

## Hibernians meet Ballymurphy families

Saying they were there "to pledge American support for Ballymurphy in its battle for truth and justice," National AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell and National Secretary Jere Cole met Ballymurphy Massacre families on September 23rd. The AOH officers were escorted by victims' family members to the murder scenes and given a moving account of each killing. The fact-finding visit was also attended by Relatives for Justice.

They begin at the spot where Father Hugh Mullan was shot as he waved a white handkerchief. Here Liam and Pat Quinn, then told how their brother Frank Quinn was killed as he tried to help Fr. Mullan and the wounded Bobby Clarke.

They next went to the spot families where four of the Ballymurphy victims were shot, including Joan Connolly and Danny Teggart. John Teggart described how his father was shot 14 times with high velocity rifles, while Joan Connolly's daughter Philomena described how her mother was shot and left to bleed to death without medical attention.

John Laverty's sisters Carmel Quinn and Rita Bonar pointed out where their brother was killed along with Joseph Corr. Another brother, Terry, was stopped, and tortured."

They ended at the spot where Eddie Doherty was killed. There Eddie's sister Kathleen explained how he was shot in the back.

John Teggart concluded: "The British whitewashed these murders with claims of gun battles and troops under fire. There was



Natioonal AOH VO Danny O'Connell and Secretary Jere Cole stood shoulder to shoulder with families behind the campaign banner.

no gun battle, no bullets or guns found, no troopers wounded. Our loved ones were murdered, they were shot in the back".

Andree Murphy, Deputy Director of Relatives for Justice said: "The voices of the families today, as we visited the sites where the 11 were killed, gave eloquent testimony to the horror of the killings, the absolute impunity from which the soldiers who took those lives benefitted, and most poignantly the impact that these killings had

continued on page 12

## An Gorta Mor film an opportunity for Hibernian Charity

The harvest season is upon us, and Joe Norton, National Chairman for Missions and Charities, was able to gather in a partnership with IFC Films for theatre showings of the cinematic portrayal of An Gorta Mor, in the film **Black 47**.

**Black 47** is a film about one man's revenge for the horrors brought upon his family during An Gorta Mor. The partnership enables local divisions to set up stations for food donations, fundraising and information sharing on Hibernian Charities and AOH membership.

Contact was made with IFC after several exchanges with grass roots marketers by the Archbishop Donoghue Division in Atlanta. Brother Norton outlined in an email to IFC Films contacts that the AOH and its charitable arm, Hibernian Charities, have a deep-seated interest in providing financial support for the pursuit and spread of Irish History and the end of hunger — two subjects at the core of Black 47.

Shannon Balstad, IFC Films' coordinator for Marketing & Publicity, contacted Dr. Joe, and shared benefits and interests were quickly identified. The size of our organization would help drive traffic to the film and we would be able to set up donation and information sharing stations in theaters.

With the effects of Hurricane Florence rapidly depleting local food pantries in the coastal Carolinas, food donations became a focus. Ms. Balstad offered to help local divisions by customizing marketing materials, getting food bins and coordinating group sales for interested divisions. Contacts were also shared to allow interested divisions opportunities to sponsor private screenings.

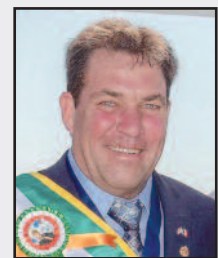
For divisions seeking marketing support and group ticketing arrangement, contact Shannon.Balstad@ifcfilms.com

For divisions seeking information about a private screening, contact Marie.Zeniter@ifcfilms.com



### In This Issue...

#### Honored



Richard O'Neill  
Nassau, NY  
Page 24

#### Irish in MLB



Sean Thomas Kane  
Kansas City  
Page 16

#### Southwest Liaison



Mike Joyce  
Texas  
Page 6

#### State News

Alabama	9
California	13, 15
Colorado	13
Connecticut	14
Illinois	14
Indiana	15
Iowa	16
Kansas	16
Massachusetts	15
Minnesota	16
Missouri	13
Nebraska	17
New Jersey	19
New York	8, 18, 19, 23, 24
Pennsylvania	17
Virginia	19
LAOH	20





Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American

**NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS**

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi – AL ..... Chaplain ..... jpresley@mobarch.org  
Rev. Michael Healy – CA ..... Deputy Chaplain ..... hibhealy@hotmail.com  
Rev. Patrick Collum – LA ..... Deputy Chaplain ..... pcollum@arch-no.org

**NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS**

James F. McKay III – LA ..... President ..... jfmaoh@me.com  
Daniel O'Connell – OH ..... Vice President ..... djoconnell@ysu.edu  
2020 National Convention Chairman, Orlando  
Jere Cole – NJ ..... Secretary ..... jcole4838@gmail.com  
Sean Pender – NJ ..... Treasurer ..... paddyspeed@yahoo.com

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS**

Dan Dennehy – NY ..... Immigration Chairman ..... dandennehy@hotmail.com  
Liaison Met NY City  
Ed Halligan – PA ..... Liaison DE, NJ, PA ..... emhall12@comcast.net  
Liam McNabb – NY ..... Liaison NY ..... liammcnabb@hotmail.com  
Dennis Parks - OH ..... Liaison IN, KY, MI, ..... dparks121@yahoo.com  
OH, TN, WVA  
William Sullivan – MA ..... Liaison CT, MA, ME, ..... williamjsullivan@verizon.net  
NH, VT, RI  
John Wilson – MO ..... Liaison CO, IL, IA, KS ..... johnj\_wilson@yahoo.com  
MO, MN, MT, NE

**CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Michael McCormack – NY ..... Historian / Archivist ..... aohbard@optonline.net  
Timothy McSweeney – NY ..... Organizer / Liaison ..... Newjack12007@yahoo.com  
CA, ID, NV, ND, UT, WA, WY,  
and All Emerging States  
John O'Connell – NY ..... Editor ..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com  
Martin Galvin - NY ..... FFAI Chairman ..... mgalvinesq@AOL.COM  
Joseph Norton – GA ..... Charities and Missions ..... docsnorton2@gmail.com  
John Fitzmorris III – LA ..... Catholic Action ..... jdfitzmorris@yahoo.com  
Liaison AL, AR, LA, MS  
John Patrick Walsh – MD ..... Pro-Life Chairman ..... jaywarp1@gmail.com  
Liaison MD, VA, DC  
James Kuhn – LA ..... National Legal Counsel/Constitution ..... jkuhn7478@gmail.com  
Neil Cosgrove – NY ..... Political Education Committee ..... ncosgrov@optonline.com  
Anti Defamation / IAHM Chairman  
James Green – PA ..... Veterans Affairs ..... seamus.green317@gmail.com

**PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Vic Vogel – NY ..... Project St. Patrick ..... victorjvogel@yahoo.com  
Jack Schneider, PA ..... Ritual & Degree Chairman ..... jack1515@aol.com  
Paul Gowdy – MI ..... Hibernian Hunger ..... Gaudy9plow@aol.com  
Jeff Nisler – NY ..... Webmaster ..... Jeff.AOH@Nisler.com  
Michael Joyce – TX ..... Liaison – AZ, NM, OK, TX

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS**

Brendan Moore – NY ..... 201 –2016 / PEC – FFAI ..... brendanaoh@yahoo.com  
Seamus Boyle - PA ..... 2008–2012 / Brexit – Special Projects ..... shay39@comcast.net  
Jack Meehan – MA ..... 2006-2008 ..... meehanaoh1@aol.com  
Ned McGinley – PA ..... 2002-2006 / Chairman Notre Dame ..... nedaoh1@aol.com  
Oversight Committee Chair  
Edward J. Wallace – NY ..... 1994 - 1998 ..... ewallac2@twcnv.rr.com  
George Clough – MO ..... 1990 – 1994 / Oversight Committee ..... BookODays@aol.com  
Nick Murphy – NY ..... 1988 -1990 / Oversight Committee ..... upkerry@optonline.net  
Joseph Roche – MD ..... 1984 - 1988 ..... jar32@aol.com

**A P P A R E L**  
**AOH2018.itemorder.com**  
**CarriganAOHColorado.com**  
**ORDER HERE**

Ancient Order of  
Hibernians  
Irish Catholic American

Hibernian  
**SNOWBIRD SOCIAL**  
Thursday, Feb. 7, noon to 3 p.m.  
Tim Finnigan's Pub  
2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, FL

Join fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun

This will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with the AOH during the winter and meet fellow Hibernians who winter in Florida and also meet some Floridian Hibernians.

Do you have a talent to share? Let us know. Pipers, singers, musicians, entertainers are welcome.

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members

Lunch with soft drinks and dessert \$20.  
Reservations required.

Contact: Tim Myles - [Timtam614@aol.com](mailto:Timtam614@aol.com) or 516 660 7456  
Jim Sullivan - [Jim@brooklynirish.org](mailto:Jim@brooklynirish.org) or 347 224 4822  
Committee Ed Wallace, Tim Myles, Matt Reilly, Jim Sullivan

The National  
**hibernian digest**

"Ireland. One and indivisible. Though the heavens fall"

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$8.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

A bi-monthly publication dedicated to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The National Hibernian Digest is the complete chronicle of the ideals, hopes, and achievements of Hibernians everywhere. The National Hibernian Digest is printed and mailed out of Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9998 and additional mailing offices in February, April, June, August, October and December. Office of publication is Ancient Order of Hibernians, West Caldwell, NJ

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, P.O. Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007 The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editor@hiberniandigest.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.

**JOHN O'CONNELL** ..... National Editor/Advertising ..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com  
**SANDI RILEY SWIFT** ..... Assistant Editor ..... webmaster@ladiesaoh.com  
**JEFF NISLER** ..... Online Editor ..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

**OWNERSHIP STATEMENT**

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation: (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). Title of Publication: The National Hibernian Digest. Date of filing: August 30, 2018. Published bi-monthly. Office of Publication: Clover Graphics, Inc. 2050 Ocean Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779.

Business Office is at National Secretary, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., 1120 Bloomfield Avenue, Ste. 240 (P.O. Box 539) West Caldwell, NY 07006. Publisher: Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. same address. Editor: John O'Connell, 87-30 256th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Managing Editor: Same. Owner: Ancient Order of Hibernians, c/o Jere Cole, National Secretary, 1120 Bloomfield Avenue, Ste. 204 (P.O. Box 539), West Caldwell, NY 07006.

No bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgagees, and other securities. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (1) Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 months.

Average circulation figures for preceding twelve months - A. Total printed: 34,000 B.1. Dealer and counter sales: none. B. 2. Mail Subscriptions: 33,000. C. Total paid circulation: 33,000. D. Free distribution by mail: 125. E. Free distribution outside mail: none. F. Total free distribution: 125. G. Total distribution: 33,125. H.1. Office use: 50. H. 2. No unsold newsagent copies. I. Total: 33,175

Circulation figures for issue printed nearest filing date - A. Total printed: 34,000. B. 1. Dealer and counter sales: none. B. 2. Mail subscriptions: 33,000. C. Total paid circulation: 33,000. D. Free distribution by mail: 125. E. Free distribution outside mail: none. F. Total free distribution: 125. G. Total distribution: 34,000. H. 1. Office use: 50. H. 2. No unsold newsagent copies. I. Total: 33,000.





## president's message

by Jim McKay III

By the time you read this, you may be into your Thanksgiving celebration with your family and the weather will have hopefully cooled down. Before we know it we will be putting up Christmas trees (yuck). With our new National Board in place, we are now in the process of making decisions that will guide our Order for the next two years.

As of this writing, I plan to set my President's Dinner in 2019 in Washington, D.C. The dates will be October 18 and 19, 2019. We are negotiating with two hotels at this time very close to the Capitol and hope to have an answer before this issue reaches you. Unfortunately, nothing is in stone yet, as it is very difficult dealing with D.C. hotels, but at this point in time, I am very confident.

Obviously, things are already progressing very well for our next National Convention in Orlando in 2020. Although we have not met with them yet, all Florida Committees are in place and ready to start the pre-planning work that assures a successful convention.

I recently attended a Hibernian function in the Tri-State area at the Irish Ambassador's residence commemorating the Commodore John Barry Day set aside to acknowledge the Father of the American Navy. The members of the Tri-State area should be congratulated for their effort in pursuit of making Commodore John Barry a "household" name in this country.

Recently, two investigative journalists from Northern Ireland, Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey, were detained in Belfast over the suspected theft of confidential documents allegedly related to a 1994 Loyalist massacre in Loughinisland, County Down. While they were watching the Republic of Ireland soccer team play a World Cup game in New Jersey, six patrons of a bar in that area were gunned down by Loyalist killers, members of the UVF. The documentary that the journalists worked on surrounding that incident, entitled, "No Stone Unturned," has been available on Prime Video for some time now. All Brothers are urged to view, as it gives great insight into the problems in conducting a serious investigation involving Loyalist crimes in the North of Ireland.

We have already started our Freedom For All Ireland campaign to raise money for worthy Irish causes and the ultimate goal of the peaceful reunification of the 36 Counties. Our new chairman, Martin Galvin, has already hit the ground running and appointed a competent committee to help him in this endeavor. When you attend your Division meetings, please remind your Brothers that all our members should participate in this very worthy cause and be charitable as usual.

As we get ready to enter the Christmas season, please do not forget to prepare ourselves spiritually from this material world and remind our families and ourselves what the birth of our Savior is all about.

God Bless.



## treasurer's report

by Sean Pender

### Buy Irish - Hibernian Program retooled to better serve Order and members

With more than 35,000 members and many more closely related family members the talents and skills of our members and families no doubt covers every conceivable business and service. In an effort to connect those members with the larger Hibernian membership the National Board is proud to offer a new Buy Irish/Hibernian program.

For just \$25 a year for members and \$50 for nonmembers, a business or service can be listed on the AOH website under the soon to be created Buy Irish/Hibernian web page. When activated visit <https://aoh.com/buyirish>

This mutually beneficial program will enable:

- The National Board to generate a new revenue stream to offset the loss of the recent U.S. Bank card rewards program.
- Provide members who own businesses and offer services an economical means to advertise to the membership.
- Provide trusted referrals to members and their families who are looking for professional services or businesses to support.

Recently, I had major home renovations done to my house and completed an in depth bid process by six contractors. It got me thinking I wish I knew of any local AOH members who may also offer these services. This new program will give our members that opportunity whether you are looking for services for HVAC, painting, landscaping, lawyers, accountants, dentists, doctors or funeral directors. Or maybe you are traveling and would like to support an AOH owned pub, restaurant or hotel.

The owners of these businesses will be offered the opportunity to list their business/service address, phone and email contact information and their website. Advertisers can create Hibernian-specific landing pages to offer Hibernian discounts.

Hibernian consumers would be able to search by location for needed services and Buy Irish/Hibernian businesses.

This program will be 100 percent managed via online registration and online payment. The fee of \$25 or \$50 will cover calendar year from January 1st to December 31st, with new additions added throughout the year.

### How to register

Visit <https://aoh.com/registerbuyirish>

Complete online form. The input of a valid membership number will drive \$25 membership fee while lack of membership number will generate the \$50 membership fee. Review for completeness, confirm data, submit request and pay online. The initial go-live date for online access to all Buy Irish/Hibernian program will be January 1, 2019.



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

I had a great trip to Ireland in September with Jere Cole, Ed Moss and Father Daniel Finnerty. No holiday is complete without a bit of work on behalf of the Order and this was not different. Jere and I had three meetings in Dublin, including with Niall Burgess, Rita O'Hare and with Terry Allen, Principal Officer of the Department of Cultures, National Monuments Service. The meeting with Mr. Allen was to discuss President McKay's initiative for a monument on Moore Street, Dublin, honoring the contributions of Irish America to the Rising. All meetings proved fruitful, and we hope to be leading efforts to raise the funds needed for the monument in the near future.

On to Belfast with the express purpose of meeting with the Ballymurphy families. In addition to that key meeting, we met with Bik McFarland from the National Graves association. Along the way with Bik, we met Danny Morrison in Milltown Cemetery. Danny with less hair and Danny O with a beard, we both had to take a second look to recognize each other. The road of fate put us together there and again later that night for the Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargery of Belfast installation Gala. The highlight of Belfast was time spent with Mairtin O Muilleoir, past JFK award recipient. Mairtin appears to know everyone in Belfast and time with him is always rewarding.

We returned home to find fall upon us and many divisions preparing for elections. That being said, now is a great time to review the national constitution, which can be found on our website <https://aoh.com/national-constitution/>. Too often we vote with our heart instead of our head. We need to elect individuals who are best for the AOH if we are going to continue to be the voice of Irish America. Take a minute to review the job duties in our constitution and choose the people who can have the ability to follow these duties and represent the AOH in a positive manner.

We are continuing our marketing, promotions and advertising campaign, which partnered with our Organizer, continues to bring in new members and new divisions to the Order. Tim McSweeney and Depute Organizer Keith Reynolds have become the dynamic duo of recruiting. We hope to have membership in every state by the end of the current board term. Scott Partika and Lee Paterson are taking the lead on our advertising campaign while the rest of our committee will focus on evaluation and direction for the future.

One of the areas we need to improve in is documenting our Irish community outreach. This is critical as we continue to be the voice of Irish America. How many people do we reach every year during parades, festivals, hoolies, meetings, masses, testimonials, football games, FFAI events, and the list goes on. It is not an easy task although it can be done. We will be asking everyone to document attendance at each and every event you put on during the year. If you do it immediately following the event it will be easy to demonstrate your division's outreach. We are the largest Irish organization outside of Ireland so let's work together to document our outreach.

Over the next month we will begin the 2020 convention preparation, kick off our FFAI Christmas Appeal, send our Project St. Patrick scholarship applications, send out the annual return mail labels and prepare for the upcoming holiday season. That being said, I want to wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas!



Niall Burgess, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland, and the most recent Sean MacBride award recipient takes time to show Hibernians Father Daniel Finnerty and Ed Moss around Iveagh House, Dublin Ireland.





## National Secretary

by Jere Cole

### New procedures

As I indicated last issue in keeping with my promise to completely modernize procedures for a smoother operation in this electronic age, we are making some significant changes this year in the way we update rosters. Beginning in the second half of October, **your Financial Secretary will be receiving via email a PDF of your roster. As of that date, 10/15/2018, WE WILL STOP SENDING 2018 CARDS, and it will not be necessary to submit Form 40s. Simply make changes to your roster.**

As of this writing, **40** divisions STILL do not have an email on file for their Financial Secretary. If your financial secretary does not have an email address, the roster will be sent to the division President. If neither has an email you will not receive a roster until we can communicate via email.

Let me remind you that the Form 40 remains the PRIMARY vehicle to communicate individual changes. So, if you submitted a Form 9 with new officers this past year and indicated an email for an individual that may not have been captured unless you also sent a Form 40. If in doubt, please instruct your financial secretary to communicate with my office to rectify.

Once your roster is received, download the roster and print it out. You then may edit, and scan to email back to the National Secretary's office at [jcole4838@gmail.com](mailto:jcole4838@gmail.com), with the notation "**Roster Changes**" in the subject line of the email. Alternatively, if you are comfortable and able, you may annotate the PDF, save, and email it back. Also new this year, should you maintain your records in an Excel spreadsheet you may make the changes there and email that back to the National Secretary's office. **Be mindful however that you need to supply ALL the information requested and CLEARLY indicate which records have changed on the spreadsheet.**

Please complete as soon as possible as that roster will be used to calculate your per capita due from 2018. Per Capita is paid on the total members as of 12/31/2018. The per capita payment is still only \$12 for 2018.

Lastly, and least preferred, you may mail a hard copy to the National Secretary Office as you have in previous years. As always if you make changes by hand we ask that you try to write the information as neatly as possible.

If you have not received a roster by Thanksgiving — something is wrong. Please contact the National Secretary's office and we will make alternative arrangements.

These changes to procedure will require that you use **THE NEW forms – 40, 9 and 11 – please be sure to destroy ALL forms you have on hand** and only use the new ones that you may download from our website: [www.AOH.com](http://www.AOH.com), (under Forms).

**Beginning in January 2019 we will begin sending the 2019 membership cards. The cards will be based on the best information we have available whether of not you have returned a roster, perhaps triggering additional changes.**

**Concomitantly, this fall we are phasing in a completely new procedure that will permit your financial secretary to change and update your division roster directly. This will be accomplished by the financial secretary securely logging in via a portal on our website to a copy of your division roster. Change will be entered directly by him. After the changes have been reviewed, they will be permanent. Your financial secretary will be able to also print a copy of your most current roster. Membership cards will continue to be issued from my office.**

This new system should be operational for all shortly after the beginning of 2019 and you will be updated frequently. A training guide will be published to lead your financial secretary through the entire process.

I realize this is a big step for many of you but it is necessary if we are to streamline our recordkeeping.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

Here in New England as the season changes from the hot days of summer to the cooler days of fall, Hibernian activities are now plentiful on all levels with many Divisions, County and State Boards planning events in the coming months.

My thanks to our National President Jim McKay for appointing me National Chairman of our Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships and to the AOH National Board Budget Committee. I look forward to working together on these projects and other topics with my brothers on the National Board as we continue to make the AOH a vibrant and stronger 21st Century organization.

The Irish Way was an idea fostered over 40 years ago by HRH Princess Grace of Monaco, who served as the Irish American Cultural Institute's Chairman until her death in 1982. The program consists of an educational component, where students are introduced to Ireland's history and traditions through structured sessions in Irish language, literature, history and culture. Students also participate in workshops of Celtic art, music, folk dancing and traditional Irish sports. The final days of the Irish Way are spent touring Ireland. In the next issue of the Digest there will be a Scholarship Application as well as the dates for the 2019 program. This scholarship is available for the son or daughter or grandchild of an AOH member.

The AOH National Board also offers two Study Abroad Scholarships also for the son or daughter or grandchild of an AOH member who has been accepted at an accredited college in Ireland. An Application Request Form for this scholarship will also be included in the next issue of the Hibernian Digest.

With the passing of Past National President and National Secretary Emeritus Tom McNabb on July 31, our Order lost a giant with decades of service on all levels of Hibernianism. I had the good fortune to know Tom for over 40 years and had the opportunity to attend Tom's wake and funeral in early August and express my personal condolence and that of my brothers in New England to the McNabb family. We will not see his likes again in our lifetime!

In early August, Paul Lundergan, a longtime member and Past AOH Division 10 in Lynn, MA, passed. Paul was an inspiration to many of his brothers and worked tirelessly for his Division on countless tasks. A little more than two weeks later, Bridget Mary Ryan-Tenney, the daughter of Past LAOH National President Mary Ryan of Massachusetts, passed. My sincere sympathy to all their families and may their souls and the souls of our departed members rest in peace.

As we move into the fall season, many Divisions will be nominating and electing officers. Divisions need capable, sincere, hardworking officers who can dedicate their time and talents to the objectives of the AOH. If you feel you can make a positive commitment to your Division and make it a better organization, please step forward. We need you!

During September I had the opportunity to attend State Board meetings in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as other AOH events. I look forward in the coming month to attending many AOH and Irish activities, as well as the possible formation of a new Division in Vermont.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)



## Organizer

by Tim McSweeney

### Retention: You got them, now keep them

Every division has experienced the following: You recruit a new member, at his swearing he's excited and wants to get involved. A few months later he's gone or if you're lucky he becomes a non-active dues-paying member. It happens all too often. So the question needs to be asked: Where are we going and how do we stop it.

Points to consider:

- Did we welcome and engage the new member? Division members should go out of their way to introduce themselves and get to know the new member on a personal basis. After all, Friendship is the first dictate of our motto.
- Was an orientation provided? Did division leadership sit with the new member and go over key points (dues, meetings, events, points of contact)? An orientation provides a basic knowledge of workings of the division.
- Was follow up done? Was the member contacted to attend the next division or event. Making this contact provides the new member with belonging and helps him feel that he's now a brother.
- Does the division has a retention procedure? Look into developing procedure on how you retain a member.

These points apply to every division no matter what size. The bottom line: Make your division appealing to the new member!

### We are growing

We have great news and news that we should be proud of: Leads on starting new divisions are being pursued in Vermont, Florida, Arkansas, Arizona, Washington, Alaska, Nevada and Hawaii.

## NOTICE

*from the National Secretary*

**No 2018 membership cards will be mailed after 10/15/2018.**

**2019 Cards will be issued in January.**





## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

The movie "Black 47" sheds light on the history of our ancestors that were starved and who emigrated by the millions during the Famine years, as the British washed their hands with some exceptions. This film portrays the consequences of the greatest disaster of the 19th Century, An Gorta Mor. The movie showed some of the hatred and viciousness of what happened to our relatives. The film makes clear that there were tons of food being exported to Britain daily while Ireland starved. There were also the soup kitchens, in which many of them demanded the starving family convert to Protestantism before they would be fed.

Our 90-year-old Hibernian brother John W. "Bill" Fahey, from Division 5, Suffolk County, NY, has worked tirelessly for many years to convince the Vatican to beatify "the Irish Hunger Martyrs." He is leading this petition to beatify the victims of the Irish Hunger, by making the point that they died for their faith. He has worked with the Committee for the Commemoration of Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV), an Ireland-based organization, to dedicate and plant memorials in the United States and Ireland to identify the often-unmarked graves of thousands of Irish famine victims. In Ireland a national commemoration day for the Irish Famine is reportedly set to be held on the third weekend in May every year starting in 2019. To learn more about the efforts of our AOH brother's work go to <http://www.irishhungermartyrs.org/>. To date, more than 28,000 people have submitted their names in support of his request for beatification of the martyrs. If you would like to add your name to his petition his website provides a way for you to have your voice heard.

Now is a good time to start making plans on how your division will remember An Gorta Mor during the third Weekend in May 2019.

I had the privilege of viewing the film by Maurice Fitzpatrick "In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America." If you have a chance to watch it you'll come away with a greater understanding of the Peace Process and the tireless efforts that John Hume spent to get to the 1998 Peace Agreement. In the film, Hume came to the United States because there was nowhere else to go. The Irish government was beginning to exert pressure on the British government to create a lasting solution. But put crudely, Britain was very reluctant to challenge the unionist veto that had brought Northern Ireland to the brink of civil war. The only place from where that pressure could come was from the U.S.

In the words of Hume: "Ireland is not a romantic dream; it is not a flag; it is 4.5 million people divided into two powerful traditions. The solution will be found not on the basis of victory for either, but on the basis of agreement and a partnership between both. The real division of Ireland is not a line drawn on the map but in the minds and hearts of its people."



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Ed Halligan

Hibernian activities are picking up now that the fall is upon us. Look forward to several events in the Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area. It started in September with honoring Commodore Barry at the bridge named in his honor. A ceremony was held with several members of the New Jersey Ladies State Board and the men's N.J. State president Larry Prella and several members of the LAOH & AOH. This ceremony has taken place for well over 40 years.

New Jersey has their Sate Board meeting scheduled Saturday, October 13, in Hamilton, NJ.

There will be Major Degrees in October and November — October 14 in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, and Saturday, November 10, in National Park, Gloucester County, NJ.

The Annual Freedom For All Ireland fundraiser will be held at the FOP in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 11, with a very special guest speaker, Carmel Quinn, sister of Joe Laverty, who was murdered in the Ballymurphy massacre.

AOH National Treasurer Sean Pender has assigned State & National officers a list of Divisions that haven't been heard from concerning the EIN numbers and compliance with the IRS. If you haven't heard from one of the officers yet, you will. I have heard of a lot of frustration with the IRS. We will get through this. It's our nature to succeed.

## AOH Credit Card Terminated

The AOH credit card agreement with U.S. Bank has been terminated by U.S. Bank. Thank you to everyone who supported this program, which helped us achieve our Hibernian goals. The AOH is looking into alternative CCs and we hope to have a program in place soon. If you are familiar with a similar affinity credit card please contact AOH Vice President Danny O'Connell at [Daniel.oconnell@aoh.com](mailto:Daniel.oconnell@aoh.com).

You will be receiving options to continue your card, but please remember that U.S. Bank chose not to continue with the AOH.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the next generation...

Brothers, 'Tis the season to look ahead to next year and start setting goals now for the future of your Division or County Board. This process is not only an opportunity to engage more leaders and stakeholders but also an effective practice as others have an interest in the success of the Order. If there are new Officers elected, this is the time to include them in such a critical discussion. Remember, all Officers are leaders and the more buy-in there is among the group, the more effective of a team you'll have to advance your chosen goals.

Do you have enough Officers? All elected and appointed positions at every level should be filled. Every Brother has skills and talents to share and should be asked to serve as he, hopefully, is willing to share his time to strengthen the Order. Most members are honored to be included on the team. These opportunities are important for personal growth as well to foster enthusiasm in Hibernianism.

Ideally, there are no duplicative Officers listed on the roster at any level. I recognize there are many instances where a Vice President, for example, is also passionate about Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) and may serve in both positions. However, "spreading the wealth" and work of the team will go a long way to growing the group and improving the health of the Division. In the example above, the Vice President could mentor the FFAI Chairman to ensure protocol is followed and the job is performed to a high level.

A new year and the upcoming holiday season welcome new opportunities. Have you brought anyone into the Order lately? If no, is there something missing for you as a Hibernian? If so, let a few of your Brothers know as, perhaps, there is a way to seek change or improvement in the culture, mission and activities of your Division. Working with others to affect change can be positive if it is done with the best of intentions. When you feel great about who you are as a member, you'll want to tell everyone and not just a few. I'm a proud Hibernian and cannot help but want to share our Order with others. I hope you feel the same and will want to do so as well.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dan Dennehy

I joined NY AOH President Vic Vogel at a Mass In Irish at Saint Barnabas Church in Woodlawn, arranged by Division 5 President Martin Galvin and Division Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald. Irish speakers from the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center and Gaelic League participated as readers, with Irish singing by Dawn Dougherty and her Irish Music School. Later that evening, my wife Siobhan and I were announced as the 2019 30th Annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade Co-Grand Marshals and were joined on a Hudson Cruise by many Hibernians from near and far, including National Treasurer Sean Pender, National Project St. Patrick Chairman Vic Vogel and National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin. Quite a day!

A highlight of the late summer was the 48th AOH Nassau County Feis and Festival, honoring Richie O'Neal, Nassau County's Aide in the 2018 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Another highlight was a Pre-Premiere showing of the excellent new Irish film 'Black 47', organized by William Lee, the young President of AOH New York County Division 1, at the IFC Film Center in Manhattan. I attended a talk by Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein representative for the USA, at Molloy College, on Brexit, and participated in a segment on the McGuinness Principles.

National Treasurer Pender attended an address by Taniaste Simon Coveney, on Brexit and Ireland's effort to prevent any damage to the Good Friday Agreement. Related to EIN and taxes, I am working with several Divisions on their specific issues in conjunction with Sean Pender and NYS Vice President Tom Lambert, and we are pleased with the progress we are seeing and look forward to a resolution of these difficulties.

Elsewhere in this edition you may find an article on the Yonkers City Council adoption of the McGuinness Principles and a piece on the Hudson Valley Irish Fest.



Siobhan and Director Dan Dennehy flanked the Nassau County AOH Feis & Irish Festival honoree Richard O'Neill, second from right, of Division 7, and Peter Begley, Nassau AOH Board President, on Sept. 16 on Long Island. Not pictured is County Organizer Warren Scullin manning the AOH Recruitment Tent at the Feis.





## Director's Report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope all of you are well. One of the issues that I wanted to touch on in this article is the importance of submitting your Missions & Charities forms to National Missions & Charities Chairman Joe Norton. These forms can be located at [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) under the Forms section and are easy to fill out. Anything that your Division does for a charity or donates to a charity can be sent in. Keep in mind that each hour a Division member works toward a charitable endeavor is worth a \$10 donation. For example, if five of your Division members are working on a charitable project for one hour, that is a \$50 donation. By sending in these forms, your Division is adding to the yearly total of donations made by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. If every Division sent in their forms, I imagine that it would be a large sum of money that we donated as a whole. This not only helps us in recruiting, but reinforces the third pillar of our motto, Christian Charity.

In September, I participated in the Wheeling, West Virginia, Irish Road Bowling tournament sponsored by the Bishop Whelan Division. A record was set this year with 851 bowlers making it the largest Team Irish Bowling tournament in the world. A great job to President Tom Connelly and the rest of the Bishop Whelan Division members

Also in September, I attended the Annual An Gorta Mor Memorial Mass in the Irish Hills of Michigan. Thanks to Michigan AOH State President Kevin Burke and the rest of the Michigan AOH for the hospitality.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at [dparks121@yahoo.com](mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com).



## Southwest Liaison

by Mike Joyce

As this is my first report as Liaison for the Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona) it is probably appropriate to introduce myself – especially for those in the territory.

I'm in Austin, Texas, with my wife and young son. We've been in Austin for 10 years now with no plans to leave. I joined the Hibernians because I wanted an Irish Catholic experience I remembered from my childhood – thanks to countless Christmases with my grandparents in Youngstown, Ohio, and a Milwaukee Irish Fest or two. Unfortunately, the AOH didn't exist in Austin, so we got some guys together and created it from scratch.

I'm honored to serve and help grow the Order where the red dirt yields to the Hill Country and the desert opens into canyons. While our divisions are few and far between out here, it only means there is a lot of untapped potential in a uniquely Catholic part of the country to find new Hibernians.

Our division in Austin came online four years ago and has served all of Texas as our only active division. Austin just held their 4th Annual Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day fundraiser supporting the Gabriel Project. I am excited to report that we have a colony in Dallas/Fort Worth close to finding their 15th man. I'm confident they will be chartered in the first half of 2019. In Oklahoma, our friends in Tulsa — which is our oldest division at 18 years in the Southwest — are firing on all cylinders, and our newest division in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is working hard to promote Black '47. Congratulations to those brothers for getting involved and capitalizing on the opportunity.

What I love about the Order is how accessible all of our officers are and I am no different. Please reach out to me with your questions, membership tips, fundraising ideas, or anything that might be on your mind. You can email me at [mpjoyceii@gmail.com](mailto:mpjoyceii@gmail.com) or call me on my cell at 804-536-6067. I look forward to helping grow the Order!



## Hibernian Hunger Project

by Paul Gowdy, Chairman

Mathew 25:35

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

There is a certain level of hunger in most communities and neighborhoods across the length and breadth of this country. Our Catholic upbringing teaches us to help, where and when we can, those less fortunate than we are. Making a financial donation from time to time is good. As Hibernians, I believe we can put our minds together and go a step further. So, let us get organized.

Many of our boards may already schedule a regular 'Hunger' awareness event. I want those boards to share the details of their projects, the frequency, the volunteer numbers, the source, the amounts of cash raised, the food served or any other pertinent data. The endeavor could range from a local effort by selling raffle tickets for donated prizes. Or on a large-scale, well-attended event with Irish entertainment along with plenty of donated food.

# McGuinness Principles adopted by first major city

By Dan Dennehy, National Director

On September 25, the Yonkers, NY, became the first major city to unanimously adopt the McGuinness Principles. The impetus came from Myles Scully Division 1, Westchester, and its President, Kevin Ellis. The City Council meeting was attended by officers and members from National, New York State and all of Westchester County's divisions, as well as LAOH members, officers of the United Irish Counties, Hudson Valley Irish Center, Police Emerald Society of Westchester County, and many Yonkers residents. National Director Dan Dennehy and Division 1 Past President Bob Stauff testified on behalf of the McGuinness Principles.

Dennehy testified that as a proud son of Yonkers, he recognized that the City of Yonkers has long embraced the rights of all citizens, including its large Irish American community. The McGuinness Principles seek the same for all in Ireland, by instilling a Bill of Rights, language equality, justice on legacy crimes and self-determination through a referendum on Irish Unity. Bob Stauff then testified that Yonkers was the first City Council to adopt the MacBride Principles and had issued the first proclamation that Gerry Adams received during his first visit to the U.S. Stauff thanked Councilman John Rubbo for proposing the resolution and Councilman Mike Breen and Council President Mike Khader for their enthusiastic support.

Councilman Rubbo remarked that 20 years ago the Good Friday Agreement was ratified by more than 70 percent of the voters in the North of Ireland, yet much needs to be done so that Martin McGuinness' legacy may be fulfilled. He also recognized the AOH for keeping the issues of Ireland on their agenda. City Council President Khader said that he studied the McGuinness Principles and the need for these principles is not unique to the North of Ireland. Truth, fairness, and an even playing field are principles we should all live by regardless of race, religion, color, creed or political party, and that is why he proudly supported the resolution. The McGuinness Principles were then adopted with a vote of 7-0.

Video of the hearing here: <https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?PGD=yknkny&eID=1206>



The Yonkers City Council, back row, Majority Leader Michael Sabatino, Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Shanae V. Williams, Council President Mike Khader, Minority Leader Mike Breen, Anthony J. Merante and John Rubbo. Front row, Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch, NY State Director; Charlie McGuinness, President Division 16 Mount Kisco; Andy Hayden, Division 1; Robert Stauff, Past President Myles Scully Division 1; Kevin Ellis, President Myles Scully Division 1; Dan Dennehy, National Director; Jack McDonald, Division 1; Mike Morley, Aisling Center Man of the Year; Peter Van Slyck, President Police Emerald Society of Westchester; and Brian Duffy, President AOH Westchester County.



It is our duty as brothers and sisters of the Hibernian family to awaken the greater masses in our neighborhoods to the plight of the less fortunate in our midst. We are obliged in the memory of the thousands of our ancestors who died or those who had to abandon their homes and take flight on the cursed coffin ships to the new world. All because of the failure of one food source, the potato.

We all know of the multitude of food being grown in Ireland that was being transported under police and British soldier protection, to be sold in England by so-called Christians whilst Irish Christian people died by the roadside, starved to death. We shall never forget or forgive, but we can shame those heartless bigots with our display of true Christian Charity.

Step 1. Each AOH Board share with me data of any Hunger-related event held by their board. [Gaudy9plow@aol.com](mailto:Gaudy9plow@aol.com).

Step 2. I will publish all those related notifications on the National AOH website.

Step 3. I will ensure that the AOH National Board continues to reward any outstanding event with a financial donation and a deserved AOH emblem presentation in recognition of that outstanding board's effort.

Step 4. I will endeavor to have published in appropriate Irish newspapers, bulletins or on radio shows, the efforts and successes of our AOH/LAOH Boards' Hunger projects.

Give me your support. Let us help those poor souls who wonder each day where their next meal is coming from.



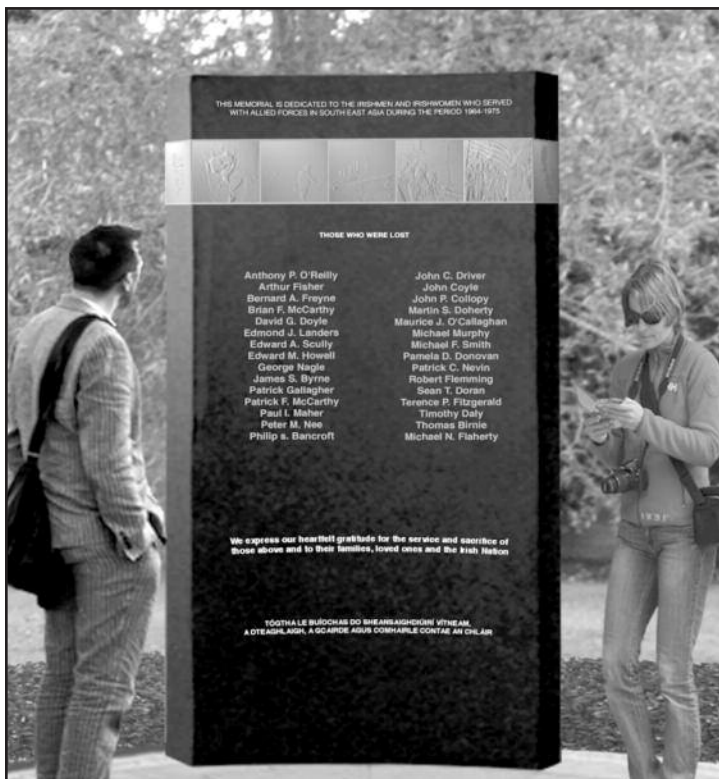


# Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

In October, Mount Olivet cemetery will see a host of Hibernian dignitaries and members of the general public at the dedication of a granite name block at the recently repaired tombstone of Thomas Devin Reilly, Irish revolutionary, Young Irelander and journalist. In 1800s Ireland, Reilly wrote for *The Nation* and *The Irish Felon* in support of Irish tenants. As a member of the Irish Confederation during the Great Hunger, he urged tenants to refuse to pay rents, retain crops to feed their own families and destroy bridges and railway lines to prevent the removal of food from the country. He was involved in the failed Young Irelander Rising of 1848 and fled to America where he became active in U.S. politics in support of Irish independence and secured a job in the U.S. Land Office. James Connolly later claimed him as a pioneer of American labor journalism. When he died, an article in the 7 March 1854 NY Times noted: "In Mr. Reilly's early demise, the Irish cause has lost an able soldier and the aid of a brilliant intellect."

The original marble stone above Reilly's grave was eroded by weather and acid rain to the point where the inscription was barely visible and the Celtic Cross had been broken off the top. Beltway Bulldog Jack O'Brien assembled the usual suspects: Keith Carney, Ralph Day, D.C. State Board President J.P. Walsh and a host of Hibernians to Remember Reilly, and the project was underway. The result is the repaired cross and a granite block replicating the original inscription from the worn tombstone that reads: "On Decoration (Memorial) Day, 1881, Clan na Gael erected this cross in memory of Irish patriot Thomas Devin Reilly, died March 5, 1854 at age 30. May God have mercy on his soul, amen." On the base is carved, "A soul has come into Ireland." Other inscriptions include "Jeannie and little Molly, child of Jennie and Thomas Devin Reilly." The block has a harp at the top and shamrock wreaths on either side and the bottom is inscribed, "District of Columbia Ancient Order of Hibernians - 2018" Congratulations to our brothers and their supporters for keeping the tradition alive.



If you will recall, back in the December/January issue of this Digest, I wrote of the magnificent Great Hunger Memorial in Providence, Rhode Island. I had been invited by AOH Brothers Bob Deignan and Ed Johnson to perform, with John Corr, as The Bard and The Busker, at their Tenth Anniversary fundraiser for the monument. That was when I first saw what had been a million dollar project dedicated to telling the story of the Great Hunger and dedicated to the memory of its victims. It was so much more than I'd expected and I highly recommended it as a place to visit. I just received an email from Brother Deignan notifying me that in mid-August of this year, that incredible Memorial, which I admired so much, had been the victim of serious vandalism and major theft. Four of the 11 bronze plaques, containing the story of the tragedy and mounted on the Narrative Historical Wall, have been stolen! Personally I can't help feeling it is as if someone had stolen the tombstone of a relative! The seven remaining plaques have been removed for safekeeping. The monetary value of the stolen plaques on the scrap-metal black market is fairly small, but the cost of repairing the damage to our common heritage by replacing and better securing all of them will be very high. Brother Deignan and the Hunger Committee are determined to repair the damage so that future visitors will know the truth of that terrible time in Irish history. They have launched an appeal to the nation-wide Irish community to assist them in the restoration. More information is available at [www.rifaminememorial.com](http://www.rifaminememorial.com) and you can join me in a donation to Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial Committee, P.O. Box 28077, Providence, RI 02908. The Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial is a 501C-3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please help us restore this treasure.

For more history, check out the Historical Happenings link at [AOH.COM](http://AOH.COM) and [NYAOH.COM](http://NYAOH.COM)

# Echoes From Irish History

## An American Hero From Ireland

By Mike McCormack, National Historian

In 2009, Matthew Carroll, a U.S. Viet Nam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, proposed a memorial in Ireland to recognize more than 2,500 Irish nationals who served with the U.S. military in Southeast Asia during the Viet Nam conflict. Carroll presented his plan to the Ennis, Co. Clare council. The memorial would include the names of 29 Irish men and one Irish woman who lost their lives, and the inscription: "This memorial is dedicated to the Irish men and Irish women who served with allied forces in Southeast Asia during the period 1964 through 1975." Ennis authorities supported the idea and provided a place for the memorial, but funding became an issue. In an attempt to find funding, Carroll contacted Bill Halpin, also a Viet Nam veteran and member of the AOH VA State Board. The VA State Board endorsed the project and Halpin invited Carroll to the 2014 AOH National Convention in St Louis to solicit support for the project. However, the required funding was not realized as other commitments had already been made and the project went dormant.

In January 2015, another Irish citizen and Viet Nam veteran, LTC John Dullahan (U.S. Army, retired), learned of the project and with Carroll's approval took over lead on the project. Under Dullahan's leadership a more modest memorial was designed, funding was achieved and on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2016, the memorial was dedicated. The 30 names were solemnly read by Dullahan, Carroll, Halpin and others, taps was played by an American Legion bugler and speeches were made by the U.S. Defense Attaché, the Ennis mayor, the Commander of the Killarney American Legion Post and the Irish Defense Force, among other officials. The monument stands in Monastery Park, Ennis and below the names are the words, "We express our heartfelt gratitude for the service and sacrifice of those above and to their families, loved ones and the Irish nation."

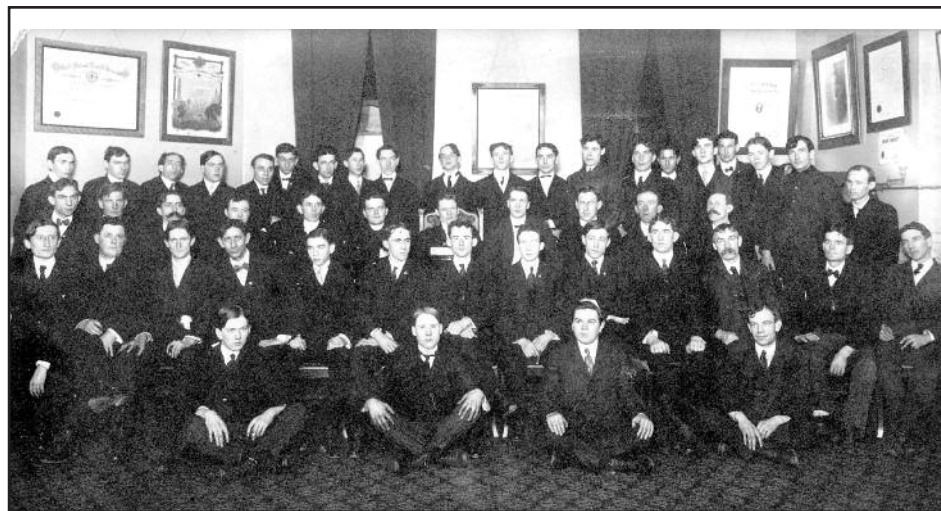
But that's not the end of the story! One of the names on the memorial is U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal and Navy Cross recipient Patrick Gallagher. Gallagher, from Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, lived in Lynbrook, Long Island N.Y. before serving in Viet Nam. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in July 1966, when he threw himself on an incoming grenade, shielding his fellow Marines and quickly pitched it into a nearby river where it exploded out of harm's way, saving himself and others. Gallagher was killed in action a year later just days before his enlistment was up; he was 23 years of age.

On March 13, 2018, U.S. Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer announced that the Navy's next guided-missile destroyer would be named the USS Gallagher in his honor. "Lance Corporal Gallagher is an American hero," Spencer said, "His exemplary service in defense of our nation and his strength and sacrifice leaves an example for all servicemen and women to emulate. His legacy will live on in the future USS Gallagher and his heroic actions will continue to inspire future Sailors and Marines." His legacy will also live on in a monument in Ennis, Co. Clare.

Thanks to Bill Halpin of the VA State Board for part of this article.

The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives can now be found on our webpage, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).

## A Look Back



Members of an Auburn, NY, AOH division in 1895. Note the charter on the back wall and how young the members are. This is an example of what we seek today! Second row from the bottom, third from the right, is Dennis Lawler (long mustache) from Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. His legacy to the AOH was his grandson, our late National Secretary Emeritus Tom McNabb. He was also great-grandfather of 28 Greer and McNabb children, including National Director Liam McNabb and past NY State President Mike McNabb, and was great-great-grandfather to 67 more future Hibernians.





## immigration

by Dan Dennehy, Chairman

I ask that each Division and State to comply with our Constitution and appoint an Immigration Chair. This chair is a resource on promoting fair and equitable immigration between Ireland and the U.S. and providing members with background on current Irish and U.S. immigration policies, issues and concerns.

It's very easy for Irish citizens to visit here for up to 90 days and for U.S. citizens to visit Ireland for the same amount of time. But what about staying longer? Or living, studying or working here or there? That's when visas come into play and in both cases, it's not easy!

The regulations to receive a visa to Ireland or the U.S. can be complicated, and those considering staying longer than 90 days need to learn all they can before they travel.

Irish people coming to the U.S. can contact the Irish Immigration Centers here. Similarly, an excellent organization is available in Ireland. To learn more about migrating to Ireland, please visit Cross Care: Migrant Project here: <https://www.migrantproject.ie>

### Irish citizens need apply!

The 2020 Diversity Visa Lottery is open from 3 October 2018.

The DV Lottery is a green card visa lottery of 55,000 visas for the United States available annually. A computer-generated, random lottery drawing chooses the successful candidates for visas.

Although the Irish only get a handful of the 55,000 DV visas, it's still worth applying!

This is basically the only way to get a green card by lottery, and each person can apply only once. You must apply online, and there is no cost, it is free to enter, and if successful, entrants have the chance to apply for a 'Green Card' or permanent resident visa – which allows you to live and work in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident.

Contact the Irish Immigration Centers for more information: [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)

Find a video and complete info here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html>

It's looking like neither party is willing to tackle U.S. immigration before the November elections. However, after the elections, we must get to know our own legislators and speak to them from our perspective. The Irish have been on the line the longest, many of Irish undocumented have been waiting for a visa since the 1980s! DV lottery, Morrison Visas, J1 Program and other methods succeeded with Irish American immigration advocacy. Which is why we must soon again, make the best deal possible for Irish and American people to travel to each other's countries. Hibernians are the only group with the connectivity in towns and cities across the U.S. to make it happen. The AOH National Immigration Committee is focused on these issues and are ready to get to work with you, our members, when the time is right.

I would like to commend President Ben Coleman and his Lincoln, Nebraska, AOH Division for hosting an Irish Hooley to welcome immigrants. Their demonstration of Irish hospitality, an act of friendship and Christian charity toward the newest additions to their community has attracted great goodwill and positive media attention for the AOH, read here: [https://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-a-warm-welcome-to-new-americans-from/article\\_c0aeb113-0434-5a83\\_838ab96cf0739d11.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-a-warm-welcome-to-new-americans-from/article_c0aeb113-0434-5a83_838ab96cf0739d11.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share)

## New York

### Raising funds for charity

The Kings County John T. Rogan Division 12 Boat Ride upon the River Rose out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York, was held on August 25. The four-hour boat trip toured Jamaica Bay and the surrounding areas of Gerritsen Beach and other waterfront areas that buttress the bay. This is the main fundraiser that Division 12 holds during the year. Division 12 financially supports organizations and cultural affairs that promote Irish heritage and Catholic education. Joining Division 12 in this endeavor were our sister Hibernians from Division 22, Division 19 and other Irish organizations in and around Kings County. Submitted by Tom MacLellan.



On the Kings County, AOH Division 12, John T. Rogan Annual fund-raising boat trip on August 25 were, seated, Barney Cassidy, Larbo Burns, Tom MacLellan, Frank Thompson; standing were Marc Reilly, Brian Xerub, Brian Cassidy, Jimmy Hart, Jerry McCabe, Jimmy Cassidy, Brian Kelly, John Kelly, Dan Masterson and Phil Gilson.



## freedom for all ireland

by Martin Galvin, Chairman

### FFAI plans Ballymurphy campaign

Before meeting the victims' families in Belfast, National Vice President Danny O'Connell, along with National Secretary Jere Cole, called the upcoming Ballymurphy Massacre inquest "a fundamental test of Britain's ability to give legacy justice."

The families contend that after internment raids ended on August 9th, 1971, British paratroopers opened fire without warning. Ten innocent people, including a Catholic priest, Fr. Hugh Mullan, waving a white handkerchief, and a mother of eight children, Joan Connolly, were shot dead. An 11th murder victim, Paddy McCarthy, died of a heart attack when troopers placed an empty gun inside his mouth in mock execution.

British Royal Military Police then made their troopers innocent and the dead guilty. The British did it again five months later, with too many witnesses on Bloody Sunday. Forty-seven years later the Ballymurphy families will get their chance to put Britain's claims on trial at a court inquest.

Our national officers stood shoulder to shoulder with them, behind the Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign banner, and pledged AOH support in their battle for truth.

We will keep that pledge with a speaking tour, inquest updates and a congressional initiative. Last January, Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, conducted a weeklong emergency American speaking tour, which inspired a congressional initiative, five public events and formal proclamations of support by state and local governments.

Beginning in Philadelphia on November 11, FFAI will sponsor a five-state tour in which Carmel Quinn of the Ballymurphy Massacre families will give AOH members an up-to-the-minute report on the inquest. We will then provide reports on the testimony.

### Congressional call to action

Last April, 16 members of Congress joined a breakthrough bipartisan letter sponsored by the AOH to the British ambassador about legacy truth. We got 16 signatures, because AOH members called or visited local congressional offices until they signed.

Both the British ambassador and colonial British secretary, Karen Bradley, had to reply. Britain pays attention when American congressmen and senators are watching.

FFAI is calling on AOH members across the country to contact your local senators and congressional representatives, and ask them if they will make time to hear Carmel Quinn in Washington D.C. on November 14 or 15.

### Appeal

Today, Britain still denies truth and justice to the families of victims murdered by the crown or loyalist agents in places like Ballymurphy or Loughinisland. Brexit threatens catastrophe across Ireland. They even refuse an Irish Language Act. Instead of opening the door to Irish national freedom, Britain and the DUP want to nail that door shut. America can make a difference, but only if the AOH and LAOH, as the voice of the Irish in America, lead the way. Our donations to carefully chosen charities through monies raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, along with our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

This year, our national officers have begun new FFAI education and information programs about British injustices in the six counties. They are implementing many of your suggestions to enhance the Appeal. Our national officers are asking for a commitment from everyone to participate and support FFAI with a donation or fundraising event. Please donate and help the AOH and LAOH make the difference. Help make freedom for all of Ireland not an aspiration or endeavor but the reality for those Irish people still denied it!

### FFAI monthly bulletin

The monthly FFAI Bulletin is now available on the New York State and National AOH websites by clicking Reports and FFAI. We want to give you monthly updates on key events in the north with short analysis and explanation.

Please contact me at [MGALVINESQ@AOL.COM](mailto:MGALVINESQ@AOL.COM)



## project st. patrick

by Vic Vogel, Chairman

I would like to thank all of the Hibernian Brothers and Jurisdictions that have shown support for Project St. Patrick. As an introduction to our newer Brothers and a reminder to others, I would like to take this opportunity to restate the purpose of the Project St. Patrick Memorial Card Program in the hope that it will encourage greater support and increase participation.

Project St. Patrick is a Catholic Action Program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and friends created to support Priests, Seminarians and Religious spiritually, emotionally and financially. Contributions to this Program will go into an endowment fund. Interest from the endowment will be given to Seminarians, Priests and Religious in the form of scholarships and grants for continuing education and retreats. A contribution in memory of your Loved One enables the vision of St. Patrick to continue. His vision was to bring the Gospel and the Eucharist to all people. The Memorial Card Donation is a contribution to our Heritage, our Faith and our Legacy.

Please feel free to contact me for additional Project St. Patrick Memorial Cards. My email address is [victorjvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:victorjvogel@yahoo.com). The Good Work of our Priests, Seminarians and Religious needs the attention of all Hibernians. In that way, it will become our Good Work! Thank you.





## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

By the time you read this, Brothers, we will be looking forward to family gathering around the Thanksgiving table and looking forward with joy to the blessed season of Christmas. We will just be heading into the stark of the dark days of winter and spring will seem a long way a way. However, we know how quickly time passes and the time is now to begin planning for Irish American Heritage Month 2019.

Brothers, I have previously expanded on why Irish American Heritage Month should be at the top of our Hibernian priorities. It is part of our duty as Hibernians and a key reason for our existence as an Order. Heritage is not a gift you receive, it is a gift you pass on and for pragmatic reasons as Hibernians we should be doing everything in our power to encourage recognition of the accomplishment of the Irish in our communities and a reawakening of pride in those who may have become disconnected from their heritage.

Let us also acknowledge that yes there are forces at work that are consciously or unconsciously trying to dilute or deprecate the Irish American experience. Those who wish to remind us that "we are all immigrants" have an obligation to tell the full story of the Irish American experience fairly. As Hibernians we know that the Irish were driven from their homeland due to unspeakable suffering and political repression. We also know that they were not welcomed to this nation with open arms; that is why the Hibernians came into being. Yet, the Irish by their own diligence overcame these obstacles and rose to prominence in every field of endeavor and became nearly synonymous with patriotism, service and sacrifice to their country.

It is a story worth telling, especially at this point in our nation's history. We have to ensure that our young people grow up with a feeling of pride in their heritage equal to the pride other young people are formally encouraged to feel in theirs. We have to challenge the reticence of our governmental and educational institutions in telling it and correct some selective amnesia. It all starts with asking a respectful why to our educational institutions; why Irish American Heritage Month is not celebrated on par with the resources put forth for other heritages.

At the same time we have to get our own Hibernian house in order on Irish American Heritage Month. Let's take some basic steps ourselves as Hibernians to fulfill our duty to promote Irish American Heritage month.

- Begin work now to have March recognized as Irish American Heritage in your state and community.
- Work with your local media to do a story at the beginning of March on Irish American Heritage Month, the role of the Irish in your community, and the activity of your Division (as a side effect you may get some new members).
- Be a good ambassador for your heritage, let's not deprecate the celebration of our heritage by calling it "The Green Season" or something else trivial; it is Irish American Heritage Month, centered around our celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Let's remember the reason for season.
- Please update you website, Facebook pages, make sure a recognition of "Irish American Heritage Month" is prominently displayed.

The National plans to continue and expand its "Irish American Profiles" during March, please on the individual sites, like and share and encourage your friends and family to do likewise. The more awareness we raise the more that Irish American Heritage Month will be accepted and respected.

## Alabama

Father Tracy Division held their first AOH Recruitment Picnic followed the same month with an Initiation of two new Brothers. The Division hosted their very first Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Recruitment Picnic for Potential Members and their Families in North Alabama parishes. The recruitment picnic included a live performance by Jil Chambless and Dan Vogt, incredible Irish and overall Celtic musicians prominent on the Alabama Celtic music scene since the late 1980s who have also played throughout the United States and abroad. As the result of this picnic, an Initiation was held the same month welcoming two new Brothers into our worthy Order!



AOH Recruitment Picnic of the Father Tracy Division.



## political education

by Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

Brothers, as I write this it appears that the Good Friday Agreement and the Peace it has wrought is in grave peril. The decision of the British people to pursue Brexit, which the people of Northern Ireland of all communities rejected by 56 percent, will occur in March 2019. As of the writing of this article in October there is still lack of agreement between the UK and the EU on how to smoothly transition the UK out of the EU. Any agreement between the UK and EU must go through the bureaucratic process of being approved by both the EU and the UK, implying that we are approaching the "point of no return" for Brexit now. Being that we are dealing with politicians, it is highly likely that there may be some device to stop or slow the clock, but given that they have made zero progress in two years there is little reason to hope that even an extra two months would enable a resolution. We are also seeing sentiments from the continental EU nations, who to their credit have been trying to support Ireland, that their patience with some of the nonsense coming out of Downing Street and Whitehall is at an end.

The UK crashing out of the EU will mean a repartitioning of Ireland behind a hard border of checkpoints and barbed wire not seen since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA). The UK has already suspended the sale of border police stations that prior to Brexit were considered surplus to demand. Since the GFA the border between the six counties and the Republic of Ireland has only been demarcated by the road signs switching from kilometers to miles and the absence of Irish. In the 20 years since the GFA, the ability to travel at will and at ease between Northern Ireland and the Republic has furthered community understanding and cemented the peace; Brexit will create not only physical but psychological borders.

While a hard Brexit will create construction jobs building a border, it comes at the price of the miraculous economic resurgence Northern Ireland has experienced since the Good Friday Agreement; overnight the construction cranes that currently dot the Belfast skyline could dry up as a white paper prepared by the British government projected that Northern Ireland could take a 12 percent hit to its GDP. The economy of the Republic will also be dramatically impacted as the United Kingdom, its largest trading partner, raises the drawbridge.

However, the greatest peril is the cause of peace. The Good Friday Agreement was created in the context of both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland being members of the European Union committed to the free flow of people, capital and services between member nations. They were also bound by the European Commission on Human Rights, the avoidance of whose provision concerning justice for legacy issues has been cited by "Brexiters" as a key motivation for pursuing Brexit. The European Union is mentioned three times in this legally binding treaty, which the United Kingdom signed, implying that this historic document, facilitated by the United States, which ended three decades of violence, must now be amended. Anyone who follows Northern Ireland closely will know that when things in the North are taken apart there is a high probability they will never be put together again. See Stormont.

How is the United Kingdom reacting to this crisis in Northern Ireland? The current Northern Ireland Secretary admitted in an interview that she only recently realized that people who support Northern Ireland staying in the United Kingdom don't vote for parties that are dedicated to a reunified Ireland and vice versa. Little wonder that there has been little movement is restoring the power sharing government to Northern Ireland when Britain's point person on the ground is clueless as to why there is a need for power sharing. With a new border and immigration being a key Brexit issue the Immigration Minister admitted to never having read the Good Friday Agreement and its provision on citizenship. Most tellingly, the government of Theresa May is propped up by 10 seats of the DUP, the only major Northern Irish party not to sign the Good Friday Agreement, and whose opposition to "special status" allowing Northern Ireland to stay in the EU is the prime cause of the Brexit crisis. It is a toxic mix of ineptitude and cynicism.

Brothers, instead of completing the journey to peace that the Good Friday Agreement began 20 years ago, Brexit has stalled the peace process and threatens to send it into a tragic reverse. History shows that Britain only pays attention to Ireland when the U.S. signals it is watching. In turbulent times such as Brexit, it is imperative that we reaffirm our commitment to the people of Northern Ireland and are clear on our expectations. Those expectations are encapsulated in the McGuinness Principles; four basic principles, Equality, Respect, Truth and Self-Determination, that are the bedrock of any fair and just society.

To that end I need your help at every level of the Order to have your local and state government formally endorse the McGuinness Principles along with your elected congressional leaders. Templates for resolutions and talking points may be found on the AOH website. The McGuinness Principles reflect the core civil liberties that we as Americans take as givens; there should be no hesitancy on the part of any elected leader or government body to endorse them, but wide spread U.S. support will send a clear and unequivocal message that the peace and prosperity of the Good Friday Agreement and the welfare of the community of Ireland are important to the United States. Seeing wide spread U.S. endorsement of the McGuinness Principles sends a message that we remember the UK's Good Friday Agreement commitments and expect them to be honored; they are not to be sacrificed to Britain's self-centered Brexit aspirations.

### Project Saint Patrick Prayer Cards

Are now available by contacting

Vic Vogel

victorivogel@yahoo.com



# charities & missions

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



The news in September illustrated our need to sustain and increase our charitable efforts toward increasing vocations, the pursuit and dissemination of Irish History, decreasing hunger and providing relief in the face of natural disaster. Hurricane Florence reminded us that natural disaster is never far from our door. The pernicious predilection of pedophilia makes all too clear the need to remain united in our defense of the church and support the formation of faithful servants of the church.

The challenges we have recently experienced are balanced by the joy and celebration associated with the many Irish festivals and feis that harvest time (Lughnasa) brings. The resilience of our Irish ancestors is displayed anew for us this fall in the film *Black 47*, a cinematic exploration of An Gorta Mor. We have been fortunate to establish a partnership with the distributors of the film in setting up donation stations for Hibernian Charities and information stations for AOH/LAOH recruiting. I urge you all to use the film as an opportunity to share with the many who are sadly unaware of the truth of this critical period of Irish history and to make the most of the opportunity to raise funds for Hibernian Charities.

Please donate to Hibernian Charities in support of Project St. Patrick (vocations,) the Hibernian Hunger project, Disaster Relief, Medal of Honor Grove, Irish History Essay Contests, and Study Abroad Scholarships. You can do so by writing your check to Hibernian Charities and writing the focus of your monetary support in the memo section and sending to P.O. Box 19325, New Orleans, LA 70179.



## veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

Plans are beginning to be put into action to improve the value of information shared with our Hibernian veterans and the methods that will be used to get that information in front of you. As I wrote in the last Digest, I am reaching out to a group of veterans who attended the national convention break-out session who had expressed an interest in attending advisory committee meetings. In addition to those who were in the meeting and signed-up, there are a few veterans who have sent me information and reports in the past that I will reach out to as well to inquire about their interest in attending. If you have an interest in attending please drop me an email so we can discuss it. At future meetings we will plan to discuss:

1. Performing a review and upgrade/update of the AOH veterans website. We will have a separate small group discuss ideas with National Webmaster Jeff Nisler.
2. Discuss including some non-veteran Hibernians on the advisory committee. There are Hibernians who are not veterans themselves but have veterans in the family or in their Divisions and communities that they'd like to help. There are also non-veteran Hibernians who can provide great insights with history, medical issues, veterans courts, etc., and we can certainly use their help. More to come on this subject later.
3. Discuss an effective way to gather and distribute reports and information from/to Veterans Chairs and the general Hibernian veteran population.
4. Discuss ways to involve Hibernians nationally with projects such as wreath-laying and flag placing ceremonies, and other ceremonies that honor veterans – Hibernians or not.
5. Promote and publicize AOH Veterans Pin presentations.
6. Discuss the purpose and functions of the Veterans Municipal Courts. These courts exist in some, but not all, cities across the country, and brother Judge Pat Dugan is involved with them in Philadelphia. We are hoping that Pat can help with our understanding of the need for these courts and maybe how to promote their creation in communities without them.
7. I have obtained a name and email address list from the national office of all of the State Presidents and will be reaching out soon to try to obtain contact information for their Veterans Affairs chairmen in their states, or to encourage them to assign one if they have not already done so.

These are just a few ideas we've been kicking around over the summer and I look forward to working with the advisory team to put these projects in motion.

Lastly, I am grateful for the discussions, advice and ideas I've received from brother Danny Eakins, whom I've mentioned before as the one who conceptualized the veterans pin. Besides being a Hibernian, Danny's professional career is as an administrator with the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. As such, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. I consider Danny an unofficial deputy of this committee and hope that he will be able to continue to provide great insights and leadership for us going forward.



## catholic action

by John D. Fitzmorris III, Chairman

### Join in our Day of Prayer & Fasting

There are times when to be a Hibernian calls for more than just a stated allegiance to our Holy Mother Church. The principle of "Catholic Action" calls for more than just attendance at Mass and support for our clergy. Sometimes, it means standing up for justice and even accountability from those who lead this Church, the Body of Christ on Earth. We, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, long considered the protectors of our Church, now stand in solidarity with any and all victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by those charged with their spiritual and emotional care and physical protection.

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, will observe a day of prayer and fasting for the Church and all those who have been harmed by the tragedy of sexual abuse. We, the members of the National Board and the National Chaplain and Deputy Chaplains, are calling upon all members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to observe all the dictates of a penitential fast and day of prayer. The purpose of this day is so that Hibernians will focus their attention on all those children and vulnerable adults who were preyed upon by members of the clergy and religious and have been denied justice.

However, action — as Christ points out — means more than just prayer and fasting, and this day should serve as a beginning rather than as an end in itself. As the leading organization of Irish-Catholic men in the United States, a day of prayer and fasting should lead all Hibernians to educate themselves on the current situation confronting our Church. Hibernians should call for justice, and that means holding the guilty accountable.

In the name of Unity and Christian Charity, we humbly ask all Hibernians to join with us in this day of prayer and fasting and that they inform their parish priests and local bishops of their intentions so that they may join with us in prayer. May St. Patrick, St. Brigid, and Our Lady of Knock intercede for us to bring justice and healing to all those victims and their families, and may the Holy Spirit lead us to correct the wrongs of the past and come together in Unity for a better future.

## In memoriam

### Michael A. McNerney 1937 - 2018

Michael A. McNerney, 80, passed away on September 4, 2018. He was born in Niagara Falls, NY, on October 7, 1937, Mike was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School and Niagara County Community College. Mike served with the United States Air Force from 1955 until his honorable discharge in 1959.

On October 13, 1962, he was married to Barbara Stybak at Sacred Heart Church in Niagara Falls. Mike worked as an accountant at Hooker Chemical for many years. He was the former owner and operator of Power City Industrial Services and was a certified New York State Appraiser. In 2001, Mike and Barbara became the owners and operators of McNerney's Irish Imports, which they operated until his passing.

Mike was a member and past president of the Reverend James J. Browne Division 1, Niagara County, New York. Mike was elected to five terms as division president, serving longer than any other division member in history in that office. He also served as financial secretary and numerous other offices for the Niagara County Board, including president.

Mike was an effective ambassador for the division and advanced the cause of the AOH throughout Western New York. While at the helm of the division, he carried out his duties with wry humor and always deflected praise and attention from himself to others. Those who knew him best were always waiting for a joke or funny observation when those who didn't know him as well were initially being taken aback before becoming part of the swelling laughter. But he was an effective leader. An Irish raconteur.

On March 16, 2012, three years of meetings and planning culminated in the unveiling of the Fenian Memorial Marker on the Niagara River in Buffalo, NY. This was the site where the Fenians launched their raid into Canada in 1866. Mike was a member of the Fenian Marker Steering Committee and instrumental in creating this monument. As a permanent reminder of his role, Mike's name is etched on the memorial. He worked tirelessly with government officials and members of the Irish-American communities of Niagara and Erie counties, fostering positive relationships in the process.

In 2010, division members began assisting Heart and Soul Food Pantry by serving food to the needy and cleaning the facility. Mike was the catalyst for this expression of support for the less fortunate. He spent countless hours negotiating with officials over the contractual details of the annual Saint Patrick's Day celebration. He made arrangements for the bus ride and participation in the Buffalo Saint Patrick's Day Parade year after year. Mike increased the public's awareness of the Division's sponsorship of the Niagara Catholic High School scholarship by ensuring local media coverage. His hard work touched so many in so many ways.

In 2013, Mike was honored by being chosen the Grand Marshal of the Niagara Falls Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Current Division President Kevin O'Brien said, "No one deserved it more than our admirable and gracious brother Mike McNerney. His efforts benefited our Division and are clear expressions of Mike's devotion to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity – the tenets of our Order. Mike McNerney set a standard for all of us to reach for. He will be missed and always warmly remembered."

Mike is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara (Stybak) McNerney; his daughter, Karen McNerney; and his son, Michael (Becca) McNerney. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Jessica, Mila and Callum McNerney; and his sister, Phyllis (Robert) Donovan. He was predeceased by his brother, Ronald McNerney.

—Bill Patterson





## Rituals & Degrees

by Jack Schneider, Chairman

I would like to sincerely thank Worthy National President Judge James McKay for selecting me to serve as the National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees for the upcoming term. It is certainly a great honor and I will strive to put forth efforts to ensure that that confidence was not misplaced. I also look forward to working together with National Vice President Danny O'Connell and all the Major Degree Team Chairmen and Team Leaders in advancing the important Degree works of the Order.

November is a time when we as Catholics take time to reflect upon and remember family members, loved ones and friends who have passed on to their eternal reward, particularly in the celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

The Men's Basketball Team at my alma mater, Villanova University, employs as one of their mottos, "We play for those who came before us," recognizing those former players who worked hard over the years in establishing a foundation of excellence and building a great tradition. Seeking inspiration and motivation in such a principle certainly has served the Wildcats quite well in recent years.

Likewise, those Brothers who are members of our Major Degree Teams put in extensive time and effort to carry on our wonderful traditions in the ritual of the Major Degrees, in part out of great respect for those Brothers now departed who established and built our fine Major Degree Teams. I am thinking of inspirational men like predecessors at the National Chairmen of Rituals and Degrees position, Al O'Hagan, of the Round Tower Team, and Pat Shannon, of Tara Court, as just two.

My own Isle of Erin Major Degree Team of Montgomery County, PA, has recently endured a difficult stretch in the past 18 months, where no fewer than six active or retired Team Brothers have passed. I would like to acknowledge them now: Frank Mahoney, who served as one of my personal Degree Team mentors; fellow Villanova Alumni Leo Dolan; and our four "Jims": Jim Nash, Jim Wilson, Jim Cunnion and, most recently, Jim Dougherty. In tribute to Brother Doc and as is our longstanding tradition, Isle of Erin will be dedicating the performance of its next Major Degree Ceremony to Doc's memory. We at Isle of Erin consider it most important to carry on the tradition and legacy all our fallen Brothers helped establish.

And to all former members of our Major Degree Teams who may have passed in the last year, we salute them and thank them for their most important service to our Order. In the future, when a current or former Major Degree Team member dies, kindly pass that information along to me as I would like to include their names here in this column.

Also, on November 11, we will commemorate Veterans Day and the 100th Anniversary of the armistice ending of World War I. We salute all our Major Degree Team members who are veterans and served in the Armed Forces and thank them for their service to our country as well as all veterans throughout our Order.

I have recently been advised that Brother Mike Glenn is stepping down as Chairman of the Schenectady Major Degree Team after 41 years of service with that team. We sincerely thank Mike and congratulate him for such an extraordinary record of commitment and dedication to the Degree works of the Order and wish him well. Slainte, Brother!



## pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh Chairman

### The pipes, the pipes are calling

The 2019 March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 18, 2019. President McKay has called upon all willing and able bagpipers to help lead the Hibernian contingent. If you are able to help in this endeavor, please contact me by email at jaywarp1@gmail.com.

### March for Life planning underway

Plans for January 18's March for Life are already underway. The annual pre-march breakfast, hosted by the D.C. State Board, will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Irish Channel Pub. Cost remains at \$25/pp for the hot breakfast buffet. The committee is working to finalize plans for the Hibernian Mass. Details will be communicated by email to State Presidents and Chairmen.

New for this year, the committee is looking into hotel rates and room blocks for Hibernians looking to spend the night before/after in D.C. While the March for Life has rooms available at the Renaissance Hotel, better rates were found the day before the 2018 rally by traveling brothers. Hibernians will meet no later than 12:30 p.m. at the corner of 7th St NW & Constitution Ave. (the National Archives Museum). As in years past, we will jump into the parade line after the March for Life banner has gone past our meet-up location.

### September/October Awareness Month Designations

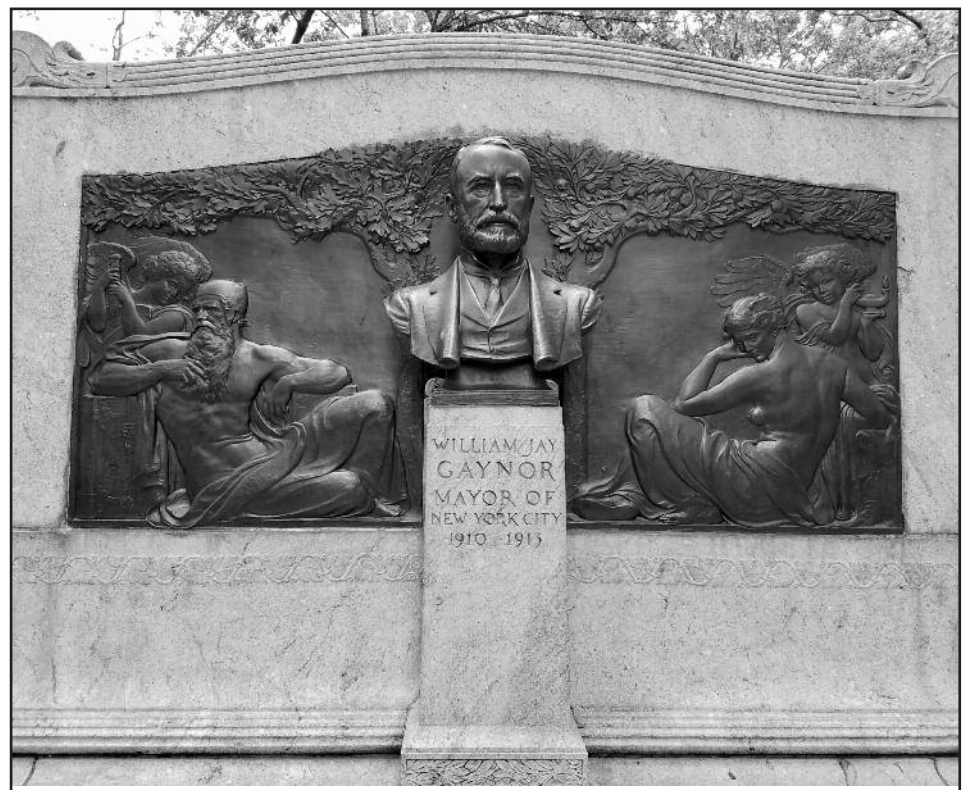
For those of us who espouse a pro-life view, September/October are important awareness months in our fight for a fully pro-life society. September is Suicide Prevention Month; National Veterans Affairs Chairman Jim Green has written before about the truly horrifying prevalence of suicide among our veteran population (~20/day). Even more upsetting is that veterans' suicides account for 18 percent of all suicide deaths, while only making up 8.5 percent of the U.S. adult population. The intersectionality of our pro-life message is truly inspiring, but creates within us a responsibility to always look out for ways to help those harmed by our culture of convenience and instant gratification.

To name only a few, October hosts Mental Illness Awareness Week, Domestic Violence Prevention Month, Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and Infant (SIDS)/ Pregnancy Loss Awareness Month. By honoring and working to promote any of these awareness campaigns, Hibernians help advocate an inclusive and consistent pro-life message that feeds our own soul while protecting others.



agus tá sé sin an-cháiliúil. *A picture was taken at that moment, accidentally, and it's very famous.* Bhí Robert Todd Lincoln lena thaobh. *Abe Lincoln's son was next to him.* Is é Gaynor an t-aon mhéara amháin den chathair a bualadh le piléar. *G is the only mayor of the city ever hit with a bullet.* Mhair sé leis an bpiléar sin ina mhúineál le trí bliana, agus ansin fuair sé bás de thaom croí. *He lived with that bullet in his neck for 3 years, and then died of a heart attack.*

Deir a leac cuimhneachán: *Is rialtas de dhlíthe atá againn, seachas de dhaoine.* His memorial says: *"Ours is a government of laws not men."*



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Tamall ó shin, luaigh mé go raibh mac an Ghinearáil George McClellan ina mhéara ar chathair Nua-Eabhraic ag tús na fichiú haoise. *A while ago, I mentioned that the son of General G.M. was mayor of NYC at the beginning of the 20th century.* D'fhoghlaim mé sin ó phlaic ar dhroichead Manhattan. *I learned this from a plaque on the Manhattan Bridge.* Bhuel, i bpáirc eile i mBrooklyn, Plás Cadman, tá séadchomhartha in ómós dá chomharba, duine darb ainm William Jay Gaynor. *Well, in another park in Brooklyn, Cadman Plaza, there's a monument to his successor, someone named...* Bhí seisean ina mhéara idir 1910 agus 1913. *He was mayor between...* Agus duine an-suimiúil a bhí ann. *And he was a very interesting person.*

Caitlicigh de bhunadh na hÉireann ab ea a thuismitheoirí, agus dóbair go raibh sé féin ina bhráthair. *His parents were Irish Catholics, and he himself almost became a brother.* Ach faraor, chaill sé a chreideamh agus é fós óg. *But alas, he lost his faith while still young.* D'éirigh sé ina dhlíodóir ina dhiaidh sin. *He became a lawyer after that.* Toghadh mar bhreitheamh ar chúirt uachtarach Nua-Eabhraic é. *He was elected as a judge on the NY supreme court.* Bhí baint aige le Halla Tammany, agus ba iadsan a chabhraigh leis chun a bheith ina mhéara. *He was connected to TH, and it was they who helped him become mayor.* Ach chuir sé díomá orthusan, mar rinne sé gach iarracht, mar bhreitheamh agus mar mhéara, seasamh le cearta na ndaoine agus a bheith ionraic. *But he dissatisfied them, because he made every attempt, as a judge and as mayor, to stand with the rights of the people and to be honest.* Leasaitheoir ab ea é, agus ba maith le H.L. Mencken é mar gheall air sin. *He was a reformer, and ... liked him for that.* Ach ní raibh i ndán dó ach frustrachas, mar ba rí-dheacair é rialtas ionraic a chur ar bun i Nua-Eabhraic san aois sin. *But only frustration was in store for him as it was extremely difficult to set up honest government in NY back then.*

I 1910, lámhaigh duine darb ainm James Gallagher sa mhúineál é. *In 1910, a person named... shot him in the neck.* Glacadh grianghraf den nóiméad sin, de thaisme,



on the families in the years that followed and to this day”.

AOH National Vice-President Danny O’Connell said: “Both Jerry Cole and I have visited Ballymurphy before and were familiar with the events of the Massacre, but hearing the deep pain in the voices of these family members as they spoke of the murders of their loved ones, while standing in the very spots where these murders were committed, was deeply moving. The AOH, as a leading voice of the Irish in America, recognizes the upcoming Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest will be a fundamental test of Britain’s ability to give legacy justice.”

O’Connell continued by saying, “Today, we stood shoulder to shoulder behind the campaign banner with the Ballymurphy families, to pledge American support in their fight for justice and truth”.

“We will report what we saw and heard today,” O’Connell continued “back to our membership across the United States, and to our elected representatives. The AOH will follow this briefing by monitoring the Inquest, and providing updates on the testimony to our members. We will bring Carmel Quinn, a sister of one of the Ballymurphy Massacre victims, to America and bring Ballymurphy’s story directly to our members in a multi-state speaking tour in November. These families are entitled to truth about the killings of their loved ones. The AOH pledges to help them in their long battle to get that truth and justice.”

FFAI Chair Martin Galvin that “British colonial secretary Karen Bradley has already admitted she had no understanding how elections are fought in the north. The Ballymurphy Inquest may teach her she has no understanding of how British troops fought by shooting unarmed Irish civilians in the north”.



Rita Bonner pointed out the spot where her Brother John Laverty was murdered.



Kathleen McGarry explained how her brother Eddie Doherty was slain.



Carmel Quinn, Danny O’Connell, Rita Bonner and Jere Cole.

## AOH leader praises choice of O’Dwyer as NYC parade grand marshal

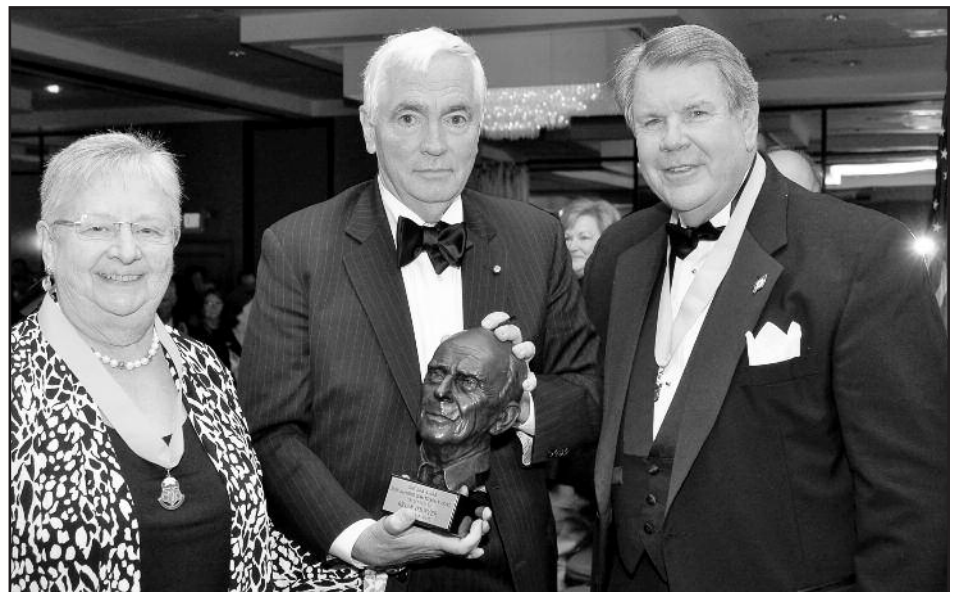
As the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, I wish to congratulate our Brother Dr. Brian O’Dwyer, of AOH Division 3, New York County, on his selection as Grand Marshal to the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade is one of the largest parades in the world, and the Irish American Community of New York are to be commended for selecting a man whose stature as an Irish American stands equally as large.

Dr. O’Dwyer exemplifies the Hibernian tradition of defending the Irish Immigrant community; fulfilling our Oath to espouse the Irish community’s cause and aid them when in distress. Dr. O’Dwyer has been a tireless advocate for immigrants’ rights. He is a founder of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, the largest Irish immigrant center in the United States. In its almost 25 years of existence, the center has helped literally thousands of Irish men and women as they immigrated to New York City. The center and Dr. O’Dwyer continues to be a focal point for the advocacy of Irish immigrant causes and continues the fight for a fair and just immigration policy for the Irish.

In keeping with his fellow Irish Americans, Dr. O’Dwyer has never forgotten his connection to the home of his ancestors. He has been an active proponent of the peace process; serving as a member of several U.S. Presidential delegations to Ireland and a White House advisor on the Northern Ireland Peace process. As chairman of the Irish Chamber of Commerce USA, Dr. O’Dwyer works to facilitate American investment in Ireland and Northern Ireland; cementing the peace of today by building hope for the future while reinforcing the special relationship between Ireland and the United States that, like the NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade, predates the American Revolution.

The Hibernians congratulate Dr. O’Dwyer on this great honor and commends the selection committee on their wisdom. Dr. O’Dwyer’s selection reaffirms the *raison d’être* of the New York City St. Patrick’s Day parade as a celebration of Irish Americans and their contributions both past and present to our great nation.

— Judge James McKay



Dr. Brian O’Dwyer was presented with the AOH-LAOH Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award in October 2015, pictured with then Vice Presidents Patricia O’Connell and Jim McKay.

### Remember the AOH in your will

Please consider the Order when writing or rewriting your will, and add a paragraph along the lines of: "I leave to The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America [X percent of my estate or a specific dollar amount] for its charitable works."

### Why I’m a Hibernian

**By A. Warren Scullin**

I celebrate and promote my heritage and my values. I am one member of a national organization of brothers and sisters who share these values, helping those in need, believing that it is their duty to make their community a better place for the next generation.

I am a Hibernian — one of thousands — working for peace and justice for all in Ireland, and improving the lives of all by living our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



# Colorado

## Carrigan Division celebrates anniversary of namesake's death

On August 18, Colorado's Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division held a Mass to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan — the namesake of the division. Carrigan died August 14, 1938.

The Mass was held at Saint Patrick's Mission Church in Denver. Carrigan came to Colorado before it became a state and his fiery spirit as a pioneer led parishioners to build the church in 1900. The church features roughhewn beams on its ceiling that each have an 'H' for Hibernians carved into it.



Fr. Charles Polifka OFM, Cap, the division chaplain for Carrigan division, presided over both ceremonies. Members of the other two Colorado divisions were also in attendance for the events.



Following the Commemorative Mass for the Division's namesake, the group went to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge for a blessing of Carrigan's grave.

# Missouri

## Pearse Division hearing the call

Under the leadership of a host of new officers, members of the Kansas City Missouri Padraig Pearse Division 1 have responded with a full-on recruitment effort that is yielding impressive results. Since the first of the year members have identified and recruited 12 men to join the proud ranks of the Pearse Division (six in April, six in September). Additionally, three former members have been brought back into the organization.

Under the guidance of Financial Secretary Zach Daughtrey, a new formal and more celebratory initiation ceremony has been developed, so that new members understand this is an important step they are taking and that there are big expectations with calling oneself a Hibernian. Following the ceremony members gather for a brief membership meeting and a toast to the new members.

An ongoing effort to keep the new members engaged involves past presidents being assigned to immediately take new members out to lunch and reinforce the importance of the Hibernians to the Catholic and Kansas City communities, the honor of being a member and to help identify what their interests are, making sure they become active members from the beginning.

The success of these efforts was rewarded over the Labor Day weekend. The Pearse Division man one of the busiest ticket booths at Kansas City's annual Irish Festival and this year five of the six April initiates handled at least one shift over the busy weekend (only a long-time commitment over the weekend prevented all six from participating).

Division President John McEvoy complimented members with the quality of the new recruits and challenged members to keep the hard press on to grow the division. He noted recruitment of members is a focus for the national organizations and suspects the Pearse Division in 2018 may be on the leading edge of this effort.



Pearse Division President John McEvoy administers Hibernian oath to six new members.



Former President Bill Quinn handles a portion of the initiation with Zach Daughtrey and Brad Gaughan standing guard.

# California



EASTER RISING DIVISION 1 VENTURA COUNTY PROCESSES IN OUTDOOR MASS From left, Joe Delaney, Dan McGrath, President John McNally, Founder and past President Bill Ferguson, Paul Caron and Paul Montgomery.



# Connecticut

**By Phil Gallagher**

The 8th annual AOH Connecticut softball bash was hosted by the Danbury AOH in August. Bridgeport, led by the Ted Lovely clan and a few Danbury free agents, recaptured the trophy. As always money was raised for a good cause, which in this case was for pediatric cardiac research.

The Commodore Barry Commemoration of the Fairfield County AOH took place in Southport on September 8 with the assistance of AOH member Father Victor Martin, invocation, the Port 5 Naval Reserve, the Gaelic American Club Pipe Band, and the John Barry 4th Degree Assembly the K. of C.

A capacity crowd was on hand to witness this colorful event, which this writer had the honor of giving the inaugural keynote address back in 2007!

Retreat Director Dave Howe announced that the annual State Board retreat will be held on the weekend of November 2, 3 and 4 at Holy Family Retreat Center. This year's theme is "No Ordinary Path," and is inspired by the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

The Naugatuck AOH hosted President Tom McDonough and the Connecticut State Board meeting on September 29, at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, where

Naugatuck Chaplain and Parish Pastor Father James Sullivan celebrated Mass prior to the meeting in the Church's restored Chapel.

The Greater Danbury Irish Festival was held on the weekend of September 21-23. The event was sponsored by the AOH and LAOH and chaired by Bill Knowles and had a successful weekend on the grounds of the Portuguese Cultural Center.

Stanford Hibernians will hold a Mass for deceased members on November 4, and on December 11 they will co-sponsor a bus trip to the Westchester Broadway Theatre to a concert of the New York Tenors. For info call Lorraine Sheridan at 203 348 7983.

The Connecticut AOH is known for family-orientated activities. In that regard, three Divisions held successful family picnics in September. New London held their annual picnic on September 8, while Meriden's was held at the spacious grounds of their home on the 15th. Waterbury Hibernians were well fed and entertained by Keltic Kick when their annual picnic was held at the Walcott VFW on September 23.

As we go to press Waterbury and State Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Joe Flaherty was planning the annual 1981 Hunger Strike Commemoration, which we will report on in the next Digest! For news or info: (jgallagherct@sbcglobal.net)



**New Haven Division 7 President Jason McWade and friends enjoyed the Division's annual cruise of the historic Thimble Islands.**



**Fairfield First Selectman Mike Tetreau presented a Proclamation honoring Commodore John Barry to JFK President Tom Keane at the Fairfield County AOH Barry Commemoration.**



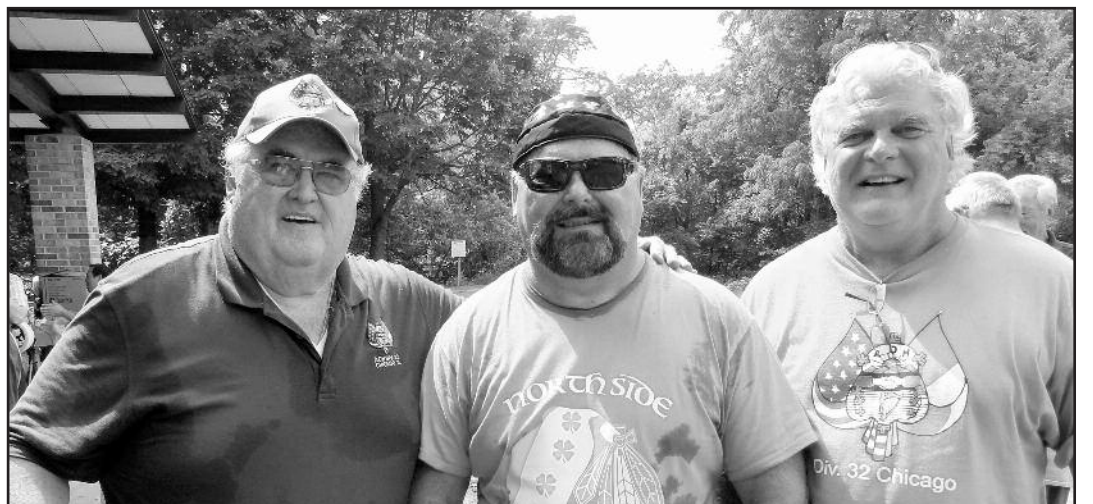
**Chairman Mark Ryan, far right, is all smiles as he and other Bridgeport Hibernians celebrated the success of their first cornhole fundraiser!**

# Illinois

## Over 100 turn out for AOH Division 32's Annual Picnic

The Flaherty boys and brother Patrick (their Man of the Year) organized the annual picnic, which began with a mass by Division Chaplain Dan McCarthy and included Bingo, great food, the awarding of six \$500 scholarships to Catholic school students who participated in Division service projects and a 50/50 pot-of-gold raffle won by Bill Ristau. Dennis Corcoran, John Bauer, Mark Howe, Larry Kelly, Ken Seigal, Tom O'Conner, John Resch in-absentia and many others pitched in to help make this a great success.

At the August 22 Executive Board meeting, AOH charitable account funds made possible thru dues, golf event sponsorships, raffle participation and generous gifts were approved for donation to The Young Irish Fellowship Club as well as two deserving individuals, one of whom is a Viet Nam war veteran who suffered a stroke on June 20th. For more information, pictures and schedules of upcoming activities please check their Facebook page of AOHAOH as it is their main social media presence.



**Marty Moriarty, left, Mike Flaherty and John Flaherty.**



# Massachusetts

**By Charlie Sinclair**

I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Now we can get down to business. Here is a sampling of AOH events and activities that are taking place across the Bay State.

## **Division 1 Holyoke**

Thanks to all who participated in the Big E Parade: Pete, Pat & Paul Hogan, Owen Donohue, Charlie Popp, Amanda Olmo, Paula Paoli, Mary Pat Murphy & Barbara Twohig. Our contingent swelled with Hibernian Pride as we were joined by members of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee and AOH members, Devin Sheehan, DJ O'Connor, Mark Joyce & Gerald Healey. Now that's Unity & Friendship!

The Annual Nostalgic Autumn Train Ride on the Pioneer Valley Railroad will be held on October 27. This trip allows one to take a step back in time by riding inside a 1930s Era fully restored coach during a one-hour long trip along Holyoke's longest running rail line.

## **Division 8 Lawrence**

The Annual Hibernian Family & Friends Irish Cookout that was scheduled for September 15 was cancelled due to the 75+ natural gas explosions and fires that rocked South Lawrence, Andover and North Andover homes and business on September 13. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a State of Emergency in these three areas. Many residents were forced to evacuate their homes for four days. Though electricity in the area has been restored to most, natural gas service to many will not be restored until mid-November. Many Hibernians who live in the area and whose energy is fueled by gas are among those without heat and hot water.

On November 1, the Division will kick off their 47th annual FFAI Fundraiser and Christmas Appeal, which is being headed by FFAI Chairman Bob Collins.

On December 12, the Division's Christmas Party will be held at the Claddagh and the Installation of Officers will take place Jan. 2019.

## **Division 9 Plymouth**

The Division held their Father John Murphy Boat Cruise in August. Brother Bill Bell and his band provided music for the cruise. Light food was provided along with Raffle Prizes. All members that attended had a great time!

## **Division 14 Watertown**

The Division's Annual Turkey Shoot will be held on November 16. All proceeds will benefit the Sonny Whooley Fund helping local families in need during the Christmas Season.

Division 14 extends a big Thank You to all who came out to play and support the Division's Scholarship Golf Tournament!

## **Division 36 Worcester**

On October 12, Division 36 will hold the Annual Dance to honor John Barry, Father of the U.S. Navy.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Past AOH National President Tom McNabb who passed in late July, a great Hibernian and good friend of the AOH in Massachusetts; and to Past LAOH National President Mary Ryann on the passing of her daughter, Bridget Mary, who passed in mid-August. May God hold them both in the palm of his hand.

And, that's the way we see it in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!

# California

## **BBQ for our Veterans – Serving the Real Heroes**



**Orange County Division 1, Brothers of St. Patrick and Long Beach's Plunkett-McDonnell Division teamed up with the K. of C.'s Christ Cathedral Assembly to serve up a tasty barbeque luncheon to the courageous veterans currently residing at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital. It was an honor to be able to spend time with them and to hear their individual stories. This is an annual event and one that all eagerly look to.**



**From left, OC Division 1 Tom Collins, OC Division 1 President Ed McLaughlin and Donna O'Neill, California State Vice President, and Long Beach Plunkett-McDonnell Division President Dave and Nelly McKenna as well as OC Division 1 Political Education Officer Emmet MacRaghnaill.**

## **Deadline**

**Articles for the December-January issue are due no later than December 1**

# Indiana

## **August Fun in Indianapolis**

In August, the Kevin Barry Division 3 held its annual family Hibernian Day. The day includes events coordinated with the Indiana State AOH reverse raffle, a picnic and golf outing. Vice President Jeff Veldhof organized the event with State President Dan McGinley.

The day of festivities began on a beautiful Sunday morning, with the annual AOH Golf Outing, coordinated by Mike Tobin and played at Pleasant Run Golf Course. Twenty-four players participated in a spirited outing. The competitive event was won by Dan and PJ Miles, Dennis Massingale and Vince Povinelli team.

At the eastside Moose Lodge, the grand day continued with a noon Mass celebrated by Division Chaplain, Fr. Glenn O'Connor. A picnic followed, the Division provided meat, baked beans and chips, and the state AOH brought beverages; members created a mix of dishes and desserts. While enjoying a great meal, members, families and friends were entertained by the Indianapolis Ceili Band. Children congregated at a large bouncy house and water slide throughout the afternoon.

Jimmy McGinley announced the drawing for Notre Dame Football tickets, which have been donated for many years by the Earl Myers family. This year an entire season of tickets were available for a special raffle and the winner was Chuck McGinley. Proceeds are used to pay picnic expenses and help with the Division's many charitable causes.

Following the picnic, the reverse raffle began under the humorous guidance of Master of Ceremonies Tom McNulty. Aided by Chris and Dan Meehan and a multitude of young people to draw numbers, the raffle proceeded awarding many great prizes and leaving only a small number of disappointed ticket holders.

Once again this annual event for a large Hibernian family proved to be much fun, with good cheer and great fellowship!



**Hibernian grill specialist Dan Miles, left, Patrick Lyons, Brian Lyons, Bob McCurdy (Division President) and Jeff Veldhof (Picnic Chairman).**



# Kansas

## Kansas AOH presents 'Irish Immigrants in Major League Baseball'

Hibernian Brother Seán Thomas Kane, of the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division, gave an entertaining talk at the Kansas City Irish Fest over the Labor Day weekend. The presentation highlighted the 48 Irish immigrants who have played in Major League Baseball since the 1870s. Kane focused his lecture on some of the more colorful Irish-born players.

Ed Duffy, in 1871, became the first Irish immigrant to play professional baseball. Hugh Daily, one of the top professional pitchers of the 1880s, threw 483 strikeouts in one season, including 19 in one game. On the other side of baseball notoriety, Joe Cleary holds the record for the highest Earned Run Average for any pitcher. The Cork native in his one major league game recorded an ERA of 189.0. That was in 1945, and it was 67 years before the next Irish-born player was seen in another major league game.

Brother Kane discussed local Kansas City baseball history, including two of the city's pre-Royals' professional teams: the Kansas City Cowboys (1880s) and Kansas City Athletics (1955-1967). Local Irish baseball players Barney and Frank McLaughlin played for the Cowboys during the 1884 season. Currently, there is only one Irish-born professional player, Belfast native P.J. Conlon, who pitches for the New York Mets' AAA team, the Las Vegas 51s.

An Irish Cultural Tent is always part of the annual Kansas City Irish Fest, held at Crown Center in downtown Kansas City every Labor Day weekend. Sean has frequently contributed to these cultural workshops, making presentations on other aspects of Irish history and culture. Sean is earning his masters degree in history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where he is studying the Renaissance and Early Modern European history.



Hibernian Seán Thomas Kane, at the Kansas City Irish Fest.

# Minnesota

## Shamrock Division donates to schools

The Shamrock Division of the AOH in Minnesota recently has donated \$2,000 to local Catholic Schools. Four Catholic Schools each received \$500 donations. The Shamrock Division tries to be active in the local communities by sponsoring programs associated with promoting our Irish Heritage such as funding Hibernian Scholarships, sponsoring local traditional Irish music, assisting in local Irish events and now donating to help local Catholic Schools.

Please see us on Facebook or on our website for more information – hibernians-shamrock.com



Dick O'Connell and Marty Fahey from the AOH Shamrock Division is shown with Wendi Alessio, Principal of Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School, of Belle Plaine, holding the \$500 donation.

# Iowa

## Iowa AOH State Board and the Iowa IRISH Fest

The Iowa State Board, consisting of Iowa divisions Dubuque County 1 (Dyersville), Dubuque County 2 (Dubuque), Blackhawk County 1 (Five Sullivan Brothers Division) and Polk County 1 (Des Moines), held its State Board meeting on August 3 during the Iowa Irish Fest.



2018 Iowa AOH State Board pictured are, from left, State Vice President Robert J. McCullough, State Secretary Gerald McGrane, State President John E. Gallagher, Terry Mcgrane, John Paul Collins, State Chaplain Reverend Dennis J. Quint, and Deacon Chris Evans.



Dubuque County Division 2 members prior to marching Colors into the opening ceremony of the Dubuque Iowa Hooley.



Members of Dubuque County Division 1 LAOH St. Brigid before the opening ceremony of the Dubuque Iowa Hooley.



# Nebraska

## Nebraska Hibernians in Action

Sarpy County Division 1 Hibernians continued their long tradition of serving meals at Omaha's Stephen Center. In August the division served close to 180 homeless people and families. The Stephen Center was founded in 1984 and named for one of the church's first deacons appointed by the Apostles and he is recognized as the first martyr. Initially a men's homeless shelter, its operation has expanded to help families "achieve housing, the addicted achieve sobriety, the sick achieve wellness, and the fearful achieve strength."



**Sarpy County Nebraska Division 1 serving meals at the Omaha Stephens Center, from left, Colm Breathnach, Kevin Campbell, Bob McEniry, Matthew Brewer, Dan Donovan and Jim Maloney.**

The Division spends hours and resources raising funds for the Center. One feature is the annual harvesting of grapes for the Soaring Wing Winery one of the local Nebraska wineries they work at and are paid by the pound. These efforts result in charitable works in Stephen Center in the kitchen and serving meals multiple times during the year as well as supporting other area foodbanks. Thanks to the members' volunteering the region knows several hundred residents eat good meals and are prepared to meet the challenges they are desperately trying to overcome.

## St. Patrick... special update

Our Flanagan Division has prided our organization in having St. Patrick represented at many of our various events over the years here in the Omaha area, to include our St. Patrick Parade, the longest running parade in this area. One of our mainstays is our St. Patrick statue, which has been part of our organization for several years.

The Barrett family here in Omaha purchased this saintly statue and has graciously let our Father Flanagan Division utilize it in our various events, including the St. Patrick Parade over many years.

Over the years, our St. Patrick statue has aged, like the rest of us, and time came for us to send this statue to get a "facelift," so he could continue this life of service well into the future. We worked with the Barrett family to determine the appropriate course of action and thanks to the great work by Kris Haase of Haase Statuary, our statue of the great Irish Saint looks 20 years younger and is ready for continued service. In discussing this process with the Barrett family, they were very pleased that they could continue their excellent relationship with our Division and they hope that the good St. Patrick statue will live on as an important part of their family and our Father Flanagan Division! If you are in Omaha, please stop by their fine establishment and take a look at our youthful statue of the good saint.



## Newer AOH Division Welcomes Immigrants

The John Fitzgerald Division in Lincoln Nebraska annually conducts a Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Irish Hooley. The celebration is a highlight of the Capital City's week long effort to welcome new immigrants, from all countries. The Division assist with the city's effort to provide information and assist new Americans to transition well to their new home.

As reported in the local newspaper Division President Ben Coleman noted their interest in participation is inspired by "the rude welcoming his people received when they came ashore more than a century ago."

The new Division (started 2017) opted for a primary focus on the immigrant welcome week for its single big activity; while they begin to grow their membership. The convenient September timing of the annual Nebraska International Week, led to notion of a half-way to St. Patrick's Day celebration. The Hooley is designed to be family-friendly and free with Irish dancers and when available a band or at least recorded Irish music. The fare is alcohol-free but includes "plenty of potatoes." In 2018 a local radio station KZUM 89.3FM provided support for the event.

The event provides much publicity and promotion to help with new member recruitment. As numbers grow the Division seeks to grow its fundraising efforts and expand activities to other local good causes and support the Freedom for all Ireland charities.

Caption: John Fitzgerald Division Lincoln brothers (left to right) John Costello, Dylan Tilley, Ben Coleman (President), Dennis Coleman and Mark Lindner



**Sarpy County Nebraska Division 1 serving meals at the Omaha Stephens Center, from left, Colm Breathnach, Kevin Campbell, Bob McEniry, Matthew Brewer, Dan Donovan and Jim Maloney.**

# Pennsylvania

## Pennsylvania Hibernians presented with flag

Members of the Notre Dame Division 1 and the LAOH Notre Dame Division 2 of Swedesburg, Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., were recognized for their support and prayers to the service personnel of the United States Air Force serving in Syria and Iraq.

Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Tobin and members of the U.S. Air Force 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron sent a plaque and a flag to the AOH membership. The presentation was conducted by Sergeant Jeff Tobin's father, John Tobin, to Division President Mark Ryan and LAOH President Rae Dispaldo.

The flag was proudly flown in an F-15E strike Eagle on a combat sortie over Syria and Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve by Captain Derek "Trump" Olivares and Captain Troy "Blaze" Wilkie on June 18.



**Notre Dame Division 1 President Mark Ryan, John Tobin and LAOH Notre Dame Division 2 President Rae Dispaldo.**



# New York

## Westchester County proclaims 'Gaelic Mass Day'

It was officially "Gaelic Mass Day" on Saturday, September 10, as Hibernians, led by New York State AOH President Vic Vogel and joined by local Irish community groups and parishioners, gathered for an Irish-language Mass at St. Barnabas Parish in Westchester County. The day began with County Legislator David Tubiolo announcing Westchester's proclamation and presenting copies to New York State AOH, host Bronx AOH Division 5 and St. Barnabas Parish. The Gaelic Mass was said by St. Barnabas Pastor Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald and brought together fluent Irish speakers and many who had never heard the Mass said in the language of their ancestors. It may now become an annual event.

Among the AOH officers leading the march into the Church were State President Vogel, National Director Dan Dennehy, District Director Aiden O'Kelly Lynch, Bronx County President Bob Nolan and Division 5 President Martin Galvin. They followed Piper Dermot Moore, a son of the late Mary Holt Moore, who had been a key figure in the Bronx Gaelic League. AOH and Ladies AOH sashes and medallions made a colorful display. Fr. Fitzgerald welcomed everyone in English to the Mass offered in Irish for "all those persecuted for their Catholic faith and Gaelic language." Woodlawn residents and Irish speakers, Division 5 Vice-President Ray Leyden, Aoife Farrell of Aisling and Mairead Greenan of Emerald Isle Immigration did the readings. Musician and Irish singer Dawn Doherty played and sang beautifully, while Daithi McLaughlin of the Brooklyn Gaelic Club assisted with the Irish hymns.

In his sermon, Fr. Fitzgerald said "The Catholic faith in Ireland, like the Irish language, had survived centuries of persecution and penal laws intended to wipe it out. Our ancestors had defied everything, attending outlawed Masses said by outlawed priests to keep their language and faith alive. We will survive the problems of today and come through stronger than ever."

Following the Gaelic Mass, Martin Galvin President of host Division 5 said: "We were overwhelmed by the help and encouragement we immediately got for Gaelic Mass Day. The parish, AOH statewide, local Irish community groups, Irish language clubs and musicians contacted us offering help. We have already been asked to have an Irish language Mass said annually and other AOH Divisions want to follow through on the idea originally suggested by Vic Vogel."

Galvin continued: "The Irish language is an important and indestructible part of our Irish heritage. We did not anticipate the deep appreciation, which even those like me who regrettably do not understand Irish would feel."



Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald said the Gaelic Mass. Establishing a new tradition of a regular Irish-language Mass in New York is an ongoing priority for Vic Vogel, the New York AOH State President.

## FFAI fundraiser Nov. 16

The Albany Freedom For All Ireland Committee is holding our 16th annual fundraiser on Friday, November 16. This event raises funds to support programs that seek peace, progress and justice in the North of Ireland.

At this event we also highlight and honor the leaders in the FFAI movement by presenting the Fr. Murphy Award to individuals who advocate for equality, justice and a united Ireland. This year's award recipient is AOH National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin for his dedication and resolve in advocating for the rights and freedoms of marginalized groups and individuals in the north of Ireland.

In addition, we are honored to announce our guest speaker, Carmel Quinn, from Relatives for Justice, in Belfast. Carmel is a member of the Ballymurphy Massacre relatives group, which advocates for families' rights to a full inquest into the death of 11 unarmed citizens. Carmel's work, and that of many, advocating on behalf of families impacted by this massacre, have led to the long awaited inquest into the investigation of the shootings, which has only just started, 47 years on.

We hope you are able to join us on November 16 but equally important for the support of this event and cause by taking a journal advertisement. The funds raised by this event and its journal go directly to charities active in seeking justice and fostering progress in the North of Ireland. We are accepting Journal Ads until October 31. Call me for a journal ad form of for more information. Go raibh maith agat as do chuid tacaiochta.

— John Levendosky, FFAI Chairman Albany AOH Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5, 917-620-4085



Division 5 banner on the altar as Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald celebrated Mass in the Irish language.



NY AOH State President Vic Vogel, center, was presented with the Gaelic Mass Day Proclamation from County Legislator David Tubiolo, second from right. On hand for the mass said in the Irish language were, from left, National Director Dan Dennehy, Bronx County President Bob Nolan, Vic, David and National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin.

## National Director Liam McNabb takes a swing.



## HIBERNIANS STEP UP TO THE PLATE FOR THE DISABLED

Albany AOH Division 5 held its annual Wiffleball tournament (chaired by Jeremy Hughes) and family picnic (chaired by Kevin O'Reilly) on September 8. The Wiffleball tournament raised money for the College of Saint Rose's Living Resources program, which teaches independent living skills to the disabled in a college setting.

— Tim Weklar



# New Jersey

## 9/11 victim honored, Division's namesake

Hibernians from the AOH Hudson County, NJ, Father Mychal Judge Division 1, made a pilgrimage to the grave of the Division's namesake, Fr. Judge. They placed a wreath at the gravesite in Totowa, NJ, and had a prayer ceremony led by their chaplain, the Very Reverend Victor Kennedy.

Judge was a chaplain serving New York City firefighters. He was one of the first to run into the North Tower on Sept. 11. On the 17th anniversary of the attacks, fellow Hibernians and colleagues remembered Judge as vividly in death as they knew him in life: a gregarious, irreverent man wholly devoted to God, whom many considered to be a saint.



Hudson County Division 1 Father Mychal Judge members at the grave of their division namesake. Photo by Hibernian George Stampoulos.



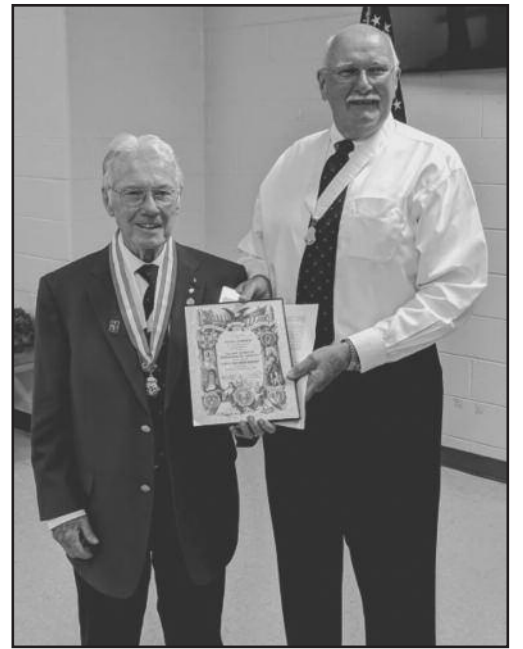
## Scholarships awarded

Four winners of a scholarship for high school students attending Catholic high schools were honored at an awards assembly by the Monmouth Division 2 Father Daniel G. Cahill Division. Pictured with the recipients and their families are President Declan Cassidy, Brother Dan Devine and Brother Craig Palmer.

# Virginia

## AOH Life Membership for Brother Hugh O'Brien

Virginia AOH State President Bill Halpin was honored to present National AOH Life Membership to Past State President Hugh O'Brien. Brother O'Brien distinguished himself from the moment he joined the General Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01). He served three terms as division president and in several appointed positions including Historian, Charities Committee Chairman, Parish Liaison, and the Past Presidents Committee. In addition to climbing the ladder to state presidency, he served as the state's Buy Irish Chairman and currently holds the Political Education Chair.



## Division Fights for Irish-American Heritage Landmark

Alexandria Division President Terry Riley is leading the fight to retain an important piece of Irish-American heritage. A park in the city has commonly been known as Fitzgerald Square, named after Revolutionary War hero and Irish immigrant Colonel John Fitzgerald. However, City Manager Mark Jinks initiated an effort to change the name to King Street Park. Some of cited reports that Fitzgerald owned slaves but one independent research found he did not own slaves. Jinks denies slavery as a decision factor.

Brother Riley has rallied support from several civic organizations, including The Ballyshaners, organizers of Alexandria's annual St Patrick Day Parades, and parishioners of the Basilica of St Mary, the first Catholic Church in Virginia and was founded by Fitzgerald in 1795. Further, Riley's petition to restore Fitzgerald's name has collected nearly 2,000 signatures. Signatories demanded the city council "immediately restore the name Fitzgerald Square to the waterfront project ... and emphasize the city's deep Irish past and current culture".



On September 12th more than 20 Hibernians, Ballyshaners, and other citizens squeezed into a small city hall conference room to attend the first public "naming committee" meeting. Riley pointed out "they're dismissing a war hero, a public servant, somebody wounded in battle, an immigrant and veteran."

# New York

## Raising funds for charity

The Kings County John T. Rogan Division 12 Boat Ride upon the River Rose out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York, was held on August 25. The four-hour boat trip toured Jamaica Bay and the surrounding areas of Gerritsen Beach and other waterfront areas that buttress the bay. This is the main fundraiser that Division 12 holds during the year. Division 12 financially supports organizations and cultural affairs that promote Irish heritage and Catholic education. Joining Division 12 in this endeavor were our sister Hibernians from Division 22, Division 19 and other Irish organizations in and around Kings County. Submitted by Tom MacLellan.

## Pictured right:

On the Kings County, AOH Division 12, John T. Rogan Annual fundraising boat trip on August 25 were, seated, Barney Cassidy, Larbo Burns, Tom MacLellan, Frank Thompson; standing were Marc Reilly, Brian Xerub, Brian Cassidy, Jimmy Hart, Jerry McCabe, Jimmy Cassidy, Brian Kelly, John Kelly, Dan Masterson and Phil Gilson.





# Ladies hibernian news

## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	msgrgray@stthomas-church.net
Carol Sheyer	President	csheyer@fuse.net
Karen Keane	Vice President	laohkaren@live.com
Marilyn Madigan	Secretary	memadigan@gmail.com
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Treasurer/Asst. Webmaster	maryannlubinsky@gmail.com
Sandi Swift	Irish Historian/Webmaster	sandiswift@ladiesaoh.com
Colleen Bowers	Missions & Charities	colleenbowers@ladiesaoh.com
Cathy Turck	Catholic Action	laohcathyt@gmail.com
Patricia A. O'Connell	Organizer	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Shannon Lehn	Asst. Editor Hibernian Digest	shannonclehn@gmail.com
Agnes Gowdy	Freedom For All Ireland	sengarose@gmail.com
Maire Leffel	Fundraiser	maireleffel@aol.com
Ann-Marie Nyhan-Doherty	Immigration/Education	dancingds@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	Program Chair	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Mary Conlon	Supplies	mandjconlon@atmc.net
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	mhtax@optonline.net
Kathie Linton	National Convention Chair	kathielin10@gmail.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Maureen Shelton	125th Anniversary Chair	mtshelton@live.com

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Patricia A. O'Connell	Illinois	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	New York	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Michigan	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	New York	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Massachusetts	
Dorothy Weldon	Pennsylvania	dorothyweldon@comcast.net
Mary T. Leatham	New York	mtleatham@aol.com
Mary B. Dolan	Massachusetts	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Pennsylvania	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	Florida	marypaglione@comast.net
Kathie Linton	Ohio	kathielin10@gmail.com

## National Secretary

by Marilyn Madigan

I am honored to be the National Secretary. Communication is very important to our organization. I am looking forward to communicating with the state presidents and secretaries. Please do not hesitate to contact me at memadigan@gmail.com or 216-470-3773. I have already heard from the state organizer in Pennsylvania that in November we will be welcoming a new division. By the time you are reading this article, the state secretaries should have received the Annual Membership Reports.

At the Hibernian Weekend at Notre Dame, the transfers of records was completed between the Offices of Secretary and Treasurers. Most of the National Officers were present. This time helped the Board build on our Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity as we serve our membership.

On September 21, the Hibernians celebrating 40 years of contributions to the Cushwa Center of the University of Notre Dame. The AOH informed those attending the dinner that it was the votes of the Ladies at the 1978 Convention that made this relationship with the University happen. President Carol Sheyer and Vice President Karen Keane made the presentation of the LAOH. Our donations were \$4000 to the Cushwa Center and \$2000 to the Keough Naughton Institute of Irish Studies. The Hibernians contributions help to sponsor a scholarship, the Hibernian Lecture and Hibernian Research grants. The Hibernian Lecture was given by Ruan O'Donnell. He is a world renowned Historian and spoke of the roles that the Hibernians played in the quest for Irish freedom.

2019 will be a busy year as we honor the centenary of Ireland's Declaration of Independence and the 125th Anniversary of the LAOH. All of our divisions and states should start planning their celebrations. Please inform me of your activities so that information can be shared with all our membership. During 2019, I challenge all are members to invite a friend to join our ranks. 125 years ago, our membership was between 50,000-70,000. Let us challenge ourselves to increase our membership.

During this celebration of our 125th year, I am challenging myself as a National Officer to emulate our early leadership. Our first few presidents were great leaders and civic minded before they had the privilege to vote. Let's follow the examples of Mary Quinn, Anna Malia, Ellen Ryan Jolly, Mary McWhorter and Adelia Christy.

## President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer



Hard to believe summer is gone and fall has arrived. Hope everyone is experiencing a beautiful fall. Before we know it the Holiday Season will be upon us.

All the National Board appointments have been made and they, along with the elected Officers of the National Board, are busy settling into their new positions. Don't hesitate to contact any member of the National Board because we are here for you.

The LAOH and AOH had a very busy visit at Notre Dame this past September. On Thursday evening the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies had a screening of "In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America" which was written, produced and directed by Maurice Fitzpatrick, who was present to introduce the film. On Friday the Hibernian Lecture was presented by Ruán O'Donnell who spoke on "America and the Irish Revolution, 1916-1922".

During the visit the LAOH and AOH National Board members had the opportunity to meet with the two 2018-2019 Scholarship recipients. Friday evening the LAOH's donations were presented by National Vice President Karen Keane to the Cushwa Center and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

In the past couple of weeks, raffle tickets for the LAOH National Board Fundraiser has been mailed to every State President and Division President. I am asking for all to participate and purchase raffle tickets in order to make this fundraiser a success.

The 2018 National Constitution will be placed on the LAOH website shortly and once the 2016-2018 Proceedings are approved by the prior administration they also will be on the website under the Members Only Tab.

Want again to remind everyone of the upcoming 125th Anniversary Celebration to take place October 10-12, 2019 at the Historic Dearborn Inn. This is a once in a lifetime LAOH celebration so begin planning on attending this fun filled event. Letters, with the early planning details, have been mailed to the State Presidents and all Division Presidents. Once all the details are completed information will be up on the website.

The past few days I was going through some papers and came across the following statement from one of our Past National Presidents. She wrote "In the past, all Presidents have stated how strong we must be in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. This is a must! We are as strong as the links that bind a flower, tree or fence. As we pluck the petal, cut the branches or break the link of the fence it becomes weak and unable to flourish. The only way to keep strong is to respect one another. Many of us have strong personalities and some ladies think that their ideas are better, we achieve more with compromise. When we have dissension in our ranks whether it be on the Division, County or State level we weaken that which binds us together. We are a strong Irish Catholic Organization; we are bonded by love of Faith to our Father, love to one another and love of our country and heritage. Remember we must think before we speak, never hurt a sister, she may become one of your best friends in the future."

## Michigan

A Mass at the An Gorta Mor Memorial was held on September 16th at the St. Joseph Shrine in the Irish Hills, Lenawee County, Michigan. Following Mass, wreaths were placed on the monument and light refreshments were served. This yearly event is hosted by Our Lady of Knock LAOH Division and the AOH St. Patrick's Division of Adrian, Michigan.

## Assistant Editor, Hibernian Digest

by Shannon Colleen Lehn

I am honored and humbled for the opportunity to serve as your assistant editor to the Hibernian Digest. I am excited for this opportunity and thankful to our National President, Carol Sheyer, for her faith in me. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of my sister Hibernians nationwide.

The deadlines for submission to the Hibernian Digest are the first of every even month. I respectfully ask that the State Presidents forward my information to their Division Presidents for collaboration with their publicity chairs to show all the good being done in the LAOH throughout the country. Submissions for the Digest are very specific, and can be found on our website (www.ladiesaoh.com), or I would be happy to forward upon request. Submissions can be made to assthibernianeditor@gmail.com. I can also be reached at that email, and also through text or calls at 330-770-6785.

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve the organization that has given me so much. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of any assistance at all.



# National Vice President

by Karen Keane

Welcome to the new way to share information and ideas across the country. This newsletter will be a great instrument to share your thoughts with your Sisters across the country.

Since Convention, we had our big Hibernian weekend at University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Along with our Brothers from the AOH, we met with representatives of the Office of Student Financial Services and the Cushwa Center. The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the two winners of the Hibernian Scholarship: Holly Miller of Camden, Ohio and Thomas O'Connor of Park Ridge, Illinois. Holly is a Junior majoring in Chemical Engineering. If we have any members in this field who are interested in mentoring, please let me know. Both students were very appreciative of the assistance given to them by the Hibernians.

The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at Notre Dame provided us with the information on the grants and, in the afternoon, sponsored the lecture which was the highlight of the day. We were so pleased to hear Professor Ruan O'Donnell's lecture on "America and the Irish Revolution, 1916-1922." During his lecture, Professor O'Donnell spoke on the involvement of the LAOH and AOH in the road to Irish independence. His lecture was recorded and, as soon as it is available, I will email everyone the link to watch it yourselves.

After the lecture, all Hibernians were welcomed to a dinner reception at the Morris Inn which was hosted by the Cushwa Center. During the dinner, I was honored to present the two checks which we voted on during the National Convention. The first check was for \$4,000.00 to the Cushwa Center to commemorate our 40th Anniversary with this institution. The second check was \$2,000.00 for the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Please "like" both entities on Facebook and follow the events there are planning.

I hope that fills you in on what has been going on pertaining to the Office of National Vice-President. If anyone has any questions on these items or Degrees, or Juniors, please let me know.

I wish everyone a fabulous fall. I love the nip in the air and the changing of the trees. I'm not a big pumpkin spice fan thou. Enjoy it to the fullest.

Love to each of you my Sisters,



National President Carol Sheyer and National Vice President Karen Keane presenting the LAOH donation to Patrick Griffin of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies



National President Carol Sheyer and National Vice President Karen Keane presenting the LAOH donation to Kathleen Cummings of the Cushwa Center

# Immigration

by Ann-Marie Nyhan-Doherty

President Carol Sheyer has honored me with the Immigration and Education Appointment on the National Board. This will actually be the fourth time I have held this position for I have served in this position under Presidents Ryan, Hennessey and Hogan.

If I were to tell you a little bit about myself it would have to include my strong Irish roots that date back to my grandparents who emigrated from County Cork and I come from a large family with strong Irish heritage. I held the office of President of Division 8 in Lawrence, MA for ten years and the office of Massachusetts State President for two. All the members of my immediate family are members of our local division.

My predecessor Mary Dolan had remarked how difficult this appointment was and I must agree. However, now that the position is referred to as Immigration and Education, I feel that there are many more opportunities to pass on information to the various States.

During my last three terms I was able to make valuable contacts, one of who is Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center in New York. She will be an asset to this position in her knowledge and experience in Immigration issues. She already knows that I will be counting on her.

My first task is to encourage every state where there is an LAOH membership to appoint a State Immigration person and to strongly encourage Divisions within the state to do the same.

Secondly, I intend to compile a list, with Siobhan's help, of Immigration services available in each state so that this information could also be provided to our membership to pass on. I will also investigate the use of social media as a tool to inform our members of events, workshops, etc. in their local communities.

I will attempt to do my best and pass on any information that I come across regarding the wonderful work that is being done by our Immigration centers which is just as vital as fighting for Immigration reform. Even Pope Benedict recognizes the importance of the work being done by our own Catholic population. While addressing a group of US Bishops, he was quoted as saying, "The Catholic community in the United States continues, with great generosity, to welcome waves of new immigrants, to provide them with pastoral care and charitable assistance, and to support ways of regularizing their situation, especially with regard to the unification of families."

I strongly urge our membership to become familiar with Immigration policies among your local senators and representatives. Even though the name of this appointment has changed, an individual LAOH member can always contact their local Congressmen and Senators to call upon them to address the issue of Immigration at every level. We must constantly be mindful that Immigration is not just an Irish issue.

Our LAOH membership needs to make a difference and to join the AOH in their efforts to support Immigration reform and support the wonderful works of our Immigration centers across the country. I am confident that this could be accomplished under the leadership of the National LAOH President-Elect.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me, please do at [dancingsds@comcast.net](mailto:dancingsds@comcast.net) or by telephone at 978-390-3400. I would also ask that you send me the contact information of your State and your respective Divisions' Immigration & Legislation Chair. This information would be most helpful and allow me to pass along important information.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support. It is an honor and a privilege to represent you all.

God Bless. Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
ore matic lighans -Dobik

**Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email.**  
[www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)

## National Fundraiser Chair

by Maire Kilbane Leffel

My name is Maire Kilbane Leffel. I am a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5/10 in Cleveland, Ohio. I have served in many Division Offices including President. I am currently serving on the Ohio State Board as FFAI Chair. I am also the Guardian on the Ohio State Degree Team. I am honored that President Sheyer has appointed me as National Fundraising Chair. It is a great privilege to work with the National Board serving the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

2019 will be a very exciting time for the LAOH, we will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary. Many plans are underway, especially on the National level. We are hoping to defray the costs from our National Treasury with a wonderful fundraiser. What a great way for State, County, Division Boards and individuals to participate in our anniversary by supporting this effort.

Tickets are being mailed out for the LAOH National Board Fundraising Raffle, and extra tickets are available. Raffle details are on the attached flier. Please make copies of the flier and hand out at your next meeting, hang them at your Club!



# Freedom For All Ireland

by Agnes Gowdy, Chairperson

Our National President, Carol Sheyer, has honored me by appointing me as the 2018-2020 National Freedom for all Ireland Chairperson, and I have accepted.

I have contacted Martin Galvin, the new AOH National FFAI Chairman, to introduce myself so that we can start a friendly working relationship.

I was in Ireland from May 20th to June 13th, 2018 and participated in the presentation of the FFAI checks to the various cross-community organizations as the LAOH National Ambassador, at the request of our PNP Patricia O'Connell.

In Belfast we met with representatives from Bridges Beyond Boxing, Belfast; the boys sometimes have nowhere to practice and we were shown some newspaper clippings of the boys practicing in the streets. The boys come from Belfast and surrounding areas and are a mix of catholic and protestant.

We also met with representatives from the Belfast National Graves, who gave us a tour of the Milltown Cemetery. We visited Holy Cross in Ardoyne and met with Fr. Gary Donegan and his team. Checks were also presented to, Relatives for Justice, Duchas Oiriall, Down Patriot Graves, Green Cross, Greater New Lodge Cultural Society, and the Pat Finucane Center.

We took the train to Derry and met with Cairde, the ex-prisoners' group in Strabane, and the Omagh Choir and Omagh Thunder Basketball. Omagh Thunder did not submit an application as their funds were sufficient, but because we had met with Eamon many times before he came along for the visit.

We travelled by bus to Downpatrick to visit with a group at the Downpatrick Center. What a beautiful center and they are doing wonderful work.

Just a reminder that when the LAOH are sending their checks, they need to be sent to me. The check should be made out to LAOH Inc. and if you want to designate the money to a specific organization, it needs to be noted in the "note" line. As soon as I have the donation forms I will forward those via email.

I am in the process of setting up the FFAI committee for the next two years and look forward to working together and having a successful term.

Agnes Gowdy, Sengarose48@gmail.com

# District of Columbia

In addition to having a marvelous time at the National Convention, the DC Ladies have had a busy Spring and Summer. In May, we shared a table with members of the AOH, at the Irish Embassy's Open House, where we met many people passing through and we were able to explain our organization. Embassies from the European Community countries participate in this Open House, each spring. Walking up and down Embassy Row and visiting these various embassies is enjoyed by all.

In June, we helped judge the LAOH and AOH awards at the National History Day, which was held at Maryland University. Attending the major league baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the New York Mets on their Irish Celebration Day, was so much fun. The various Irish Pubs in the DC area provided the food. We plan an exciting year ahead, with many activities on the agenda.

# Louisiana

Members of the LAOH, Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, and their guests gathered on Sunday, August 19, 2018, to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Knock. Each year as part of the Celebration, the Golden Rose Award is presented to a person who has excelled in supporting the goals of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and who has served the community in an outstanding manner.

The recipient of the 2018 Golden Rose Award is Eileen Capritto. Ms. Capritto has been an active member of the LAOH since 2011 and is involved in many church and community activities. She has received the Regina Matrum Award from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the St. Elizabeth's Guild Volunteer Activist Award, plus many more.

The day began with Mass at St. Patrick's Church followed by a delicious brunch in the church rectory. We were honored to have Ms. Capritto's family join us on this special occasion. Most, if not all, of her 10 children were with us, together with their spouses and children. Quite a clan!

Congratulations to Eileen Capritto for being named the LAOH Margaret Haughery Division's 2018 Golden Rose.



Louisiana State President Liz Rafferty, Golden Rose 2018 Recipient Eileen Capritto and Msgr. Ken Hedrick, LAOH Chaplain.

# Notre Dame Trip



Members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians who attended the Hibernian Lecture and Dinner.



# New York

Photos by Dan Dennehy and Brian O'Reilly

## Hibernians rejoice in the NY's Hudson Valley

A great crowd and fine weather on Sept. 29 marked 10 years of the Hudson Valley Irish Fest, a festival organized by AOH and LAOH Division 18 Peekskill. One hundred percent of the festival committee and staff are volunteers. Some traveled from Ireland and across the USA to join Hibernians from Division 18 and Westchester, Bronx and New York County Divisions working on the Fest on a beautiful day!

Dan Dennehy, the Founding Chairman, and AOH NY State Director Aidan



National FFAI Committee member and Virginia Member Jim McLaughlin and wife, Jude.



Division member and NYS State Senator Terrence Murphy joined Division 18 members working hard at the Fest.



Joining representatives of the NY Rose of Tralee Center and Irish singing group 'Two Wee Lassies' are Aidan O'Kelly Lynch; Terrence Murphy, NY Senate; Sean O'hAodha, the New York Deputy Consul General of Ireland; Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly; Dan Dennehy; Kathie Talbot, Peekskill City Council; Debbie Carter Costello, Cortlandt Councilwoman; Fiona Brennan, HVIF Inc. VP; and John Testa, Westchester County Legislator.



Tom Lambert, NYS Director Aidan and Valerie O'Kelly Lynch.



The leader of the bands!



# New York

Photos by Digest Editor John O'Connell

## Nassau County Feis & Irish Festival

The Nassau County AOH and LAOH joined together to put on another successful Hibernian Feis & Festival on Sept. 16, the county Hibernians' 46th annual feis. This year's event was held at Nickerson Beach Park, on the south shore of Long Island.

Attendees and participants delighted in the dancing, thrilled to the marching

bagpipes & drum bands, watched the step dancing and pipe band competitions, and enjoyed traditional Irish singing. There were games for kids, and a Gaelic Cul Camp. Many hundreds came and celebrated all that's best of Irish heritage and culture.

This year's Hibernian Festival honors Nassau AOH Division 7's Richard O'Neill for his great service to the Order.



Richard O'Neill, wearing his 2018 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Aide's sash, was the special honoree of the Nassau County AOH-LAOH 46th annual Feis & Irish Festival. He is pictured here with, from left, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, County AOH President Peter Begley, County LAOH President Marilyn Johnson, O'Neill, outstanding Master of Ceremonies Donal Mahoney and Feis & Festival Chairman Mike Byrne.



Roisin Dubh, of East Islip, in Suffolk County, looked and sounded sharp as they took the field.



Fabulous dancers competed in the competitions.



Michael O'Rourke was the co-founder, with the late John Bownes, of the Nassau County Hibernian Feis.



Dancers performed with heart and soul on the feis stages.



The much-applauded Tara Pipes & Drums was one of the competing bands.



County AOH Organizer Warren Scullin manned the New York State AOH Recruitment Tent during the feis.