



Empire State Hibernian

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President's Message

John Hennessy

I want to thank all the Divisions that invited me to their installations. It's important that you send an updated FORM 9 to our State Secretary and our National Secretary. Remember your Division Per-Capita was due by the 15th of February.

I want to thank my worthy Vice President Matt Nelligan and all the members of the Capital District Council for the job they did on hosting and running the recent Fund Raiser, I would like to thank Maggie McNally-Nelligan for the job she did with the step dancers. Thanks to the Pipe band from the Schenectady Division.

I want to thank Div.2 Suffolk County and Chairman Dan Callaghan for hosting the annual Derry 14 mass on the 29th of January.

ILIR Irish Lobby For Immigration Reform has been set up to lobby the US government on behalf of the estimated 40,000 undocumented Irish in the US. ILIR supports the Kennedy/McCain bill. You can get additional information by getting on the Internet www.irishlobbyusa.org.

They are planning to run buses to Washington on March 8th,

2006 Save this date and check the website for bus information. Contact you Senators and House representatives to support this bill.

St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner; remember it's to honor Our Patron Saint.

Information will be coming out for the annual James F. Hayes Golf Tournament on May 3rd 2006. Remember the proceeds from this tournament go into the Austin V. Carew Scholarship Fund.

See you at the State Board Meeting in East Durham on the 4th of May.

Remember to check our web site, www.nyaoh.com.

Have a happy ST. PATRICKS DAY.

Vice-President

Matt Nelligan

I've been extremely busy since our last issue, organizing the State AOH fundraiser, beginning work on the 2007 State Convention and working with our State Organizer Jim Burke on ideas to expand the scope and size of our organization.

The State fundraiser was held on Friday January 27th in Albany and featured music by Hair of the Dog, and performances by the Farrell School of

Irish Dance and the Schenectady Pipe Band. I am proud to report that the fundraiser was an unqualified success. There were more than 300 in attendance and we received either a donation or had tickets purchased by more than 15 jurisdictions of our Order. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the outstanding efforts of a couple of these jurisdictions in particular. More than 30, brother and sister Hibernians traveled from Auburn to be a part of the fundraiser and State Director Dennis Browne brought a full table all the way from Orange County. I also have to thank my own Division in Albany for not only hosting the event free of charge, but also for the tremendous work done by our members to set-up, clean-up and attend the show as well. Ten tables can be traced back to organizations or members associated with the Albany AOH. Special thanks to President Steve Downs and Vice President Liam McNabb for all of their assistance. Monetarily the event brought in a nice profit for both the State and for District One. We were able to present the State with checks totaling \$3,245 and the District One council with a check for \$2,335. All donations sent for the event went directly to the state and all of the income from tickets and the raffle were split 50-50 be-

tween the State and District One. Overall this was a great event and one that we should consider having every non-convention year.

We have begun organizational meetings for the State convention in 2007, and are currently concentrating on appointing committee chairs, scheduling convention events and committee meetings, developing menus and booking entertainment. You can expect to hear more about our progress at the May State Board meeting.

I have also been working with our State Organizer in an effort to develop a long-term plan to assist local jurisdictions with retention and recruitment. At the Board meeting in May, we will ask the membership to approve a grant program to be made available to local jurisdictions. These grants would be used for advertising, marketing and recruitment. Jurisdictions will need to file an application and after receiving a grant, a report on how the money was used. Additionally we will also ask for your approval to appoint a committee to develop recruitment, organization and retention guidelines for New York State. The goal will be to have a draft of this approved at our fall meeting and have a final copy ready to be mailed by the end of the year.

Lastly, you should all have received nomination forms for the Burns-Hayes award by the time you receive this newsletter. Remember that all nominations

are due back to me By March 31st. Have a great St. Patrick's day, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the near future.

AOH JURISDICTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STATE AOH FUNDRAISER

*****ALL DONATIONS ARE \$100 OR MORE*****

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Division #1 Watervliet
Division #5 Albany
Division #1 Auburn
Division #1 Saratoga
Division #1 Schenectady
Division #2 Syracuse
Division #1 Elmira
Queens County Board
Suffolk County Board
Division #3 Suffolk County
Division #4 Suffolk County
Division #7 Suffolk County
Division #8 Suffolk County
Division #9 Suffolk County
Division #11 Suffolk County
Richmond County Board
Division #15 Nassau County
Div #1 Richmond County

Hibernian Calendars

Peter Durkee

As of February 1st we have sold 425 calendars. This includes the Ladies. This is not enough for a State this size.

Some of the Divisions haven't sold or gotten any calendars or have sold only one or two. District Directors and County Presidents please check with the divisions and see if they received them or could use more.

I have about 104 calendars that have been returned for one reason or another. I can send as many as you need. State Officers, some of you haven't sent in your calendars or the money, please do so right away. You can reach me at, PHONE 518-274-8448 or by E-Mail pdurkee1@nycap.rr.com I would like to wish you all a vary Happy St. Patrick's Day.

District 1

Chris Kelly

It was a great pleasure to be able to participate in all of the officer installation ceremonies in the district this year. I'd like to welcome our recently inducted Presidents – Steve Downs, Albany; Dave Cummings, Saratoga; Robert Harrison, Schenectady; Peter Durkee, Troy and Ray Hess, Watervliet. I'm sure that all will do a noble job in leading their divisions.

As usual, we also had our share of parties to celebrate Christmas, New Year's and the Super Bowl over the last few months, which were all accepted quite well and produced the usual Hibernian Friendship.

Our biggest event was a fundraiser at the Albany Irish American Center on January 27th to benefit the State Board and District #1. In a true sign of Hibernian brotherhood and sisterhood the hall was packed with Hibernians from around the state for a show featuring the band Hair of the Dog. We were honored to be hosts to the many members of the State Board who were able to make it

to Albany including all four of the Exec Board officers. The night was a great success as we raised over \$5,000 for the State and District coffers. Special thanks go out to Matt Nelligan, NYSAOH VP, for organizing this event, the Albany Hall for donating the space, the band for a great show, the Farrell School of Dance, the divisions and persons who donated money including those who couldn't make the show, our friends from Auburn who sent almost as many people as the Albany division and anyone else I'm forgetting right now. It was a great night of Irish friendship and we appreciate all who helped out and came to join us in District #1. It looks like this will turn into an annual event given the great success. Thank you again.

We would also like to encourage all to come visit Albany again in April, as the State AOH bowling tournament will be at the Playdium bowling center on April 8th. The bowling is right next door to the Albany Hall, which will be open for the duration. Details will be sent out by our state sports chairman but the plans have been made and we look forward to a great day.

Lastly, I hope that everyone has been doing something to participate in Irish-American History Month during March. It's not too late to get a library display up so that today's youth can learn to appreciate the Great Hunger, Joyce, Swift, Michael Collins, Commodore John

Barry, the Molly Maguire's, battles with the Know-Nothings and so much more of our great heritage.

District 2

Tom O'Donnell

It is hard to believe that March has arrived and the time for the various St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations is upon us. I hope all the events have good weather and are successful.

It was an honor to conduct the installation of officers at the Niagara County Division 1 Christmas Party and at the Niagara County Division 4 Hibernian of the Year Party. Congratulations to the new and returning officers in those divisions and the other divisions in the district.

I hope to have the opportunity to visit all the divisions in the District this spring. If you have not yet filed the Form 9 for your new officers or the annual financial report for your division, please do so as soon as possible. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

District 3

Robert Jennings

First, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and are prospering in the New Year. The New Hibernian Year, of course brings the installation of new officers in the divisions and I have kept myself busy attending several installations throughout the district including Syracuse, Watertown, Fulton and Oswego and Auburn. I didn't quite get to all the divisions

but will try to get to those that I missed in the coming year. Congratulations to all the new division officers in District #3. I have been in contact with all the presidents, either in person or over the phone and I'm sure each of you will do your best for the betterment of the order.

Speaking of which, the Dean Michael Barry division in Oswego has graciously agreed to host a district-sponsored Major Degree of Our Order at their hall on Sunday, April 2nd of this year. The degree is open to all Hibernian members who do not as yet hold the degree at a cost of \$20 per candidate. Observers are also more than welcome at a nominal cost of \$10 to help defray the cost of food and beverages. The John F Kennedy Division Degree Team of Schenectady will do the honors and all candidates should plan to arrive at the Oswego Hall at 1 Munn Street in Oswego no later than 12 noon on the 2nd. (If anyone needs directions, don't hesitate to contact me.) As this is a district-sponsored event, any monetary shortfall will be assessed to each division within the district on a pro-rated per capita basis. I urge all divisions within the district to PLEASE send as many candidates as possible, as you won't have the chance to attend a degree this close to home in the foreseeable future.

We are also coming up very quickly on St. Patrick's Day and I would ask all division presidents to keep me advised of their plans to celebrate the holi-

day, either by e-mail or by telephone. I will try to make as many events as possible, including of course, the Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade and hope to see many of you there.

AOH Div. #2 Syracuse raises \$9700 for children

By Daniel Case

This year the Ancient order of Hibernians Div. #2 Syracuse N.Y. raised \$9,786 for toys for children in our area that would not have had a Christmas due to hardships within the families. Under the direction of Brother Richard Walsh, who has worked on this for many years, we were able to amass this money for the toys for these children. About 50 of our Brothers braved the Central NY cold to sell newspapers under the name of the "Old Newsboys". There are about forty social & civic groups that join in this campaign, with the AOH raising, for the second year in a row, the highest amount. The Newspapers were donated by the Syracuse Post-Standard so there was no overhead cost to the AOH for this charity. This year, in addition to the newspaper sale, there was a raffle, of our 320+ members over 200 responded with donations. Our contribution goes directly to the Syracuse Christmas Bureau who distributed the toys and books to 2,347 families, as a result 5,063 children had a very Merry Christmas. As President of the AOH I'm indeed so very proud of our Brothers for this tremendous undertaking and it truly shows that our motto of

Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity is alive and well in Central N.Y.

District 7

Richard Morris

Since last report I have been working to help "reform" the Cortland and Tioga Divisions, both of these divisions have been marginal in activity for some time and it doesn't look good for the future either. These two divisions represent over 70 members who now seem lost from our brotherhood. Tioga Division: I sent letters to every member requesting a response to my pleadings for Unity, receiving only two responses one by phone and one email, both negative. The Cortland Division lacks leadership, the President has resigned because of business commitments and the Vice President, it seems, has no interest in division activities. This series of events or non-events should be an eye-opener for the need to support the state board effort to retain membership and to enlist new members. Membership is dwindling in certain areas and this must be addressed, otherwise we could slowly go the way of some other once well known "Brotherhood" Orders.

I have not given up completely with either division but it doesn't look good and I believe it is important you know.

Broome County Division has held elections and congratulations go out to newly elected / installed President Stuart Fralick and his slate of officers.

As usual things have been busy with this division. I expect to attend the February 21st meeting. The division is preparing for its Heritage Ball February 18th, Boscov's Irish Day the 25th of February and the Mass at Saint Mary of the Assumption, Parade Day, March 4th an event some of us from Elmira plan on attending. We have attended in the past and it is a great day!

Elmira/Chemung County has also installed its newly elected President Jut McInerny and his slate of very fine officers: Vice President John O'Herron; secretary Marc O'Herron; Treasurer Thomas Dean; Financial Secretary Dick Dalton; Standing Committee Tom Bennett; Marshal Mike O'Herron; Sentinel Mike Callahan. Historian remains the very informative Tom Shea.

Elmira like Binghamton is preparing for its St. Patrick's Day activities and all the necessary aspects that lead up to this most important day. Elmira plans on making the trip to Hornell for its Saint Patrick Day event as well as attending the march in Binghamton.

The Daniel W. McCarthy Junior Boys Division of Elmira has been very busy doing a spaghetti supper that was a great success. There are future plans to create a scholarship fund for the boys. Other events are in the making. Stay tuned.

Next issue: June 2006
Deadline: May 15, 2006

Chaplin

Rev. John V. Ahern

A Joyful Priesthood

As we enter the new year of 2006, I've been asked to reflect on my priesthood. I thank God everyday for the privilege of being His Priest son. The journey has been one of both joy and sadness. Joy in the sense of serving the people of God, presiding at the Eucharist and in proclaiming the Good News. Sad in the sense of the clergy abuse and the dreams of one's ministry not being fulfilled. But the priesthood is a calling and like other callings, say to marriage or the single life, they all involve the good days and the bad days.

My journey began in my upbringing. I was one of seven children in an Irish Catholic family. We lived with our wonderful parents and grandparents. We were poor but didn't know it because everyone in those days were poor. The call to the priesthood is mysterious because God's ways are not our ways. But the call began as you witnessed your grandparents kneeling at the side of their bed reciting the Rosary each evening. As you received the sacraments of the church each week and attending a Catholic school. As you and your high school friends attend the weekly Novena of the Miraculous Medal. Through it all there was the Eucharist. The presence of Christ.

As I reflect upon the past it was Christ's presence that allowed me to open my heart and mind

to the possibility of being in His service.

While working at Carrier Corp, I attended daily mass as often as I could. It was on a Good Friday service that the voice in my heart was a definite call to the priesthood. I couldn't believe it because I was working hard and having a good time that was, in itself, the opposite of my religious calling.

I was drafted into the U.S. Army for two years and that experience was anything but Holy. But the pull of God was still there. I would sneak out of the barracks to attend mass. I was there that I was told by a Catholic Army Chaplain that I had a vocation.

I was thrilled at being confirmed by the Chaplain but I still couldn't believe it. The joy of it compelled me to seek admission to the seminary in the Syracuse Diocese. The joy was short lived because I was refused because of my being a veteran and my age of 24. The Typical age for ordination in those days was 25. I returned to Carrier Corp. and then the role of Our Blessed Mother took over. Through a fellow employee I heard about a seminary for ex-GI's, so I applied and was accepted into the Seminary of the Sacred Heart Fathers. Before entering, Our Blessed Mother's presence in my heart kept drawing me closer and closer to Her Son and the confidence and joy grew deeper and deeper. Those two years with all the ex-servicemen were so

happy and it definitely laid the groundwork for the next big step – major seminary.

Before leaving for the Sacred Heart Fathers I was called into the Bishop's office in Syracuse and was asked to continue my studies for the Syracuse Diocese. I credit that to our Blessed Mother and through the seminary years I had a joyful time.

I was ordained at the age of 33 with 16 other young men on May 20th, 1967. It was the most joyful day in my life. Immediately after ordination I went to Ireland taking my parents. It was my father's first trip back home since he had come to America. What joy in celebrating one of my many first masses with all the loved ones in Ireland.

I have come to realize that God calls who He wishes, not anyone else. I will be a priest now for 39 years and how can I best describe it all. First, the motto of St. John the Baptist, "I must decrease so that Christ will increase." And secondly, a sense of humor, sharing with others through laughter and joy.

I personally believe that a priest is the reflection of the people he serves. In all the parishes that I have ministered in I have found that all faith communities are the same. The people of God are so unique with their talents, abilities and gifts that a sense of humility in serving them is profound.

I am still an ordinary person with all my gifts and imperfec-

tions. But God has turned all my challenges and problems into His way of molding and shaping me into being the priest He wants me to be.

In fulfilling my vocation I pray that I am giving Glory to God. Because of that my vocation has been a happy one with all the graces God gives, especially the grace to persevere. I fully realize that in spite of my human tendencies and faults God so disposes of them in such a way that I am able to carry out what I was chosen to do.

My joyful decision to follow Christ in the priesthood laid the foundation for so many other responses throughout life. Fidelity is built in the priesthood day by day. The power of prayer gives confidence for each new day that begins with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The power becomes most evident as difficulties arise and you sense the increase of Grace.

If you ask any priest what can you do for him, the response is always, "Pray for me!" and rightly so. The laity is the source of many spiritual gifts that we priests so often see and humbly appreciate.

Finally if we priests make every effort to grow in holiness, in love for Christ, and for all God's children for His sake, we will be assured of our faithfulness, and at the same time, experience joy and increased charity, and our lives will always be full of reasoning. We must correspond each day with the

graces we receive; we must be faithful each day. This is how we fulfill our priesthood to which Christ and Our Lady has called us to.

May the joy of my priesthood be the joy of all my fellow brother priests and the faithful we serve. God Bless.

Deputy Chaplain

Deacon Henry W. Reid

Once again the celebration of our Patron Saint's day is upon us; the season when we, as an Order, gather together with all those who cherish all things Irish. For those of us who embrace the culture and the cause all year round, this is a day of celebration, while we endure with Christian Charity those who have been deprived of God's perpetual affection for the Irish. Over the past number of years there have been pleas for moderation and respectful behavior, even official directives from non-Irish political persons as to what decorum should prevail on the day. And while I am not advocating anything that would disgrace the Irish Race, the A.O.H. or our Blessed Saint (since there are enough one-day-a-year Irish to contribute to that), I do want to encourage a little lunacy.

When I was teaching at a Community College, I assigned a paper based on one of several books, one of which was Thomas Cahill's 'How the Irish Saved Civilization'. One student submitted a paper on this book with the summation that the Irish were able to save civi-

lization "because they were crazy." I gave him an "A." While we may not want to think of the Irish less than sane, may I suggest that this is a perfectly beautiful way to be.

Most of us have heard of the "Gelda" in Irish history, though perhaps not by that name. These were those monks who set off from the shores of Ireland in currachs, without oars, depending upon God to bring them where He willed. In an age where spiritual rigor was not uncommon, these men stood apart. Their appearance was wild and unkempt, and their behavior was that of lunatics, yet that outward show was a reflection of the exceptional Holiness of their lives. Without getting into a drawn out historical discussion, "Gelda" comes from the Gaelic *geilte*, translated into the English lunatic or madman, but for those of us that recognize the Holiness of these men, we see the long tradition that they come from (such as John the Baptist, who dressed in camel's skin and was wild and unkempt) and that continued after them (as in the person of St. Francis of Assisi, who removed all of his fine clothes in the middle of the town, and donned sackcloth).

The great spirituality of the Gelda, those men who renounced all material comfort for the sake of the Kingdom of Christ, should be an example to us today. As we become so caught up in the insanity of modern culture, which dictates that the mark of success is the

pursuit and accumulation of earthly possessions, think of those Holy Irish monks who abandoned themselves and found everything they wanted to possess in Christ.

So have a Blessed Saint Patrick's Day, and find the time to behave like a Holy Lunatic.

Edward M. Carley

Catholic Action

Brothers, we are almost to St. Patrick's Day and through this fairly mild winter. Now we start planning our Hibernian Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage will be held as usual on the first weekend in May. The exact dates are May 5, 6 and 7. The State Board meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6. The weekend activities will conclude with Mass at the Lady of Knock Shrine.

Thank you to all the New York State AOH members for their contributions in support of the Hibernian Charity. The recent call for assistance by the Hibernians Disaster Relief Effort was especially meaningful because we were able to assist Hibernian families affected by "Katrina". The need for donations continues and the Hibernians are urged to continue to donate. It is a great time of need and the Hibernian Charity is asked to continue supporting the Hibernian Hunger Project, the Hibernian Disaster Relief Effort and Project St. Patrick.

Project St. Patrick is a joint AOH/LAOH Catholic Action Project established to foster vo-

cations and aid both men and women studying for the priesthood and religious life. A different request and need was brought to the Project St. Patrick Committee, because of Katrina. Six seminarians were forced to relocate in the midst of their studies to Ohio. The AOH/LAOH's continued support of Project St. Patrick made it possible to offer immediate assistance to these seminarians.

If you have held a Catholic Action event in your County or Division please forward your activity pictures and article to the National Hibernians Digest. Pray the rosary for Peace and pray for the men and women in the armed forces.

Charities & Missions

Arnold J. Nagelhout

In my last article for the State Hibernian I noted that I had sent a letter, last year, to all NY State County and Division Presidents concerning "HIBERNIAN CHARITY". In particular "HDRE" Hibernian Disaster Relief. State President Hennessy asked me to coordinate the efforts of our State donations for this fund and checks were to be sent to this office for recording and forwarded to the National AOH. To date I have received donations from 7 individual members of Niagara Falls Div. 1 totaling \$85; \$23 from the Niagara Falls Christmas Party split club; \$100 Niagara Falls Div.1; \$1,000 Suffolk Co. Bd.; \$200 Nassau County Feis; \$500 Kevin Barry Division 3; \$800 Rochester Div.7; \$800 Rochester Irish

Festival; \$500 Albany Irish Music & Arts Festival; \$2,500 Div. 4 Huntington; \$300 Div. 1 Utica; \$1,000 Div. 11 Hampton Bays; \$500 Div.1 Suffolk Co.; \$3,000 Msgr. John J. Lee AOH/LAOH Elmira; \$200 Nassau Co. Bd.; \$200 Fr. Emanuel Hourihan Div. 4 Orange Co; \$250 St. Patrick's Div.4 Babylon; \$200 Div. 8 Centereach; \$100 Div. 9 Suffolk Co. Our total is \$13,258 of the \$70,000 raised nationally. It's not too late to send a donation, our brother and sister Hibernian's, church's and religious relief organizations effected by Katrina are still in need of assistance.

Congratulations to all the new Division Officer's and carry over's, many as there are. By now you should have settled into your duties and are preparing for the hectic Irish Heritage Month of March. Please consider sponsoring a food collection drive for your local soup kitchen this month in commemoration of the "Great Hunger in Ireland". A donation to Project St. Patrick during March would also be fitting for our Patron Saint in assisting priests, deacons and religious with their studies.

I am happy to announce I have received 10 Charities and Missions Reports and most are annual reports for 2005. If your county/division hasn't sent in a report yet and has information for this office please file a report as soon as possible.

Congratulations to:

Nassau Co. Bd. total donations of \$300 were reported going to

Catholic Relief Services for the Tsunami Victims and Hibernian Charity for HDRE. Daniel J. Quilty Div. 7 reports \$1,175 in donations, benefiting were Catholic League; WFUV Radio; Church Drive Galway; RJM Haiti; Green Cross, Ire; St. John's and Visitation Church's. Kevin Barry Div. 3 reported a total of \$12,990 money went to Christ of King; Grace Foundation; WFUV Fordham University; Longfrel Assoc., ALS Assoc., St. Joseph's Church; Clark Fund, Memorial Day Parade; Troops Postage/ASDD/Overseas; Heritage Museum; America Cancer Assoc.; McNamee Fund; LI Feis Trophy; Lt. Murphy Scholarship; Fr. Raj; Hibernian Charity HDRE; Thanksgiving baskets; Butler Fund; Long Island Cares; Angela's House; Hope House; Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind; Respect Life; Ly-lon Fund and Irish American Unity Conference. Div. 4 Erie Co. had donations totaling \$5,400. Donations went to Mt. Mercy Academy; Valley Community Assoc.; Moe's Walk; Rince Na Tiarna Irish Dance; O'Sullivan Dance Academy; PAL, Macker Tourn; Homer Lewis Benefit; Norison Scholarship; St. Thomas Aquinas Church; James Fund; Franciscan Center; BPD Hockey; Old 1st Ward Community Assoc.; Scholarships at Bishop Timon/St. Jude, Mt. Mercy, St. Francis Canicuis High. St. Patrick's Div. 2 Suffolk reported \$3,050 in donations. Benefiting were St. John of God; Life Center L. I.; Hibernian Singers; Sis-

ters of St. Joseph; Pilot Club; OLPH; Avocade Center; Monford Missionaries; Freedom for All Ireland; Long Island Feis; St. Ann's and Hibernian Charity HDRE. Fr. Emanuel Hourihan Div. 4, Orange Co. reported \$1,400 in donations that went to Irish American Festival; Carmelita Friars; Michael Memorial Scholarship; Freedom for All Ireland; Lady of Mt Carmel Shrine; St. Joseph Church; Middletown PBA and Anna Cariello. Rochester Div. 7, Monroe Co. reported \$9,625 in donations that went to Irish Children Program; Tsunami Relief; St. Patrick's Parade Committee; Irish Festival; Sons of St. Patrick; March of Dimes; Irish Dance School; Dream Factory; Rochester Cycle Club; Right to Life; Irish Lacrosse Assoc.; Molly Malone's Hurricane Fundraiser and Catholic Charities. Monroe Div. 1, Orange Co. reports \$4,953 in donations. Benefiting were Tsunami Relief; Gaelic Football; Orange Co. Fire Dept.; Catholic League; Fleming Scholarship Fund; Right to Life; Sacred Heart Church; Lou Allen Memorial and Hibernian Charity HDRE. John F. Kennedy Div. 1 Schenectady reports donations that totaled \$10,665 and 129 Man Hours. Monies went to A. V. Carew Scholarship Fund; Irish Northern Aid; Schenectady Pipe Band; Irish 2000; Farrel School of Dance; Capital District Scottish Games; Irish Heritage Museum; St. Luke's Church; Union Collage; Cathedral of St. Paul; Eric Vetermo Memorial; Sisters of

Mercy LA; Schenectady Fire Dept; Sacred Heart/St. Columba's Church; St. Clare's Hospital; Project St. Patrick; DARE Program; St. Hellens School; Freedom for All Ireland; St. Luke's School and St. Luke's Food Pantry. Padraic Pearse Div. 3, Nassau Co. reports \$6,764 dollars and 825 Man Hours. Donations went to Right To Life; Freedom for All Ireland; Holy Ghost Fathers; Sister Albert; Knights of Columbus; Hibernian Charity HDRE; American Citizens for Soldiers; St. Joachim's Church; Irish Night in the Park; Maguire Family Benefit; Friends of the Fighting 69th; Irish Marathon; Doherty Benefit; L.I. Gaels sponsor of U-10 team and St. Joseph's Church.

Commodore Barry

Mike Kearney

By Joint Resolution of the United States Congress, and signed by the President of the United States, Public Law 109-142 recognizes and honors Commodore John Barry as the "first flag officer of the United States Navy." This action makes explicit in the public law of the United States what was already implicit in the historical record -- 202 years and three months after the Wexford-born Barry passed into the history books. Rep. Peter King introduced House Joint Resolution 38 on Saint Patrick's Day, the 17th of March 2005; which passed in the US House of Representatives (with 46 cosponsors) on December 14th. The identical resolution was intro-

duced by Senator Arlen Specter in the US Senate on July 26th and passed in the Senate (with six co-sponsors) on December 16th. The joint resolution was then presented to the President on December 19th and signed by President Bush on December 22, 2005. It is a monumental task to have a new law passed, but we persevered for nearly a decade and we feel a great sense of accomplishment that justice has been finally done in recognizing the contribution that Commodore John Barry made to the founding of the United States. Irish America owes a great debt of gratitude to Congressman Peter King, and Senator Arlen Specter without whose help, I believe, this great accomplishment would not have happened.

P.E.C.

Liam McNabb

Greetings from Albany! Congratulations and good luck to the recently installed officers of the many divisions in our great order in New York State. I wish you all the best for an enjoyable and productive year as we, the AOH; celebrate 170 years of Hibernians in America.

Special congratulations to Mike Kearney, Chair-NYS AOH Commodore Barry, on his very hard fought and successful efforts for Congress to recognize Commodore Barry as the "Father of the US Navy." Recognition of Commodore Barry and Brother Kearney are long overdue.

The 2006 New York State

Legislative Session is full swing as our elected representatives work diligently to write, debate, and approve legislation that will hopefully be helpful to all of us and our communities. By the time you read this edition of the newsletter, I will have met with the members of the legislature on five separate occasions, including one "Legislative Day" on March 6th. As always, I and members of CONPOR (Conference of Private Organizations) will lobby for utility rate reduction and charitable gaming legislation in an effort to increase revenue to our facilities and charities. President John Hennessy and I have been communicating with the NYS Knights of Columbus Leadership and we have agreed to co-sponsor this year's annual "Prayer Rally" at the State Capitol in Albany. This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th from 11:30 to 2:30 pm on the steps of the Capitol building. Participants will hear from Bishop Howard Hubbard (Albany Diocese) and Pro-Life Legislators as well as leaders of the AOH and Knights of Columbus. AOH members are welcome to participate and join hundreds of Knights of Columbus members from every corner of New York State. Please contact me if you need assistance or with any questions regarding this event. You are also welcome to view the website for this event at www.prayerrally.org. I wish you all the best for a Happy and Holy St. Patrick's and Easter Season.

FFAI

Brian J. Nelligan

Dear Brother Hibernians, I hope the New Year is going well for all. As the New Year comes in several events have been happening in the north of Ireland. First was the revelation of Denis Donalson being a spy for the British Government. This was revealed after he and his son-in-law Ciaran Kearney were arrested for supposedly spying on the British Government. The revelation came after the British Government dropped the charges against them. This shows that although the peace process exists we still have a long way to go in getting true peace and justice in the north.

We also need to keep up the continued pressure on our Senators to make sure that the Extradition Treaty is defeated. As we have stated previously this is not just a issue with the Irish immigrants in this country but to our rights to due process as Americans. You may also contact the Senators of the Foreign Relations committee directly and voice your opposition to this treaty. The list of senators of the Foreign Relation committee can be found at <http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/about.html>. Lets keep up the fight and pray for continued success on this item.

I would also like to thank all of you and your divisions who gave to the Christmas appeal, Brendan Moore and the National Board have delivered the donations to those who need it most as well as having attended

the Bloody Sunday remembrance.

Historian

Mike McCormack

Have you seen the advertisement in an Italian newspaper for a Racketeering Convention where the price of admission is four stolen hubcaps? No? Perhaps you've seen the ad in Ebony magazine for a Martin Luther King Memorial Watermelon Eating competition? No? How about the open invitation to our Jewish brethren to attend a Nazi Barbeque? No? And I hope to God that you never will! That is vulgar and degrading ethnic stereotyping at its tasteless worst. But brace yourselves, for the season of Paddy Bashing is upon us and we are about to be assaulted by similar tasteless and insulting slander aimed at our heritage in the name of freedom of cultural expression.

One sad example is the release of a new whiskey bearing the name of one of Ireland's greatest heroes – Michael Collins. Not only is the product **not Irish**, but the firm promoting it knows little or nothing about the glorious name it chose to degrade. Shame on the member of the Collins Clan who sold the rights to that name, for that name was not his to sell; it belongs to the Irish people!

Another classic example of ethnic slander can be found in the insulting **Irish Music Drinkfest Weekend** presented by the Villa Roma Resort on March 31 – a 3-day dip into de-

bauchery with such attractions as body art and pint-drinking contests amid the advertised safety of **No Driving**. Sadly, the ad does not mention the dangers of binge drinking or the drive home. As host Ed Ryan is quoted as saying, *“If you can't find me drunk, I'm out drinking somewhere!”* The sad part of this one is that **it is Irish** – at least some of the bands are Irish, and they've made a decent living from Irish audiences, but then it has been said that if you put an Irishman on a spit, you can always find another to turn him. In history, we know such characters as Gombeen Men who take advantage of their own to benefit themselves. The only thing green that they value is the almighty dollar.

None of this is new for history shows that in order to subjugate the Irish, the Crown had to destroy their culture. The powerful nature of that culture drove England to mock its expression, parody its significance, and ridicule its supporters. Enter the comic lush known as the stage Irishman – an individual so captivated by booze that no one could take him seriously. When that image followed them across the ocean to America, the Irish opposed it, as they could not do in their British-dominated homeland. One N.Y. Times article dated May 7, 1902 was entitled, **“War on the Irish Comedian: AOH starts a crusade against publications which cartoon Irishmen.”** It reported that, “John T. Keating, National President of the Irish organization, brought the news

to Chicago when he came back from the East today (that a) crusade will be directed against newspapers and other publications which cartoon the Irishman.” Among the Stage Irish who were chased off the burlesque boards with fruit and vegetable missiles were the Irish-American Russell Brothers who portrayed Irish maids as bumbling buffoons always into the master's liquor cabinet after which they would dance a jig or perform some other nonsense. The anti-defamation campaign was soon picked up by other Irish groups and continued for years. As late as 25-years later the N.Y. Times noted on Oct 5, 1927 that the American Irish Vigilance Committee was filing charges against MGM for producing several anti-Irish films. Would that we had such Irish in our midst today! But, we can dream.

We can dream of Michael Collins Whiskey going bankrupt, or at least changing its name. And while I pray that no one gets hurt there or on the way home, I can dream of a massive clean-up effort required by the Villa Roma to repair the damage caused by the riff-raff to whom they are catering. I also dream of Irishmen writing bags of letters: letters to the Villa Roma to express their outrage; letters to the entertainers appearing at the Drinkfest Weekend putting them on notice that they will no longer be supported by the Irish community – no more concerts and no more record sales; and letters to our Irish radio programs urging

no more air play for these offenders.

Somehow this always seems to happen around the feast of our Patron Saint whom some still insist on calling St. Paddy. The truth of the matter is that the difference between Paddy's Day and St Patrick's Day is the same as the difference between the office Christmas party and Midnight Mass. There's a lot more I could say on this subject, but I have some letters to write. Won't you join me; **IT'S YOUR HERITAGE – DEFEND IT!!!**

Scholarship

Tom Conway
New York State AOH offers a scholarship to a current High School Senior. Is there a member of your family who is graduating from High School this June? The New York State Board generously awards the Austin V. Carew State Scholarship each year to a deserving student whose parents/guardians are active members and who have taken their Major Degree. The student must sit for our scholarship exam which tests knowledge of Irish History. In addition the student's SAT scores are also considered in determining the recipient of the scholarship. Enclosed you will find the necessary information and application which must be completed for a student to qualify for the exam. If you have any questions, send me an e-mail message at tomconway35@yahoo.com . Let's get the news of this scholarship out to all our members. I personally request that all division

presidents bring this to the attention of their members. Divisions may make as many copies of the application as needed.

Some reminders:

- 1) Parents or Guardians of the student must have Major Degree.
- 2) Student must take our Irish History exam.
- 3) SAT scores must be provided.
- 4) Applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chairman by May 19, 2006.
- 5) Information on the scholarship exam will follow upon receipt of application.

This scholarship is funded by the James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament, which will be held in East Durham on May 5, 2006. This is also the New York State Board weekend in East Durham. Get your clubs out and prepare for a great day of sport and fellowship on the links while at the same time supporting our scholarship. Information on the golf outing is also enclosed in this newsletter. This year, with the help of Division 7 East Islip and their Past President Pat Philbin, we are offering a raffle to augment the Jim Hayes Golf Tournament. "A Day At The Ballpark" will entitle the winner to 4 tickets to Yankee Stadium or Mets Shea Stadium for a game and date of their choice during the 2006 Season (Some restrictions may apply). The chances are priced at \$5 each, 3 for \$10, or 5 for \$15. The drawing will also take place the weekend of the NYS board meeting in East Durham on May 6, 2006.

See you in East Durham!

Prayer Rally

April 4, 2006

11:30am - 2:30pm

State Capital – Albany

Come and join your fellow

Catholics as we pray for Catholic issues Your voice counts!

Please contact Liam McNabb at
(518) 489-1752

Sports

Joe O'Reilly

Dates to remember:

AOH State Bowling Tournament; Saturday, April 8th at the Playdium Bowling Alley, 363 Ontario St., Albany, NY 12208. Dinner and entertainment will follow at the Albany AOH Hall, 375 Ontario St. Check our state website for more information (www.NYAOH.com).

AOH Annual James P. Hayes Golf Classic and Raymond J. Meehan Trophy; May 5th, 2006 at Sunny Hills Resort & Golf Course, East Durham, NY. This is held to fund our state scholarships.

Jack Burns Golf Tournament, Saturday, August 19th 2006 to be held at the Dutch Hollow Golf Course in Syracuse.

Congratulations on a job well done to AOH Division 1 and LAOH Division 2 for the successful Auburn mixed doubles bowling tournament

Please let me know of any sports events you would like listed on our website or in our state newsletter.

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All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are asked to submit their reports to the editor as listed above by the deadlines indicated for the respective issues. Email is preferred either as the message body or a MS Word, Works, WordPerfect or Notepad attachment. Clean, typewritten copy may also be mailed. Remember Brothers; we need your input if there is to be effective communication throughout our state organization.