproportionately on an already precarious Northern Irish economy, the potential to dramatically undermine the common political misperception that the Troubles in Northern Ireland are behind us. History teaches us that when the economy in Northern Ireland experiences decline, as experts are predicting will be a side effect of Brexit, discrimination in opportunity increase as jobs decrease. We need the MacBride principles to be implemented and enforced now more than ever to safeguard against that possibility and its tragic side effects. Please contact your state elected representatives and educate them that the struggle for freedom and equality is not over in Northern Ireland and that we need them behind the MacBride Principles now more than ever.

Finally, if your elected Congressional Representative has not signed on to the resolution to rename "Reservation 302" to Robert Emmett Park please do so. This should be a political "no brainer," especially since the only unique feature in the park is a statue of this great patriot who was inspired by our own American Revolution and the current designation of "Reservation 302" is of no descriptive or sentimental value to anyone; that this has to be a matter of more than two minutes deliberation should sadden us. Contact your Representative and ask him/her to contact Rep. Joe Crowley's office to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 4564 at (202) 225-3965 or email his Deputy Chief of Staff, Jeremy Woodrum, at [jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov)

# Nebraska

## Omaha Hibernians greeted in Fr. Flanagan's Galway hometown

On March 25, a few dedicated members of the AOH Father Flanagan Division from Omaha, Nebraska, went on a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Father Edward Flanagan. Father Flanagan was born near the village of Ballymoe, County Galway, Ireland, and is currently undergoing the process of attaining sainthood due to his wonderful work in starting the internationally known Boys Town. The Father Flanagan Division has been there every step of the canonization process from the initial investigations to prayer services. We respectfully request that all Hibernians will pray that Father Flanagan will attain Beatification and ultimately Canonization.

On our arrival at Ballymoe, it seemed that the entire population of 76 residents of Ballymoe was on hand to greet the Hibernians on that historic day. It is also interesting to note that Eamon Ceannt, one of the seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation, was also from Ballymoe. During our Easter Rising Centennial Commemoration tour of Ireland, we members of the Father Flanagan Division witnessed the parade in Dublin as well as visiting the former residence of Eamon Ceannt, Padraig Pearse, and a host of other important sites. — Larry Bradley



# Pennsylvania

The Irish Heritage Society of Central Pennsylvania, together with Dauphin County, Division 1 "Bobby Sands," annually host a memorial ceremony at a Catholic cemetery in Liverpool, PA. Both organizations now gather to honor the Irish men who lost their lives building the canals along the Susquehanna River. This memorial ceremony began in 1990 through the efforts of AOH brother Richard Murphy who is also the President of the IHS. A fellowship lunch follows at a local American Legion.

This year the original marker for the site was restored by IHS and AOH brother David Reynolds. Financial support for David's effort was received from both Dauphin County, Division 1 and The Pennsylvania AOH State Board.

An original poem articulating the plight of the Irish canal workers, authored by IHS member Yvonne M. Murphy, wife of Richard Murphy, commemorates the brave Irishmen buried in Liverpool:

## The Irish Canal Digger

I set sail from Liverpool, England leaving behind all the ones I loved so dear...

It was the springtime of 1827. With some doubt in me mind...

I thought: "Maybe I should have stayed back home in my dear Ireland..."

I could have gone to the caeli to sing and dance with me friends.

I could have spent the winter nights in the local pub cracking the jokes and bein' merry just sitting 'round the turf fire.

And oh, I thought...

whenever it was that I took a chill or had a sore head, why me dear mother would be there to console me...

and all the neighbors and their wee ones would stop by our door and ask how I was feelin'."

But instead, I left me home to make a fortune across the sea in that great land all call America.

Once I arrived, I took up the pick and spade to dig a canal

Along a wide river they called the Susquehanna.

I labored from morn 'til night with scarcely enough to eat

Nor a warm place to rest.

But oh! It warmed me heart to think and sing

About me beautiful Erin Isle, the place of me birth, me home.

I felt so alone in me misery when the fever came.

There was such a longin' for me Irish mother and me Ireland home.

(I knew I would never see the green hills and the lakes so grand.)

So with a prayer on me lips and Ireland in my heart,

I begged dear Jesus to take me home.

It was the wintertime of 1828 when I closed my eyes and I entered into eternity here in Penn's Woods

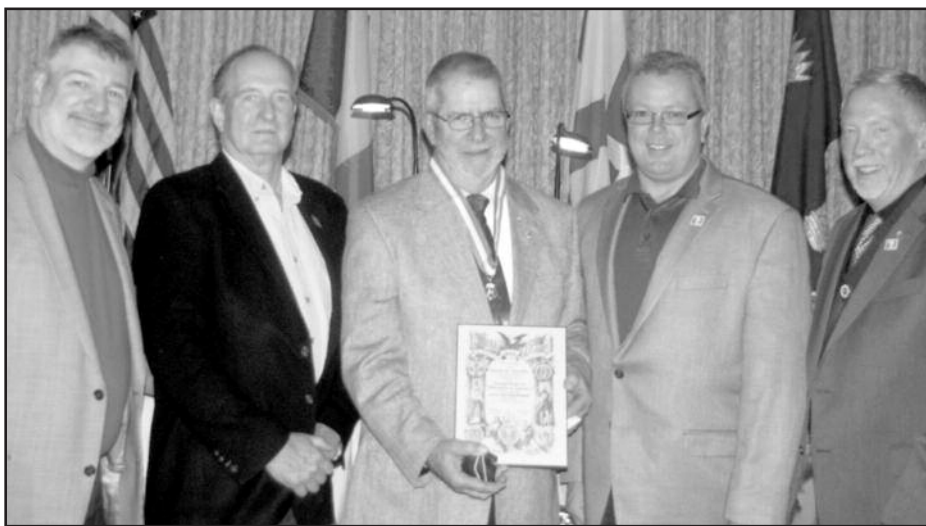
in a place called Liverpool, along the banks of the winding Susquehanna.



Hibernians gather at restored marker.



Members of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 3, Doylestown delivered a trailer of food to St. John's Kitchen in Ottsville. The Division buys food for the needy. The brothers do two events a year, purchasing pallets of non-perishable items and dividing them among the Bucks County Housing Authority, New Britain Food Larder and St. John's Kitchen in Ottsville – all in Bucks County, PA. The last delivery of our latest purchase from Weis Market is shown here being delivered to St. John's.



## Donnelly awarded Life Membership

Denny Donnelly was awarded his Life Membership in the Order at his Division. Denny is a member of Sean MacBride Division 32 in Carnegie, PA. Denny is a great Hibernian who was a Past Division, County and State President as well as Past National Director. Pictured with Denny were, from left, Steve Kurpiewski, Allegheny County Board President; Ed Halligan, PA State President; Denny Donnelly; Danny O'Connell, National Board Treasurer (newly elected Vice President); and Bob Kelly, Division 32 President.

## New Mailing Address

for National Secretary

1120 Bloomfield Avenue

P.O. Box 539 (07007)

West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

(973) 575-0050

[jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com)



The proceeds from our annual golf outing and several other fund raisers supports this important Division 3 program. Members of Division 3 in Doylestown, PA, along with the manager and assistant manager of Weis Markets show off their cash register tape measuring 26'- 4", after purchasing food for the hungry of Bucks County. They conduct the drive twice annually, and deliver the food to the Bucks County Housing Authority, the New Britain Food Larder and St. John's Kitchen, all in Bucks Co.

# A Resolution

**Whereas**...the Ancient Order of Hibernians are committed "To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland," and

**Whereas**...in a recent election, the United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union, and

**Whereas**...in that same election, 55.8% of the people of Northern Ireland indicated that they wish to remain in the European Union, and

**Whereas**...reunification of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland—a member state of the European Union—would facilitate the clearly expressed desire of the people of Northern Ireland to remain members of the European Union, and

**Whereas**...the Good Friday Agreement and the 1998 Northern Ireland Act recognize the right of the people of Northern Ireland to vote to reunify with the Republic of Ireland, and

**Whereas**...a United Kingdom no longer within the European Union raises several threats to the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Northern Ireland that would undermine the relative peace that has existed since the Good Friday agreement was implemented, including the prospect of the imposition of a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and

**Whereas**...the Hibernians, trusting in the wisdom of the Irish people, do not see a vote on reunification as "divisive" but rather a means by which people of different opinions may express their views peacefully and arrive at consensus,

**Now let it be, and it is hereby resolved** that the Ancient Order of Hibernians support the right of the people of Northern Ireland to determine their future through a border poll on reunification. The Recording Secretary is asked to send copies of this resolution suitably engrossed to the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to the United States. Additional engrossed copies are to be sent to the United States Secretary of State, the United States Ambassadors to the Republic of Ireland, the United States Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, and the Irish National caucus.

# A Resolution

**Whereas**...the Ancient Order of Hibernians is strongly committed "to aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence", and

**Whereas**...commemorating the centenary of the Easter Rising, and the ideals and spirit of 1916 remind us that the right to national freedom and sovereignty proclaimed by the Easter Week leaders is still denied to Irishmen and Irishwomen in six counties of the North remaining under British rule, and

**Whereas**...the "One Ireland One Vote" initiative calls for a new referendum allowing one all-Ireland vote on unification, and in which the votes of all Irish people are counted together equally, and

**Whereas**...such a vote would advance true national self-determination, and

**Whereas**...a sectarian Unionist majority in the North holds a veto on national self-determination and could nullify the vote of the Irish people outside the six counties of the North and ,

**Whereas**...there can be no more legitimate means of advocating complete independence, than petitions, public forums, debates and referendum in one-on-one advocacy and a citizen's initiative, and

**Whereas**...One Ireland One Vote began in the North and is now gaining support across Ireland as a peaceful alternative strategy to revive feelings about a united Ireland and rebuild momentum towards that aim, and

**Whereas**...the Good Friday Agreement recognizes the right to pursue Irish reunification by peaceful means, and the One Ireland One Vote initiative can only help build support for a united Ireland and provide those who are deeply committed to a united Ireland through peaceful means,

**Now let it be, and it is hereby resolved that** the Ancient Order of Hibernians welcomes the One Ireland, One Vote initiative and commends this petition to our members as being fully consistent with the Hibernian policies in support for Freedom-for-all-Ireland. The Recording Secretary is asked to send copies of this resolution suitably engrossed to the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to the United States. Additional engrossed copies are to be sent to the United States Secretary of State, the United States Ambassadors to the Republic of Ireland, the United States Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, and the Irish National caucus.

# New York

Best wishes to Dutchess County Division 1 who will be hosting their 2016 Neilson Day at the grave of United Irishmen leader Samuel Nielson, in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery on Rt. 9 in Poughkeepsie on Sept 24 at 11 am. Program will start with Troop 86 color guard, an invocation by a minster, a brief history of Nielson by AOH historian Matt Fitzgerald and a rendition of 'Kevin Barry' by the incredibly talented Maire McVicker. After a pipe band procession, attendees will adjourn to Mahoney's Irish restaurant for a 'pay as you go' lunch at Noon. For information, call Michael Quinn at (845) 592-0147.

## Deadline for Sept.-Oct. issue

All articles and photos are due no later than  
September 1

# AOH Constitutional Amendments

The following amendments to the AOH Constitution, and resolutions, at left, were approved by the AOH delegates at the 2016 National Convention.

## REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

The following report and recommendation is being submitted with respect to proposed amendments to the National Constitution. At the direction of National President Brendan Moore, a committee was formed to review the proposed amendments. The Committee included former National President George Cough, former State President Dan Devinney and myself. Having reviewed the proposed amendments, the Committee makes the following Report and Recommendations:

1. Add Chairman of Veteran Affairs Committee to Article VIII, Section 4:

### **ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS OF EACH JURISDICTION**

**STATE AND DISTRICT: Section 4.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain, (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Organizer, Historian, Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Freedom For All Ireland Committee, Chairman of Pro-Life, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Immigration Committee and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee. All are to serve at the pleasure of the State or District President.

2. Add Chairman of Pro-Life, Chairman of Political Education Committee and Chairman of Veterans Affairs Committee to Article VIII, Section 6

### **ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS OF EACH JURISDICTION**

**COUNTY: Section 6.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain, (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Organizer, Historian, Chairman of Charities, Mission Fund and Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Pro-Life, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Immigration Committee and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee, a Freedom for All Ireland Chairman shall also be appointed by the County President and the members of the Committee shall be named by the Division Presidents of the County, pursuant to Section 8 of this Article. All are to serve at the pleasure of the County President.

3. Amend Article XVI to allow buildings to be owned by corporate forms other than a corporation:

### **ARTICLE XVI**

#### **CORPORATION OR BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS**

**REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS: Section 1.** It shall be unlawful for any jurisdiction of the Order to own, lease, manage or operate a clubhouse or hold real estate in the name of the jurisdiction or the Order. Any jurisdiction that owns, leases, manages or operates a clubhouse or holds real estate must form a separate legal entity business corporation under the laws of its respective State for such purposes. This includes, but is not limited to business corporations, not-for-profit corporations and limited liability companies. The jurisdiction prior to establishing the entity incorporation must submit its articles of incorporation and corporate by-laws or similar organizational documents based on the entity to the National President for review. The National President shall review the organizational documents articles of incorporation and corporate by-laws for the sole and limited purpose of insuring that the entity corporation formed is a legitimate and bona fide legal entity corporation, entirely separate and apart from the jurisdiction and the Order. The elected officers of the jurisdiction which forms an entity corporation under this Article shall be responsible for compliance with all the conditions for incorporation herein, and shall insure that the entity corporation formed is and remains a separate entity from the jurisdiction of the Order in level activities in their own states.

**CORPORATION OR BUILDING ASSOCIATION INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION: Section 2.** A clubhouse or social hall owned or operated by an entity corporation formed under this Article shall not be permitted to use the name AOH, Hibernian Hall, or any similar variation without the written approval of the National President and upon proof that the entity corporation, at its own expense, has named each superior jurisdiction of the Order as an additional insured on its liability insurance policy binder or certificate of liability insurance. The approval of an entity corporation to use the name AOH, Hibernian Hall or other similar variation under this Article shall continue so long as the entity corporation submits to the National President annually written proof that each superior jurisdiction continues to be named additional insured on its binder or certificate of liability insurance policy.

**RECORDS: Section 3.** The entity corporation formed under this Article shall file annual tax returns in its own name as may be required by law, and shall keep books and records separate and apart from the books and records of the jurisdiction of the Order.

Respectfully Submitted

On behalf of the Constitutional Committee

By: /s/ PSturdy

Patrick R. Sturdy

National Legal Counsel



# Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Thugamar cuairt ar Texas an Meitheamh seo. *We visited Texas this June. Bhaineamar an-sult as. We enjoyed it a lot. Stát ollmhór is ea é, dar ndóigh, agus ba dheacair go leor an chuid is mó de a fheiceáil. It's a huge state, of course, and it would be plenty difficult to sé most of it. Ach chonaiceamar mórán de mar sin féin, faoi cheann deich lá. But we saw a lot of it just the same, in ten days.*

Ceann de na háiteanna ba dheise, dar linn, sin San Antonio. *One of the nicest places, in our opinion, is SA. In áiteanna eile, is léir gurb iad Gearmánaigh agus Seicigh a chur fúthu iontu, mar tá a rian fós láidir ann. In other places, it's clear that it was Germans and Czecks who settled in them, as their influence is still strong there. Ní fhacamar rian na nÉireannach chomh léir sin, ach níl amhras ach go mbíonn tithe tábhairne Éireannacha i dTexas mar gach áit eile ar domhain. We didn't see the influence of the Irish as clearly as that, but there's no doubt that there are Irish pubs in Texas just like everywhere else on Earth. Ní raibh deis againn cuairt a thabhairt orthu, ach tá cúpla dá leithéid cois na habhann, ar an "Riverwalk." We didn't have a chance to visit them, but there are a few such pubs at the riverside, on the Riverwalk. Seo an cosán ar an dá thaobh de abhainn a bhí ar tí a bheith clúdaithe mar shéarach sna fichidí, ach sábháladh í. This is a path on both sides of a river which was about to be covered over and made into a sewer in the twenties, but was saved. Tá sé sé mhíle ó cheann go ceann, agus ní fhacamar ach píosa gearr de. It's six miles from end to end, and we only saw a short piece of it. Tá sé níos ísle ná na sráideanna, agus san áit a rabhamarna, tá óstlanna arda is mórán crann ar an dá thaobh, agus mar sin, bhí sé fionnuair, fiú go raibh sé an-te ar an sráid. It's lower down than the streets, and in the place where we were, there are tall hotels and lots of trees on both sides, and so it was cool, even though it was very hot on the street. Tá báid tacsáí ann, bialanna, siopaí, srl. There are taxi boats, restaurants, shops, etc. Níl sé díreach, tá mórán droichead ann, agus bíonn radhairc dheasa le feiscint i gcónaí. It's not straight, there are lots of bridges, and there are always pretty views to be seen.*

Ní raibh sé i bhfad ón áit is cáiliúla i dTexas, an Alamo. *It was not far from the most famous place in Texas, the Alamo. Dar ndóigh, thugamar cuairt air. Of course, we visited it.*

Ar an taobh istigh, tá bratacha ó gach stát agus gach tír as a dtáinig laochra na catha deireanaí sin. *On the inside, there are flags from every state and every country from which the heroes of that final battle came. Ina measc, tá bratach na hÉireann. Among them is the Irish flag. Tháinig ar a laghad deichniúr de chosantóirí na hAlamo ó Éirinn. At least ten of the defenders of the Alamo came from Ireland.*

Bhí, agus tá fós, an Eaglais Chaitliceach an-tábhachtach i dTexas. *The Catholic Church was, and still is, very important in Texas. Is fusa Aifreann as Spáinnis a fháil ná ceann as Béarla, ach bhíodh Texas ina chuid de Meicsiceo tráth dá raibh, dar ndóigh. It's easier to find a mass in Spanish than one in English, but Texas used to be a part of Mexico once upon a time, of course. Bhíodh an Alamo féin ina misean Spáinneach ar dtús. The Alamo was originally a Spanish mission. Tá trí cinn eile lasmuigh den chathair. There are three other ones outside of the city. Chonaiceamar ceann díobh seo, San Jose. We saw one of these, SJ. Tá sé fós go hálainn. It is still beautiful.*

Chonaiceamar scannán faoi na Meiriceánaigh bhundúchasacha agus na Tejanos ansin. *We saw a movie about the Native Americans and the Tejanos there. Bhí sé go deas agus an-suimiúil, ach bhí rud amháin ag dó na geirbe orm. It was nice and very interesting, but one thing was really bugging mé. Ait le rá, luadh rud frith-Chaitliceach ann! Strange to say, something anti-Catholic was mentioned in it! Dúradh, ag tagairt do Mhaighdean Ghuadalupe, gur ghlac an Eaglais isteach bandia dá nIndiach. It was siad, referring to Our Lady of Guadalupe, that the Church adopted an Indian goddess. Ní fíor sin, mar is eol daoibh. That's not true, as you know. Ach bíonn a leithéid de scéal ann faoi Naoimh na hEaglaise go minic. But such stories about the Saints are common. Deirtear gur bandia na nÉireannach í Bríd. People say Brigit was an Irish goddess. Bhíodh bandia leis an ainm céanna ann, cinnte, ach ní hionann iad ach oiread. There used to be a goddess with the same name, truly, but they are not the same either. Ní dhéanfadh Críostaithe a leithéid. Christians wouldn't do such a thing. Ach creidtear na bréaga i gcónaí, faraor. But people always believe the lies, alas.*

Is iomaí rud fíor a d'fhoghlaimíomar faoi stair Texas, ámh, agus chonaiceamar an áit a bhfuair siad neamhspleáchas, freisin: San Jacinto. *We learned a lot of true things about Texas history, however, and we saw the place where they won independence, too: SJ. Tá sé lasmuigh de Houston, agus tá an séadchomhartha neamhspleách cloiche is airde ar domhain ansin. It's outside of H, and the largest free-standing stone monument in the world is there. I bhfad níos airde ná na scaglanna is riganna ola nach bhfuil ró-fhada uaidh! A lot taller than the refineries and oil rigs which aren't too far from it!*

Texas abú! *Up Texas!*

## To the Editor...

### Remember 1918

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Digest, brother Greg Sean Canning began his report with a list of events following the 1916 Easter Rising and ended by saying "the events of 1916 will never be completed until ... all 32 counties are united under a democratic and free Irish republic."

For that to happen, the first and most important historical consequence of the Easter rising and the one which is at the heart of "The Troubles" since then, needs to be highlighted. That is the overwhelming Irish republican victory in the British general elections in 1918, which led several months later to the historic 32 county independent sovereign Irish Republic. That all-Ireland republic came about from the will of the Irish electorate in their exercise of true democracy which result was inspired by the martyrs of 1916. Yet, this most important event was omitted in some recent centenary commemoration texts.

Exposing the truth about that all-Ireland republic and the denial of democracy in 1918 Ireland may be the key today to Irish freedom and a lasting peace.

Omission of these specific events prevents inquiries into the fate of that 32 county Irish Republic, its first Dail Eireann and the Irish courts of law established as a result of

"all legitimate means [and] the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence" from Britain. The powers that be, both north and south, do not want inquiries into the fate of that 32 county republic and try to keep it from the light of day. Keeping the truth from the casualties of British mis-rule keeps them from exposing that injustice and working to achieve true freedom and true democracy.

It was the British rejection of the democratic will of the Irish people that led to the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 and the Treaty of 1921 both of which suppressed the fledgling 32 county republic with the "Government of Southern Ireland" 26 county "Free State" and the six county sectarian statelet. Both partitions are the result of a foreign government in a decisively undemocratic modis operandi.

The British denial of democracy in Ireland was the direct cause of the war in Easter week 1916, the war of independence 1919-21 and the Irish civil war 1922. The related violence has ebbed and flowed since then. As Padraic Pearse predicted, Ireland unfree will never be at peace.

In October 1920, Eamonn deValera, President of the Irish Republic (1919-1926) sent a letter to the U.S. government. Commenting on the election results of 1918 deValera stated that "to pretend that absolute unanimity must be obtained, or to refuse to accept as final in determining the will of the nation such a majority as that in Ireland, is to cut at the

foundation of democracy itself, for democracy in the last analysis stands on the principle of majority rule." Further referring to the electoral mandate of the people he concluded by saying: "To repudiate the evidence of the ballot box, the most civilized method of declaring the national will, and to demand that as a condition of recognition the bullet be more effectively used, is to introduce into international relations an inhuman principle of immorality. Further bloodshed would not now more decisively prove the national will of the people of Ireland, but a refusal of recognition now would invite it."

We often hear 1916 is still unfinished business. True democracy is the only legitimate means to achieve lasting peace in a 32-county Ireland. The echo of the democratic will and aspirations of the Irish people must be heard once again. What better way than in the centenary year of the 1918 elections, with an all-Ireland referendum on Irish sovereignty.

A new Ireland based on true democratic principles can be the basis for reconciliation and a system of government in which all citizens, creeds and traditions would be represented equally with authority distributed at provincial and subsidiary levels in a federal democratic republic.

Respectfully,  
Vic Sackett  
Division 8 FFAI  
Nassau County, NY

## in memoriam

### Ray Prendergast

AOH Division 32 in Illinois lost their president, Ray Prendergast, suddenly, on June 17, and VP Kevin O'Malley has assumed the presidency as of this writing. Ray, 62, is survived by his wife, Adele, and 4 sons. At his wake June 20 an estimated 1,500 people attended with mourners standing in line from 30 to 90 minutes. In attendance was Division 59 President Joe McGovern and at the massive funeral the next day was Chicago Consul General of Ireland Orla McBreen.

Trustee John O'Donnell said, "Ray was a retired software executive who poured all his energies into AOH and his shoes will be difficult to fill. He inspired, organized, prompted us and planned ahead, so now Kevin and the Trustees have to keep it moving in the directions in which Ray led us for his two and a half years as President."

Ray will be missed, but not forgotten by all who knew this dynamic individual who has gone to his heavenly reward.

### Mary Holt Moore

How can you say farewell to an icon – you can't, especially in the case of Mary Holt Moore. A prominent leader in the Irish-American community, she peacefully went to her

heavenly reward in Tir na nOg on July 13 after 88 years. She was Grand Marshal of the NYC 230th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1991 – only the second woman to ever lead that prestigious march. She served as president of the Bronx Gaelic League and taught the language, was inducted into the North American Feis Commission's Irish Cultural Hall of Fame and was also an expert in Irish history, literature and music, as well as a fierce advocate of Irish culture. She was also an instructor of traditional céilí dancing.

Raised in the Bronx, Mary was one of five children born to Charles and Ann O'Rourke Holt. She graduated from Hunter College, where she founded the Hunter College Gaelic Society, and received her master's of science degree from the College of New Rochelle. She worked as a special education teacher in the Bronx for decades and raised eight children with her husband, Thomas Moore, a retired FDNY chief who died in 2012. Recently residing in Pearl River, NY, she was the mother of Tommy, Kevin (Kerri), Maureen (Roger) Slattery, Cathleen (Kevin) McNulty, Dermot (Joan), Patrick, Kerry Scriven and Eileen (Bobby) Fitzgerald. Adored grandmother of 21 and great-grandmother of Maureen, she is survived by her brother, Frank Holt, and sister, Ann Reilly. We shall never see her likes again. Ar Dheis í Go Raibh a Anam.

# Ladies hibernian news

## President's Message...

Patricia O'Connell



As I begin this journey of the next two years with you as the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, I ask each LAOH member to renew her commitment to meet the challenges we, the National Board and the Membership, face as we continue to build on, strengthen, and advance the purpose of our organization as stated in our LAOH National Constitution. As your chief executive officer, I commit to work with purpose and to display a positive, confident attitude. I will stand strong in my support of the newly elected officers and I will hold them accountable for adhering to the duties of their office.

I am asking the elected officers, the past national presidents, and those persons whom I appoint to carry out specific duties to work together as a Leadership Team. These Leadership Team members are being asked to build trust in each other as we work together in a transparent mode modeling sound, timely communication with each other and with you, the members, within our organizational structure.

I will be asking these Leadership Team Members to examine in their areas of responsibility what are we asking the membership to do, how do we support the membership in doing what we ask them to do, does this action meet with or fit with our organizational purpose or are there new initiatives or activities that should be considered to meet our organizational purpose.

My hope for this 2016-2018 Term of Office is that our Hibernian Membership will continue to be grounded and refreshed in living our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. I intend to work with you, the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and with the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America in a collaborative manner. I will pray each day to St. Brigid and St. Patrick, our patron saints, to safeguard our membership.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the LAOH membership to thank the New Jersey Convention Committee and the National LAOH and AOH Liaisons for their work in the planning and hosting of the 98th Biennial National AOH-LAOH Convention in Atlantic City New Jersey.

## Message from Mary Hogan

When the week started, I was your National President. The gavel has now been passed to Patricia O'Connell from Illinois, our new National President. Congratulations Pat. Each president brings her own talents and abilities to the office, so please give your support to our new president and we as an Order will continue to flourish. I am very thankful for all the support and encouragement that I have received over the past two years; I was overwhelmed by the amount of my sisters personally expressed their thanks to me at the convention.

I am very proud of the all the things that were accomplished during my term of office. My officers have worked very hard; our sisters who took appointments on the Board have performed magnificently. Our donations to Project Saint Patrick, Missions and Charities, and Freedom for All Ireland have all increased. Thank You Ladies.

Over the past two years I have worked very hard to see that the LAOH name is recognized as the premiere go to organization when it comes to Irish History, Charity work and as leaders of Irish America; we are the largest Irish Catholic Women's organization in America and we can be proud of all we do. In my term of office, we have sponsored the 1916 Irish Rebellion film with Notre Dame and the Rossa Film; both of these films tell the story of the Easter Rising and the heroes involved. We can all be proud of the work we did in promoting the role the women played in the 1916 Easter Rising. The history exhibits and lectures sponsored by the LAOH were seen and heard by many. The 1916 Pin we designed to Honor the Women of the Rising is being worn all over Ireland and America. The 1916 Commemorations in both NYC and in Ireland were awesome and we the LAOH were at the forefront of both. We were recognized for our work both here in the USA and in Ireland. We have continued our association with National History Day and our own Irish History Writing Contest. Ladies this work we do is awesome and it is only done because of the dedication of our members.

We continue to update our digital presence thru our website, social media; many members now look to our website and the Hibernian Digest for updated information. We had a very informative workshop on the IRS filing of our reports and what is to be expected and how our divisions can accomplish this. Thank You to Kathryn Keane, EA. Kathryn is one of our sisters from Brooklyn, NY and our resident tax expert. Kathryn and Margaret Hennessy (PNP) have worked tirelessly with the IRS; all the previous mix-ups with our 501c3 have been straightened and we have now moved on. Thank You to Kathryn and her office staff (Chris and Tricia) who have donated their time and expertise to assist us their sisters in the LAOH. Our members have many talents and expertise; we are truly blessed that they are willing to donate their services to our Order. This is true Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Our National LAOH convention would not have run so smoothly if it were not for the work of our Liaison Mary Leatham, our Convention New Jersey Chairperson Theresa O'Connell and all our sisters in New Jersey. THANK YOU !!! This was truly a great convention, we had several fabulous speakers, MaryLou McDonald (Dublin), Matt Morrison (deportee), and our own Chaplain Fr. Michael Martine who spoke about the Annulment process. Our guests included Fr. Tim Mulroy and Franz Lang from the Columban Fathers and Sr. Corona Coleary from the Columban Sisters. Everyone has been challenged to "TAKE THE PLEDGE". The Columban Fathers will be celebrating a 100th Anniversary in 2018 – we are asking all our divisions to pledge an additional \$100 over the next two years in Honor of our long association with the Columban Missions. The Columban Sisters will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in a few years and we can do the same for them. Hey, Brother and Sister Hibernians, not only can the divisions take the Pledge but so can each and every member do so if they wish. What a wonderful way to say thank you to the men and women who do mission work throughout the world. Sr. Conchita McDonnell from the Killashandra Nuns was on hand to show her thanks for the PSP Grants some of her sisters received.

Our sister Aggie O'Leary from NY was this year's recipient of the LAOH St Brigid Humanitarian Award. What a great Hibernian Lady! Congratulations Aggie.

Congratulations to the scrapbook winners including NYS for their first place entry. Congratulations to the Junior Scrapbook winners and to the JR Hibernian of the Year.

Degrees were conferred by the Tara Degree Team from Philadelphia and what a magnificent job they did. Thank you ladies for escorting the new officers in the installation ceremony.

Five of our sisters received National Life Memberships, unfortunately I cannot give their names at this time; some were not at the convention and their states want to present them with the honor. I, as an outgoing National President, have also received a National Life Membership, THANK YOU to all my sisters.

As soon as I get all the paperwork completed from the convention it will be sent to all the states as well as put on the website. The Constitution and Ritual will be available by mid-August; the proceedings will be \$30 each but will take a little longer. Please see the website for the order form.

These are some of the highlights of my term and the National convention in Atlantic City, NJ. I know I have forgotten some as there have been so many, so please don't be offended if I have over looked anyone or anything. I am not going away; I will be the National Organizer for the next two years. I am looking forward to my new role as Organizer and if there is any way I can assist anyone please do not hesitate to call or email. Thank you to everyone and Congratulations to both the LAOH and AOH new National Boards. Pat and Jim I know you both will do well.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity  
Mary Hogan, Past National President 2014-2016  
National Organizer 2016-2018

## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason Gray . . . . . Chaplain . . . . . msgrgray@stthomas-church.net  
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Carol Sheyer . . . . . Vice President . . . . . csheyer@fuse.net  
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Marilyn Madigan . . . . . Treasurer . . . . . memadigan@gmail.com  
Dee Wallace . . . . . Irish Historian . . . . . dee\_ramp@yahoo.com  
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Colleen Bowers . . . . . Catholic Action . . . . . bowers033@gmail.com  
Mary Ellen Chajkowski . . . . . Legal Counsel . . . . . chajkowski@comcast.net

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mary Hogan . . . . . Organizer . . . . . laohbklyn@aol.com  
Maureen Shelton . . . . . Degree Team Liaison . . . . . mtshelton@live.com  
Margaret Hennessy . . . . . Deer Park, NY  
Mary Ryan . . . . . Marlboro, MA  
Dorothy Weldon . . . . . Monongahela, PA  
Mary T. Leatham . . . . . Troy, NY  
Mary B. Dolan . . . . . North Brookfield, MA  
Peggy Cooney . . . . . Pittsburgh, PA  
Mary Paglione . . . . . St. Lucie West, FL  
Kathie Linton . . . . . Uniontown, Ohio



# Resolutions Committee Report

The Resolutions Committee convened on Date: July 13, 2016, at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ in Avalon Room #11. Committee Chair – Roni Kudej (CT); Committee Secretary: Carol Manning (IL); PNP Mary Paglione (FL) sat in as a mentor.

Meeting opened at 10:30 am; Chairperson Roni Kudej opened the meeting with a prayer. Attendance was taken.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

***While practicing Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, we will work to strengthen our Roman Catholic Faith, our Country, and our Communities; and perpetuate the religion, history, culture and traditions of our Irish Heritage.***

Therefore be it resolved that we the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians:

1. Continue to renew its fidelity and allegiance to the Holy Roman Catholic Church and her teachings. As the largest Irish-Catholic Women's Organization in the United States, we affirm the teachings of our Church. We affirm that the most basic of all rights is life; life is from the moment of conception to natural death. We condemn any form of assistance in ending a life. We affirm the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. We affirm the teachings on the cloning of life; we support and pray for all who practice and encourage a pro-life philosophy. We join the Church in the condemnation of pornography and everything pertaining to immorality.

2. Support the belief in the dignity of all individuals regardless of religion, race, or economic status; we strongly oppose the violations of human rights throughout the world and especially in Northern Ireland.

3. Encourages all of our members to be informed registered voters, and exercise their privilege of voting according to our religious convictions and encourage others to do the same.

4. Continue to support the Good Friday Agreement and the McBride Principles for fair employment policies in Northern Ireland. We pray that one day we will see all 32 counties of Ireland free and united. We pray for peace in all of Ireland and

throughout the world.

5. Encourage the teaching of the historic contributions of the Irish and Irish Americans in the United States, Ireland and throughout the world.

6. Continue to cherish, foster, and promote Ireland's cultural heritage. We seek to create a deeper awareness of our past and present accomplishments in the arts, music, dance, literature, and Gaelic/Irish language.

7. Encourage continued devotion to the Blessed Mother, praying the Rosary; praying for conversions to the belief in the one true God, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick, and our Patron, St. Brigid of Ireland and Our Lady of Knock.

8. Deplore the unjust treatment of Irish Nationals who have immigrated to our country. We support fair and just treatment in matters of extradition and immigration for all.

9. Deplore the breakdown of the universal moral code and of family life. We support our nation's youth by encouraging programs to eliminate drug, alcohol, tobacco abuse, sexual abuse, violence, and all forms media determined to be detrimental to our youth. We support a quality education for all children. We support the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and young people.

10. Renew our spiritual allegiance to our Holy Father, Our Pope. We pray for vocations to the Religious or Consecrated life. We continue to support and pray for all those that serve in the religious life. We seek and pray for their continued participation in the works of our Order.

11. Support and pray for members of our Armed Services at home and abroad and for all those who sacrifice for freedom's sake.

12. Condemn violence and terrorism and encourage everyone to pray for peace throughout the world.

13. Continue to pray that God will always bless the United States of America and Ireland and that they will always stand together and never turn away from God.

14. To always remember to support, honor, respect, and appreciate not just our elected officers, but all of our sister and brother Hibernians.

15. To practice the Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis and to continue to practice mercy in perpetuity.

## St. Brigid Humanitarian Award



The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. National Board recognized one of its members in recognition of her generous and extraordinary humanitarian works within the Order and her local community. The 2016 St Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award was bestowed to AGNES O'LEARY, a member of NY Suffolk County Division 7. Agnes O'Leary has been an active LAOH member for over 27 years serving in her Division, County Board, and State Board. Her leadership and giving spirit is well recognized by her New York Sister Hibernians.

As Agnes recently moved to a new local community, she has stepped up and is actively engaged in her new parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister and is working in her local community as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary to assist wounded warriors. Getting involved in her new parish and community was a natural for Agnes as she had been active in her former parish and local community for several decades.

Serving others is part of Agnes' daily living as she is quick to see a need and to take the necessary action to meet the need. Agnes retired from her professional nursing career as an administrator in a home-care program for disabled youth who reside in several counties.

Agnes O'Leary is a woman of deep faith, a possessor of a strong character, and a giver of her time and talent. Through her sharing of her great sense of humor, she is able to provide both support and strength during difficult times. Agnes O'Leary models the LAOH Mission of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity in her daily living. Through her daily living and giving, Agnes O'Leary provides all LAOH members with an example of being a selfless humanitarian.

CONGRATULATIONS, AGNES O'LEARY!

## LAOH Appointees Convention July 2016



The Appointees for 2014 -2016 (Left to Right) Bernadette Sullivan, Kathleen Conway, Susan Mi, Peggy Cornish, Kathryn Keane, Jennifer Goodman, Ann-Marie Nyland Doherty; Beth Lynch, Colleen Bowers

## From the LAOH National Vice President

Carol Sheyer

A big thank you to the New Jersey Convention Committee for a job well done. Sisters, thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve you as a member of the National Board.

As your National Vice President I will be working with the Junior Divisions. I am looking forward to learning more about the involvement of the Juniors in their many activities.

Another part of my duties will be working with the Degree Teams and our new Degree Team Liaison, Past National President Maureen Shelton. Presently the LAOH have 8 active Degree Teams.

At any time I can be of help with any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at csheyer@fuse.net.

# Newly Elected Officers



After the Installation, the LAOH National Board (Left to Right Bottom row), Treasurer Marilyn Madigan, President Patricia O'Connell, Vice President Carol Sheyer, Missions Dee Ramp Wallace, (Top row) Immediate Past President Mary Hogan, Secretary Karen Keane, Missions Mary Ann Lubinsky, Catholic Action Colleen Bowers



Swearing in ceremony. National convention, Atlantic City, NJ, July 2016

## Indiana

By Alice Davis

Our Lady of Knock Division 1, Indianapolis, Indiana celebrates the naming of Paula Lee as the 2016 Lady Hibernian of the year. Paula has served as Vice President of the OLK Division and is presently serving as Mistress of Arms. She continues to chair the Caring Place Tea for the adults in the day care center.

OLK supports Catholic Education in two Archdiocesan High Schools by awarding scholarships based on test

scores, service and attendance. The scholarship committee reviews the credentials and the essays of students before making a selection. The scholarship winners will receive support for 2016-2017.

The membership of the Division selected Birthline as the OLK charity for the next two years. Birthline supports expectant mothers and their toddlers. The annual baby shower helps to encourage mothers to keep their babies and receive help when needed. Members volunteer one day a week, sorting and distributing items where needed.

A new members gathering was held as a "getting to know you" event. It was a fun evening of swapping sto-

ries and making connections away from the regular business meeting. We hope to continue this event in the future.

The Indiana State Museum sponsored the Shantoscope Film Festival for high school students. Eamon Hegarty, son of John Hegarty, AOH and Patty Hegarty, LAOH entered a film "Pro Deo Et Patri (For God and Country)". The film is a 13 minute documentary of Father Thomas Seccina's experience and role in the Bataan Death March. Eamon attends Fr. Seccina Memorial High School and is the son of the founding president of OLK. His documentary won First Place.

## Missions & Charities

Mary Ann Lubinsky

I am sitting here writing this article and just realized that it is exactly one week ago that I was installed as the new LAOH Missions and Charities Officer. It seems like a month ago! It was a wonderful convention in Atlantic City thanks to the hard work of the great NJ Convention Committee.

Congratulations to our new National President Patricia O'Connell and my other fellow National Board Members installed with me. Immediate Past National President Mary Hogan did a fantastic job with the LAOH convention from start to finish.

Two years ago, I promised in St. Louis that if elected Catholic Action Officer, I would be in touch with you often during my term and not just when a report or information was due. I held to that promise. In fact, there are probably some who think I was in touch too much!

I strived to promote our Order and our motto to everyone with whom I had the pleasure of meeting and communicating. I put my heart and soul into the office and I have been duly rewarded because of it.

I thank my LAOH sisters across these United States for entrusting me with the Office

of Missions and Charities. I promise I will bring the same enthusiasm and love of the LAOH to my new office. I am so looking forward to working with the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters, especially Father Tim Mulroy and Sister Corona. I will be sending out information on the challenge issued by Immediate Past President Hogan at the convention to raise additional funds for the Columban Fathers and Sisters for their upcoming 100th Anniversary in 2018!

Special thanks to the ladies and one gentleman who tirelessly worked on July 11 at Atlantic City Catholic Charities for our Spirit of St. Brigid Project. We were a huge success cleaning, stocking shelves and sorting clothes. Those pictured in no special order: Melissa Hruska, Atlantic City Catholic Charities; Claire Hulton, NY; Lori Forbes, VA; Mary Conlon, SC; Clare McManus-Fulginiti, PA; Catherine Murphy and two others from NJ; Kathleen Savage, MA; Rose Coulson, NY; JoAnn Gundersen, NY; Sandi Swift, MO; Beth Lynch, MA; Chris O'Reilly, NY; Ruth Cruse, IL; Mary Seider, NY; Leah Darcy, NY; Kim DePeaux, NY; Jean Brahm, NY; Sister Carol Rohloff, CSJ, NY; Ellen Barr, MA; Kathleen Rafuse, MA; Lynn Wylie, NY; Maire Manning, OH; JoAnn Shire, OH; Victoria Ring, NY; Maureen McEvoy, NC; Julia O'Dwyer, KY; Elissa O'Reilly, NY; Gail Dapolito, MD; I think there were others who did not give me their names, and yours truly. Please forgive me if I forgot anyone. Let's not forget those who donated the shirts for the workers so they didn't have to buy them!



**CONVENTION**  
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appointed Irish Senator Billy Lawless, a tireless advocate for immigration reform and a great friend of Hibernians, was also recognized and congratulated. Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Anne Anderson was the inspiring convention keynote speaker. Members of the Florida AOH gave a very detailed presentation in its quest to host the 2020 National Convention in Orlando.

Throughout the week — as the members of the AOH and LAOH conducted the business of their respective Orders — Hibernians filed past the dozens of vendors who filled the great hall of the Wildwood floor in the waterfront convention center selling convention apparel, kilts, Irish wares and even honey from New Jersey; members and guests had plenty to choose from.

The theme of the convention, “Remembering 1916 Easter Rising,” was evident throughout the convention with remembrances of the sacrifices of the brave men and women of 1916 recognized in speeches, homilies and meetings. On Tuesday, the local committee presented the Irish Rebel Artists of Cleveland, Ohio, and their presentation of Easter 1916 through Song and Story to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Sponsored by Friends of Sinn Fein USA, the world famous Irish Pub of Atlantic City and All Irish Martyrs Division 2 of Cape May County, the inspiring play moved the audience to its feet to send the actors and musicians off with a rousing standing ovation as all joined into the singing of God Save Ireland. Many of the convention delegates and guests visited the famous Irish Pub after the play to enjoy an evening of rousing Irish entertainment as Philadelphia’s own AOH members, The Shantys, played its unique brand of Irish rebel music well into the

evening.

The two signature events, Irish Night and the Installation banquet, were hosted in the vast banquet halls on the Wildwood floor of the Waterfront convention center, overlooking the bay. The setting and facility, as wonderful as they were, were outdone by the content and the honorees of each event. Our good friends at Guinness sponsored Irish Night. At this event, Agnes O’Leary received the 2016 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award and gave a lesson in humility and inspiration as she accepted this richly deserved award. She was followed by another great Irish woman, Mary Lou McDonald, vice president of Sinn Fein, who inspired and stirred the assembled as she spoke of the work that is still needed to achieve the dreams of the men and women of 1916.

Those assembled at the convention were blessed to have the Bishop of the Camden diocese, Dennis J. Sullivan, celebrate our closing mass. His comments and homily could not have been more aligned with the aspirations and objectives of the AOH and LAOH. Bishop Sullivan stayed as the 2016-2018 members of the AOH and LAOH National Boards were installed.

**New National Board**

Elected to the 2016-2018 National Board were President James McKay of New Orleans, LA; Vice President Daniel O’Connell of Girard, OH; Secretary Jere Cole of Roseland, NJ; Treasurer Sean Pender of Hamilton, NJ; and Directors Daniel Dennehy of Cortland Manor, NY; Liam McNabb of Delmar, NY; Tom O’Donnell of Philadelphia, PA; Dennis Parks, Akron, OH; William Sullivan of North Andover, MA; and John Wilson of St. Peters, MO.

As the sponsor of the Installation dinner, Aer Lingus was proud to announce during the convention the resumption of flights from Newark starting on September 1. The newly elected members

of both boards and honored guests were welcomed to the installation banquet on Thursday by the Eamonn Ryan show band playing the unofficial anthem of NJ: Bruce Springsteen’s Born to Run. As the crowds rose to their feet, the guests and officers processed into the hall with Vice Presidents Carol Sheyer and Danny O’Connell and Presidents Patricia O’Connell and James McKay being carted into the hall in one of Atlantic City’s famous rolling chairs. It was truly something that could only happen at the Jersey Shore.

The program at the installation banquet included recognition of the hard work and accomplishments of outgoing Presidents Brendan Moore and Mary Hogan, brief but inspiring remarks by newly elected Presidents Jim McKay and Patricia O’Connell, and recognition of the local NJAOH/LAOH convention committee. In and of itself that could have been enough to fill any program.

But at our installation dinner we were blessed to hear from both JFK Memorial Medal award winner Major General Patrick Brady and the Irish Consul General of the New York Office Barbara Jones. Brady’s memorable and extraordinary speech spoke to service and faith; with total humility he spoke in the style of an everyman and never mentioning that he is the only living Army veteran of Vietnam to hold both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. Consul General Jones spoke of the accomplishments of the AOH and LAOH, the tremendous work that was done in 2016 to honor the centenary and to the work that is still to be done, a better friend we as Hibernians could not have.

Looking back at it now the convention was blessed to have been addressed by soldiers, statesmen and heroes.

The local committee took great pleasure that talents of The Willie Lynch Band and

Eamonn Ryan Show Band kept the dance floors full well into both evenings as event guests danced the night away. In a very special way we want to recognize the efforts of the staff at Harrah’s for their hard work and attention to detail. The presentation, quality of food and service was impeccable. Over 900 were served at each event and it was done in such a way that no one had to wait for an excessive time, the food was hot and our programs were uninterrupted. Well done to Victoria King and her team.

We thank our sponsors without whom this convention would not have been possible. Their involvement in this convention allowed us to overcome so many financial challenges. Sincere thanks to Event Sponsor Meet AC and its National Account Director Patrick McCormick, Emerald Sponsors Aer Lingus, and Guinness and Shamrock Sponsors Tourism Ireland and the 25th annual Irish Fall Festival in North Wildwood.

It was a tremendous honor to host the National Convention and we have been so happy that the vast majority of comments we have received have been so complimentary. Guests were impressed with the food and entertainment at the icebreaker, which was held in the six-story indoor tropical pool that made you feel like you were in the Caribbean. The attention to detail by the committee and Harrah’s staff was mentioned and many were heard to comment that this was the best convention ever. For that, and on behalf of NJAOH President Sean Hughes, NJLAOH President Rose Ann Michel, and all their volunteers who worked so hard, State chairs Dennis McInerney and Theresa O’Connell and National Liaisons Sean Pender and Mary Leatham, we thank you all and hope you had a great time at the Jersey shore. See you in Louisville.

*Photos: John O’Connell/Hibernian Digest*



Fr. Henry Reid, Fr. Michael Martine and Msgr. John Bevins concelebrated the opening mass at the convention. (Not pictured Fr. Tom O’Donnell.)



National Chaplain Fr. Tom O’Donnell at the convention.



Hibernian Divisions from around the country received awards for their participation in Hibernian Charities program by raising funds or dedicating hours of work in fulfillment of our motto.



President Brendan Moore, left, installing new President Judge James McKay III as the new chief of the AOH.

# Convention Happenings...



President James McKay with his wife and four children, from left, Jimmy, Colleen, the Judge, his wife Marie, Laurie and Mike.



The National Boards of the LAOH and the AOH.



National officer Dan Dennehy and his wife, Siobhan, at the Ice Breaker party, with Past National President George Clough at right.



A happy JJ Kelly flanked by the New York Rose of Tralee Alice Smyth, left, and New York Rose Kristin Stack.



New York Hibernians were well represented at the conventions. Here, the Albany-area contingent showed their pride.



Of course it wasn't all business at the conventions, as the photo of national officer Dan O'Connell, Abbie Nicole, Lynn Burkart, Grace Blume and many others attests.



The Hibernians of New Orleans were on hand for the installation of President Jim McKay.



Current and past National Directors Tom O'Donnell, Charles 'Chip' McLean and Denny Donnelly had a great time at the first-night Ice Breaker party at Harrah's.