



Volume 5 No.6 Issue 4

*Empire State*  
**Hibernian**

*Published Quarterly by the New York State Board Ancient Order of Hibernians In America  
Organized in New York City - May 4, 1836*



December 2007

## President's Message Matt Nelligan

I am happy to report that your State Board is doing well, and is active in the promotion of the goals of our Order. Since my election in July, I have been fortunate enough to travel to many areas and events, and to speak to many division and county presidents about our initiatives. The other appointed and elected officers have also been doing an excellent job on your behalf. What follows is a summary of just some of the projects that the state has been actively engaged in.

First I would be remiss if I did not thank the Binghamton Division for hosting the state meeting and pro-life Mass. Leo Kane in particular is to be congratulated for putting this all together. From the welcome reception to the beautiful Mass, Binghamton was an excellent host. We are, as far as I know, the only state in the Country that hosts a Mass for the unborn, and we must make this an annual event. We also have pro-life roses and bracelets that each Director has taken back to their jurisdictions. I recently met with the Executive Director

of the New York State Right To Life committee to coordinate our efforts on this issue. She has asked if the Hibernians would assist them in sponsoring a pro-life youth day in Albany. This is an opportunity not just to promote life, but also to promote our Order. My thanks to those at the State Meeting who voted unanimously to support this.

Through the efforts of Catholic action Chairman Dan Case we have a petition drive that is underway to show our opposition to Same Sex Marriage. All are encouraged to sign and return these as soon as possible.

Brother Dan Dennehy has put together an excellent statement on our position in regard to a reciprocal VISA program with the Republic of Ireland. This was published in the **Irish Echo**, and demonstrates that NY intends to lead on issues that are vital to the success of our Order's goals. We have also been very active in the campaign to grant permanent legal status to our Brother Malachy McAllister.

With the help of all Hibernians we have made a difference for Malachy and his family. Recently Sen. Menendez of New Jersey introduced a private bill that would grant Malachy and his children Sean and Nicola legal status. This effectively delays any deportation order at least until 2009. This is a tremendous victory for Malachy, the AOH and for all Irish-Americans.

Brother Paul O'Donnell, our Buy Irish Chairman has begun the process of contacting Irish shops to provide a 10% AOH discount across this state. Participating businesses would receive a window decal and be mentioned on our website. This is a very innovative idea that is already getting an excellent response.

State Organizer Liam McNabb is making significant progress on my goal of organizing counties in this state who have no AOH presence. So far he has leads in at least four areas in upstate NY, and I am confident we will soon inaugurate several new divisions. I also welcome Warren Scullin on board as our State Deputy Organizer for the downstate region. I am sure that

with his assistance we will soon have new leads south of the Catskills.

Our legal counsel Tom O'Donnell has already secured the approval of our State By-Laws and has been consulting with Divisions who own halls who have not yet incorporated. Over the next two years we will ensure that all are in compliance with our National Constitution.

Through the leadership of State Sports Chair Pat Burns and Charities and Missions Chair Dennis Browne, we had our most successful mixed doubles bowling tournament ever. More than \$1300 was raised for the State Board.

Our State Publicity Chair Brian Nelligan has initiated updates to our state mailing list and has the statewide automatic calling post system up and running. This is sure to improve our communication. Brother Nelligan will also be reporting on the services of our professional publicity firm, so that local jurisdictions know how to access these services.

Through the efforts of NYS Archivist Joe Dolan we have secured a meeting with James Tallon from the Board of Regents to discuss our concerns in relation to the teaching of the Irish Famine curriculum in our State. State Historian Mike McCormack will provide us with his expertise and voice in an effort to make our voices heard on this important topic.

Our State Editor Tom McKenna and our Webmaster Al Norton continue to do an excellent job. The newsletter continues to be a great vehicle for us to promote the work of the Order, and with the form nine now including E-mail addresses its reach will only grow. Brother Norton is so quick in posting information on the website, that it is in truth updated almost daily.

This is only a sampling of what your state Board chairmen are doing, and this does not even include the efforts of our Directors in getting out the word about state programs and representing us on a regular basis. I want to particularly thank District four Director John Hyland and District Five Director Phil Sheridan for their help in dealing with some issues within their areas. The Directors are our eyes and ears, and it is imperative that they keep the state informed, and so far they are doing the job. Brother Stu Fralick has resigned his position as District Seven Director, and his duties will now be carried out by Brother Tom Boslet. I want to personally thank Tom for his willingness to take on this important position.

As we move forward into the winter, it is important that we have your continued support for our efforts. On December 14th and February 1st we will hold statewide fundraiser for our National Charities. We need Hibernians around the state to support these efforts, either through attendance or sponsorship. The information is

available in this newsletter and on the state website. The December Fundraiser is for the FFAI Christmas appeal and the Hibernian Hunger Project. The efforts on the Christmas appeal will be led by our new State FFAI Chair Frank Corcoran from Syracuse. Frank has been active on this vital issue for many years and his level of commitment and determination are evident in all that he does.

We are also running s statewide raffle and at least two fundraisers for our convention assistance fund. This fund will be used solely to help local jurisdictions to pay for delegates to attend our National Convention in New Orleans. We have four candidates from this state and we must show Unity if we are to prevail in all of these races. The State is committed to producing its maximum delegation, and we are ready to assist you in doing so.

The State also continues to offer its recruitment and retention grants, with \$3000 available for the efforts of local divisions. Please apply for a grant, so that this money can be put to work for you. Also, do not forget that our per-capita rebate program begins this year. If you pay before January 31st, you will receive a 50-cent per member rebate on your taxes. Those paying after March 31st will pay a penalty in the same amount. Please take advantage of this.

Since my election I have attended the Pennsylvania State convention, County Board meetings in Albany, Suffolk, Rockland and Ulster Counties as well as a District one meeting. I was also honored to attend the 40th anniversary dance for Suffolk County Division 8 and to hold a meeting with NYS LAOH President Kathy Conway in conjunction with this so that we can coordinate our efforts. The State Executive Board met in August in Orange County to transition between administrations and then again in Albany in September to sign the contracts for the 2009 State Convention. We are also in constant contact on issues that emerge throughout the state.

I hope that it is obvious that I feel that the State Board is approaching all of its efforts with energy and enthusiasm. We can accomplish much, if we maintain our unity in the midst of all of the challenges that we face.

Thank you for your support so far, and from my family to yours please enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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## NY State Endorses 5 Candidates For National Office

At The New York State Convention in July the State Board unanimously endorsed Brother Seamus Boyle of Pennsylvania for National

President as well as our own brothers Brendan Moore for National Vice-President and Tom McNabb for National Secretary. At our October meeting we also endorsed incumbent Martin Kelly and Immediate Past State President John Hennessy for National Director.

Each of these Brothers has demonstrated time and again their commitment to our Order and its principles. They have served in offices at every level with distinction and are well qualified to lead our Order at the National Level. It is vitally important that we give them our full support and send our maximum allotment of delegates to the National Convention in New Orleans. With over 170 Brothers, New York has the largest delegation to the National Convention. We are honored to have been joined in our endorsements of Brother Boyle, Moore and McNabb by the great states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Together with these States and others that are soon to join us, we have the ability to dramatically affect the direction of our National Board for the good of our entire Order. To do so, we must come in large numbers and come united.

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## Vice President

Chip McLean

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for electing me to the position

of Vice-President and I pledge to you that I will work with all of the enthusiasm and dedication that you have become accustomed to from me.

Since the July Convention the Executive Officers of the State Board have worked hard to make a smooth transition. I would like to welcome to the Board our newest member Jim Burke as Treasurer and of course thank our Immediate Past President John Hennessy for his dedication and leadership that he provided so skillfully.

One of the first goals the new Executive Board was determined to institute was a sense of fiscal responsibility. Recognizing that the Charities of the State Board are in need of our continued support we sought to find alternate sources of fundraising to allow us to keep up our level of financial support without placing additional burdens on our budget and not having to raise per-capita contributions. In fact, we have instituted a program via a by-laws amendment at the July convention where divisions would be able to reduce there per-capita payments to the State Board by filing there annual report and paying their per-caps within certain time frames. The State Board has instituted fundraisers that will be held in different parts of the state which will allow different local jurisdictions to work as partners with the State Board to raise these funds.

Another challenge that your Executive Board has recognized early on is the '08 National Convention in New Orleans and the honor that we have as a state to have 4 candidates running for national office. It is imperative that we work together as a unified state to get all 4 candidates elected. We owe it to these distinguished Hibernians and we owe it to ourselves as testimony to the fine work that is done throughout this great state. We have identified that it is imperative to get as many N.Y. Delegates to New Orleans as possible. As such we have developed a program where we will be offering stipends to various jurisdictions that are sending delegates to New Orleans. The particulars of the program will be delivered to each of the division & county presidents before the end of the year, and they will know how to participate so that the delegates from their jurisdictions will qualify for funds that will help offset expenses incurred by sending those delegates to New Orleans. In order to have those funds on hand we have decided to sponsor a

**JUMBO RAFFLE** This raffle will consist of selling raffle tickets for \$10 each with cash prizes of \$5,000 and two \$1,000 prizes. Further, the seller of the top prize winner will be awarded \$200 and the sellers of the 2nd & 3rd prize tickets will each be awarded \$100. The tickets are being distributed and will be available through your District Directors or any State Board member. The more you

all support this raffle the more funds we can raise and the more funds that will be made available to the delegates. Please...get behind this and make it happen big! You can sell the tickets to anyone; they don't have to be Hibernians. Sell them at work, at church, through your family & friends, of course through your division....but sell them. The drawing will be held at the Semi-annual State Board meeting in E. Durham on May 3rd, '08. Ticket stubs and checks should be returned to me at my address: 75 Silver Lake Rd., Staten Island, NY 10301. You can get additional ticket by contacting me via e-mail or phone at the contacts listed in this newsletter.

Congratulations to all of the division officers who are being elected during the coming month and I look forward to working with all of you as well as participating in as many of your installations as I possibly can. "Keep those invitations coming."

As always I extend sincere thanks to those members who have shown great Hibernian hospitality to me during my travels throughout our great State. I look forward to continuing to visit as many jurisdictions as possible and ask that all of you continue to advise me of your events. May God Bless each of you and your families and on behalf of myself as well as my family I wish you a very Blessed & Holy

Christmas with all great joy and happiness in the New Year.

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Secretary

Michael J. McNabb

It is that time of the year that new division officers have been elected. With this comes the paperwork trail that we all must follow. It is with utmost importance that every division completely fills out and submits to each Superior Board a Form 9. If there is no change in officers you MUST still submit a Form 9. Remember the information from this form is used to communicate with YOUR division.

As we approach the end of the year it will also be time to submit financial reports and per – capita. PLEASE take advantage of the new by-law change. Remember this by-law change applies ONLY to your New York State per – capita.

If you have questions about these forms please contact either your District Director or me.

Form 9's and Financial Reports are available on the State Web site. You can email me your Form 9 as an attachment.

It was nice to see and talk with so many Brothers at the State Board Meeting. Thank You to Leo Kane and our Brother and Sister Hibernians in Binghamton for the Friday night reception and the wonderful

Pro Life Mass.

On behalf of my family I would like to extend to you and your families a Very Merry and Holy Christmas and a safe and prosperous Happy New Year.

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Treasurer

James Burke

As reported at the October meeting in Binghamton, the state board remains financially sound. All bills are paid and nothing is owed. That said however, our reserves are very thin. It is that time of year when no money is coming in. So I am going to ask for your help.

Your per capita assessments are the monetary life blood of our state board. It is important therefore that they be paid in a timely manner. All New York State per capita assessments are due by March 31st. To encourage early payment we have implemented an incentive program of a fifty cent per member discount, up to \$250.00, for dues paid by January 31st. That can be deducted from your payment when submitted. The flip side is that there will be a fifty cent per member penalty for dues paid after March 31st. So please get your dues in early and save your division a few dollars. Note that this applies to New York State per capita only. Your National and County assessments are still due in full by the 15th of February.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year. Best wishes for the holiday season.

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Chaplain

Fr. Henry W. Reid

First let me take this opportunity to apologize for not getting my article submitted in time for the previous newsletter. Secondly allow me to thank our worthy President, and the members of the State Board, for selecting me as State Chaplain. Now let me jump right into stirring the pot.

The Season of Advent is fast upon us, and before we have time to take another breath the great Feast of Christmas will be upon us. From the shelves in the various stores, one would have thought that Christmas was preceding Halloween this year. However, the day on which we recognize the Second Person of the Holy Trinity taking on human flesh and entering into human history is still celebrated on December 25th, no matter what the advertising industry might tell you. I have already been informed that one of our school districts has renamed this Christian Feast of the Incarnation as "White Day" in the hope that the heathen secularists would be appeased and that members of the Christian Community would lay down as usual. Actually a couple of grandmothers came to

tell me about it and say that they were going after the school board for that district. The question I have is "What colors did they assign to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?"

Year after year we, as Christians, must suffer attacks upon our religious observations by those who claim to be promoting civil liberties. Last year I encouraged our brothers to send Christmas Cards to the ACLU, so as to jam up their mailroom, create more expense for them, as they have to hire extra people to open all mail, and get the message that it is Merry Christmas and not Happy Holidays. For those who lost the address it is ACLU 125 Broad Street 18th Floor NY, NY 10004. Be sure to be Christian in your language and sentiments to them.

Finally, I would like to draw on our own Irish Christmas traditions to celebrate the Birth of Christ, and to publicly display our faith. Throughout the Centuries, Irish lit a white candle and displayed it in their windows from Christmas Eve until the Feast of Epiphany, as a welcome for Joseph and Mary, and also as a symbol that Christ has entered the world. In Penal Times the candle was lit as a signal to priests that they were welcome in a house, or even to signal other Catholics as to which house would be hosting the celebration of the Mass. In an age when we are again being persecuted for our beliefs, might I suggest that all of us continue or begin this tradition

in our houses, and even at our places of business. Perhaps just this simple lit candle is enough to break the darkness of secularism, atheism and materialism that has taken hold in our world.

Nollaig Shona Duit.

## District 1

Robert Flaherty

As we enter the last quarter of the year all divisions in the district are busy preparing for elections and installations.

I have been in contact with State Organizer Liam McNabb and am trying to help him in forming new divisions in District #1. This district is one of the largest in the state and there is a lot of room for expansion. Liam has been working diligently on this and has many great ideas for the forming of divisions in counties where there are none.

I attended the Irish 2000 and it was a great success. As always the music was outstanding and a great time was had by all. I have had the honor of attending all division and county board meetings at least once. It is a pleasure to watch other divisions carry out the business of the Order.

If you want entertainment, Albany division is the place to go. December 14th the State FFAI and Hibernian Hunger Project fundraiser has everybody's favorite band, The

Hair Of The Dog. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, benefiting the Irish American Heritage Museum and Project St. Patrick they will return with another great group, Greenwich Meantime for your listening pleasure. Tickets to each night are \$20. On Feb. 23, 2008, there will be a fundraiser for the Capital District Council. The entertainment will be Black 47; the tickets will also be \$20.00 each.

On November 2nd the Schenectady division hosted the Naturalization Ceremony. There were 57 people that became citizens.

The Schenectady division also had election of officers; their installation was on November 17, 2007. The Troy installation will be on December 8, Watervliet will have their installation dinner on January 12th and Saratoga will be having their installation on December 6th at 7:00pm.

Last but not least I attended the New York State bowling mixed doubles and it was a great time. Our brothers and sisters of Monroe did an outstanding job. It was a wonderful time and the food was outstanding.

On December 8, 2007 we are having a Capital District Council meeting at 10:00 am at the Watervliet hall. Immediately following there will be a meeting on recruiting, retention and filling out of documents. All officers are recommended to attend. There will be state and national officers present

## District 2

Bill Powers

It was a pleasure to visit three divisions of the District Two area. Mike McInerney, Division 1 President, Niagara Falls, ran a good meeting. Brother Paterson, their historian, gave an excellent presentation on a battle in the War of 1812 and the Irish involvement in the Niagara Peninsula.

Next, I visited Lockport, where they have a very active club with trips, dinners, and a variety of activities including a Niagara University Basketball game. (Go NU!!!) This year they are going to the NU/St. Bonaventure game. Tom Lutz, Division 4 President, got us out of the meeting in time to watch the Yankee game!

The next visit was to Division Four, Erie County, The Emerald Society. Mike McPartland, President has a very efficient division. It is involved in many local charities and in some fun loving gatherings that seemed to keep the interest of the members, as you could tell from the large attendance. This is a fun loving group and if every AOH meeting were this lively our membership would double immediately. I am looking forward to visiting the rest of the divisions before the snow falls.

At my own division, Erie County 1, I attended an installation of a statue of Chauncey Olcott. An interesting

fact about this statue is that it is carved out of a tree trunk from the October Storm of 2006. This huge statue has been placed in front of our Irish Center in South Buffalo. Chauncey Olcott was a Buffalo born composer who wrote and co-authored many songs including "My Wild Irish Rose". Al Smith, representing the NYC Hibernians, was one of his pall bearers; he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

Congratulations to David Burke for being honored by the **Irish Echo**. He received the Golden Bridges Award.

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### District 3

Robert Loughery

District # 3 is doing well. Membership is rising and I hope to have a new division started.

Syracuse Division was co-host of the "Syracuse Irish festival" this year, with the plan that they will run the whole thing next year. I was able to attend it on Saturday when they had an Irish Language Mass. The attendance was very good. Fulton Division ran the food concession and told me that they had a great time. I was able to attend the Syracuse Division meeting and was amazed at the number of young men the division is attracting to its ranks. Keep it up Syracuse.

Utica, Auburn and Oswego are doing well. They are getting ready for elections. Watertown

Div. just had their "Half Way to St. Patrick Dinner Dance" where they named Tass Gaffney as "Irish Person of the Year". It was a great success and everybody had a good time.

Cazenovia Div. is going to reorganize. I have been talking with Liam McNabb and we are going to help them get back on their feet.

I have also talked with Liam McNabb about trying to get a division going in St. Lawrence County.

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### District 4

John Hyland

The job of NYS Director, District 4 requires me to visit all nineteen Divisions and the three County Boards in my District. As of this writing, I have visited all three County Boards and six of the nineteen Divisions. Brothers, it would be greatly appreciated if your meeting notices were mailed out in a more timely fashion. Meeting notices mailed on the day of the meeting or two days before the meeting are virtually useless. The meetings I have attended seem to have forgotten the proper protocol. Many divisions do not wear their medallions of office or properly set up their meeting room. Brothers, you are losing sight of our true motto of the AOH; Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity. We must set a better example and be more responsible. The meetings are

not held for personal gratification or personal glory, they're held for conducting business to support the goals and motto of the Order. Attention all Divisions in District 4, please be sure to add to your mailing list, if you haven't done so already, my mailing address is 166 Joe's Hill Road, Brewster, NY 10509-5320. Thank You.

In the first 123 days of my service I was truly honored to have the opportunity, along with Father Henry Reid, New York State Chaplain, to meet with His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan to discuss how the Order can better assist the Parishes of the Archdiocese. Cardinal Egan is a member of Division 9, New York County.

I recently attended the First Annual Golden Bridges Awards luncheon sponsored by the **Irish Echo**. Brother Dave Burke, National Director from Massachusetts was one of the honored guests.

I represented the State President at a cocktail party for the 20th Anniversary of the **Irish Voice** newspaper held at the Affinia Manhattan Hotel.

I will be attending a luncheon at the Counsel General of Ireland's Residence honoring the A.O.H. Congratulations Division 18, Westchester County for signing up a new member! The annual "March for Life" will be held in Washington D.C. in January.

Please try to show your support and attend.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

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## District 5

Al Donohue

Since being elected at our last convention, I have been on the move. I attended the Suffolk County Board meeting, which I found very informative, as well as giving me different ideas on their meeting structure. After making a report and thanking all who supported me at the convention, I was pleased to meet Fr. Henry Reid, our NYS Chaplain, who offered to go with me to the different county meetings in district 5. I then attended the Nassau County Board meeting, where after thanking all for their support, I came away with additional ideas on the structure of county meetings. Both of these meetings were very informative and I was treated very cordially.

Giving him only two days lead time. I called Fr. Henry and asked if he would be available to attend the Kings County Board Meeting on September 17th. He was able to attend, as was a fellow classmate of his from the Seminary, Fr. Bryan Carney from Division 35 in Brooklyn. My plan is to promote a sense of unity which I'm sorry to report has been lacking up to now. Fr. Henry

will be attending with me to perhaps make some suggestions in this regard.

Kings County sponsored a County dance on October 12<sup>th</sup>. a Bill Kelly, our County President appointed Barney Cassidy, our County Vice President and Michael Gaffney, our county chairman of Standing Committees, as co chairmen of the event. They worked very hard to make this dance successful and are to be commended. The music, food and camaraderie were great. The only thing missing was more of a crowd. On a positive note, there was a contingent from Queens who attended.

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## District 6

Edward F. Friel

District #6, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, are doing well with many exciting planned activities. Membership is up with the addition of a new division in Nassau. I have attended meetings in both counties and found them to be very interesting with active discussions.

The Nassau County Board held its 35th Annual Feis on September 16, 2007. It was very successful. There were many dancers, bag pipers and a Gaelic football match.

Suffolk County hosted a Major Degree on Sunday, November 4, 2007, which was the 100th Degree, presented by the Tara

Degree Team. The newly formed Nassau County Shamrock Degree Team conducted a Degree on October 24, 2007, which was very well attended. Many of these men took their Major Degree in Suffolk. Congratulations to the Tara Degree Team on a great presentation of the Major Degree and their long history.

On October 6th Division 17 of Nassau County held their 18th Annual Heritage Day Parade and Festival. There were many County, State and National Officers as well as members of our Order participating. There was a great turnout showing support for this event.

As we enter the holiday season I would like to wish all Brother Hibernians a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Please remember that on Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Keep Christ in Christmas.

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## District 7

Tom Boslet

It has been a hectic few weeks for me since Brother Stu Fralick informed the State Board of his resignation as District 7 Director. I have been honored by Worthy NYS President Matt Nelligan's appointment as Stu's replacement and am looking forward to working with my Brother Hibernians. I want to thank Brother Stu for all of his efforts as District 7 Director and

wish him well with his new endeavors.

The Msgr. Donal O'Callaghan Division 1, Broome County held the first Annual State Board's Pro-Life Mass on October 27th at St. Paul's Church, Binghamton. Festivities started Friday with a hospitality evening at the Binghamton Division 1 hall. Saturday began with the Pro-Life Mass and ended with a well attended and very informative State Board meeting. Pro-Life Chairman Leo Kane and his committee of AOH and LAOH members put on a wonderful ceremony and meeting.

On October 20th the Division participated in the Broome County Ethnic Festival held in the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena.

The Irish Christmas Concert will be held at the Susquehanna Valley High School on December 2nd

The AOH sponsored St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for March 1st, 2008.

The Msgr. John Lee Division Chemung County: On November 2nd I attended the Elmira Division's 31st Annual Meat Raffle held at St. Mary's gym. President John O'Herron and his Division ran a very organized and well attended event. The funds raised by this event are used for community

youth sports. The Division displayed two of the new member recruitment posters in the gym and had a display of member applications. Unfortunately for me, my usual bad luck held out and I went home empty handed!!

On December 2nd the Shamrock Degree will be held at 4pm.

Steuben County: I have not been able to visit the Hornell Division yet. I have talked to Hornell Division President Matt McAneney and learned that their Officer Installation will be held at their January meeting. The Division has scheduled their St. Patrick's Day Parade for March 15th, 2008.

I have delivered the NYS fundraiser calendar to Division Presidents Stu Fralick, John O'Herron and Matt McAneney.

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## District 8

Phil Sheridan

May I take this time to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving, there are so many things we have to be grateful for in this country of ours. As must we realize there are many people who are in situations not so easy to be thankful for, especially the troops defending our country and our freedom around the world. At a time when we ponder how the good Lord has bestowed on us, let's say a

prayer for these who have given so much, and their families that miss them even more around the holidays.

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FFAI

Frank Corcoran

It is once again time for our annual Christmas Appeal in support of the Irish Nationalists in the north of Ireland.

Even though there is now a government in Stormont which includes Sinn Fein, there is still much to be done. Our ultimate goal of a free and united Ireland is still over the horizon. The joblessness and discrimination against the Irish in Nationalist areas continues and cries out for our assistance in their continuing struggle. Particularly ex-prisoners, those who were jailed in the struggle for equality and justice, are universally excluded from getting a decent job and providing for their families. So for them and for the next generation, we make this Christmas Appeal so their work and struggle can continue.

Our funds help some of the organizations that serve these who have given much for the cause of Irish freedom. These organizations support the truth and justice that we all seek in the North. We must do our best to continue this by asking each member to contribute \$10 for this effort. Many Divisions match their members'

contributions to make the Appeal doubly effective.

Some of the organizations who receive assistance are Relatives for Justice, Pat Finucane Center, Holy Cross Trust, Coiste na I-larchimi, Tar Anall and others.

Is it imperative that all Divisions and Counties in the State of New York make this appeal a priority and donate as best as they can. New York State AOH has proudly been the leader in this effort every year and our efforts are needed once again. Please continue to remember those who so urgently need our help. I'm sure with all of my Brothers' help; this year will be the best yet. Donations can be sent to Sean Pender, 13 Scullin Dr, Hamilton, NJ 08620.

Please send a donation (minimum \$100 per division/county recommended) and, if possible, attend the NYS Fundraiser for FFAI and Hibernian Hunger Project, December 14th 2008, 7PM, Albany AOH Div 5, 375 Ontario St, Albany, NY. 12208. See the events page on the NYAOH Website for further details on this event. If there are any questions concerning this or other issues relating to FFAI, please contact me.

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P.E.C.

R.M. "Merc" Morris

I have been quite busy keeping track of legislative and other political issues of the day that

may have a negative effect on our Order and our beliefs as Catholics and Hibernians. I will continue to monitor and be an advocate for legislation that will enhance our interests.

I have been working on the development of a voter's guide that will keep track of how our politicians are voting on issues important to us. I have been in communication with Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Catholic Advocacy Network and Director Pro-Life Activities and find there are many legal guidelines to follow to create a legally appropriate "voter guide" which does not violate any IRS rules. Therefore until I am able to do this successfully I suggest and strongly encourage all members to join the Catholic Advocacy Network by signing up on line at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org), click "Take Action" button on the right and it will take you to issues needing action that are pending in the New York Legislature. There is much you can do to get "politically active", you can register to vote, find out who your elected representatives are, send letters to editors of area newspapers and so on. Please join. You'll find it to be quite interesting.

I have also been in communication with Kiera McCaffery, Director of Communications Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and have been added to their email news list so I will hear of any anti-Catholic

legislation they tackle; you will also be informed right away.

I continue to work in cooperation with Pro Life Chairman Leo Kane and Catholic Action Chairman Dan Case in support and promotion of their endeavors. I am confident we will have a positive impact on issues of importance to our Order. You may be assured Liam McNabb has our best interest on his mind with his status as Vice President of CONPOR; our lobbying organization connected with other fraternal orders i.e. Moose, Eagles and Elks who lobby in efforts that affect those of us who have clubs.

I will continue to contact all District Directors and Division Presidents respectively to keep them informed about the issues of the day so they may also alert their membership and concern themselves with the core values we share.

There is another important issue that requires our attention, we need to show a substantial interest, involvement and support of the Knights of Columbus and the Prayer Rally we Hibernians, co-sponsor with them in April of 2008! Brothers: Leo Kane and Dan Case will be encouraging each District Director and Division President to begin now to recruit attendees to be at the Respect Life/Right to Life Prayer Rally held on the steps of the State Capital. This will take a good deal of coordination

and cooperation on the part of local and county presidents and their officers, but this will be a good thing and will establish who we are and the impact we can have on this and other important Catholic related issues. We must stay with our core values in light of all the impending legislation; i.e. gay rights, stem cell research and funding Catholic schools.

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## Immigration

Dan Dennehy

I will start by thanking Matt Nelligan, NYS President and his Executive Board for granting me the important Chair of Immigration. By looking around the room at any Hibernian meeting, one realizes the importance of Irish immigrants to this Nation and to this Organization. We live in the State with the largest number of Irish immigrants and it is incumbent upon this Organization to aid them in any way we can. These people, along with our American born youth, are an important part of the future of the AOH.

I believe that the topic of Immigration for our Organization can be broken down into three components: Immigration Reform: achieving a fair quota of visas, with security in mind, for our Irish immigrants and to ensure the continuation of our culture in American society.

Northern Ireland: fighting for those who face extradition and

to allow the people of the North to come to America learn our ways and thereby to help strengthen the peace process.

Immigration Advice & Outreach: providing our members with information about dual citizenship, pensions, passports, etc., encourage support for our Irish advice centers and aid Irish immigrants in distress

Recently, there have been an alarmingly high number of detention and deportations within our Irish immigrant community. Irish immigrants and tourists have been incarcerated and detained for inordinately long periods of time while awaiting deportation orders from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The deportation process takes eight weeks or longer. These deportees are held in our federal, state and county jails, among hardened dangerous criminals, with little or no communication with friends or family. If and when their location is discovered by the Irish Consulate or the Irish immigrant centers, a representative of the Irish Government and volunteer members of the advice organizations often travel many hours to visit the deportees.

At the State Board meeting in Binghamton, I asked members from Northern and Western NY AOH to volunteer to visit Irish immigrants while they are awaiting deportation. Several members offered their

assistance. Little did we know how soon help would be needed!

Thanks to State Pro-Life Chairman Leo Kane and Binghamton Division member Hugh Reynolds for their assistance to a 22 year old tourist from Donegal. He had been arrested near SUNY Binghamton and although all charges against him were dropped, he was held in Broome County Jail for over two weeks. It turns out he had overstayed his holiday visa by 4 days. Leo, Hugh and their Chaplain were his first visitors. They communicated with his far away family, helped him get permission to use a phone (prisoners enter their Social Security number to dial out, something this fellow doesn't have) and gave him money to use in the commissary. As I write this, he was taken by ICE to Genesee County Jail and will stay there until he is deported. Leo immediately contacted members in Monroe County to help out. By all reports this Donegal electrician is a remarkable and friendly young man who hadn't even heard of the AOH before his visit from Leo and Hugh. He knows who we are now!

Thanks to Brother Tim Myles for his tireless work for the cause of Malachy McAllister. Malachy McAllister, a brother member, and his children were facing imminent deportation to Northern Ireland, a place he was forced to leave following death

threats to him and his family. By returning, aside from having to face Loyalist hit squads bent on murdering him, Malachy stands to lose the business he has built and the home he has made for his family. His children would be forced to leave the only home they have known. NY State President Matt Nelligan joined many NY Hibernians in calling and writing our elected officials.

I joined Tim Myles, AOH National Immigration Chairman Michael Glass, National FFAI Chairman Sean Pender and other NY Hibernians at a McAllister fundraiser to celebrate US Senator Menendez' Private Bill that will allow McAllister and his children stay in the US; their adopted home. Brother Glass is very active on behalf of Malachy McAllister and I look forward to working with him in the future. Eammon Dornan Esq., the McAllister Family attorney said, that without the efforts of the AOH, the McAllister's would have lost a long time ago. We must do all that we can to save the McAllister's and our other deportees like Larry the Chef, whose information can be found at the website: [www.LarrytheChef.org](http://www.LarrytheChef.org)

Working with our Irish immigration and community advice centers allows us to stay better informed on the issues and needs of the community and demonstrates our willingness to be of assistance.

These centers are staffed with people; many are volunteers, who provide aid to Irish people, both young and old, every day. All these organizations are worthy of our support and can provide our members with information about immigration, visas, green card renewals, work permits, dual citizenship and legal referrals. A comprehensive list of Irish immigration and community centers can be found at [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)

Past Downstate NYS AOH Chaplain Fr. Brian McCarthy and Bronx Div. 5 members along with Sr. Christine Hennessey of the Aisling Center and Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director of the EIIC helped an elderly and distressed Division 5 member John Woods. Brother Woods was in need of medical and ambulatory assistance and these people comforted John and worked on admittance to St. Patrick's Home where he is happy, well cared for and will still be able to attend AOH meetings.

We need to maintain our communication to our members and friends in NYC, NYS and US law enforcement regarding our Irish communities. The ever-increasing rash of arrests and deportations of Irish immigrants involves our continued work with members of the other immigration groups i.e. ILIR, EIIC, Aisling Center, the Irish Consulate and law enforcement officials to advise the Irish of their predicament

and try to avoid future entanglements.

Congratulations to Jeff Cleary, an old friend who serves on the boards of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Irish American Republicans, on his appointment as President of the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR).

Looking forward, I believe that our focus in the coming months should be on encouraging a bilateral agreement on immigration between the US & Ireland. The Irish government has pledged its support for establishing improved immigration between the US and Ireland. They have asked the US to help bolster the Northern Peace Process with a bilateral immigration agreement that would allow the people of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the US to live and work in each other's countries.

I am happy with the communication we have with the staff of the NY Consulate and the Irish government in Dublin. I have spoken to Irish Ambassador Michael Collins and Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern during their recent visits to New York. It is encouraging that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is planning a visit to Ireland.

Brothers, our efforts to reach out within this organization have been successful and should continue to be strengthened. NY AOH members should be proud

of their efforts in the past and build on those successes.

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## Veterans Affairs

John M. Ryan

Just before the summer recess, the U.S. Senate passed bill S. 1877 which clarified the US Law allowing veterans and service men and women not in uniform to render a hand salute to the flag. This is an honor and privilege granted to them for their past and present service to our country. Please remember to take advantage of this honor in the future.

For those of you who may not be familiar with it, The Wounded Warrior Project provides funding to help our war wounded. The project provides physical rehabilitation and training as well as mentoring services. Please consider contacting them at the Wounded Warrior Project Headquarters, 7020 A.C. Skinner Pkwy., Suite 100, Jacksonville, Fl. 32256, 904 296-7350. We will begin a program here in the State to assist with funding in the near future.

If you are planning to send packages to our troops overseas for the holidays, keep in mind that the deadline for Christmas packages to arrive on time was November 10th. There is still time if you are not sending large bulky packages. Phone Cards are always greatly appreciated by the troops. Each package you send must be accompanied by a Customs Declaration form

CP 72 (for large packages-over 4 lbs.) and CP22 (for smaller packages). The easiest items to send are clothing and printed materials. The USPS has a variety of packages for sale and can help you with any questions.

When we think of our troops, we usually think of those who serve in combat units. The Chaplain Corps also has a large presence overseas too. Past L.A.O.H. National Chaplain Father Tim Hirten is now serving in Iraq with the U.S. Air Force. You can mail him a card at: Fr. Tim Hirten, c/o Major Timothy Hirten, 407 AEG-HC, APO H-C, 09331. His e-mail is: [airchaplaintimhirten@gmail.com](mailto:airchaplaintimhirten@gmail.com). I am sure he would be glad to hear from you.

Also, Xerox Corporation will send a thank you card to a GI free of charge. You can go to [www.letsaythanks.com](http://www.letsaythanks.com), and pick out a greeting. They will send it for you. You cannot designate who the recipient is, but it is a great idea.

Please remember our troops in your prayers and "Keep Christ in Christmas."

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## Sports

Patrick J. Burns

On August 4th 2007 the Elmira Hibernians hosted the Jack Burns Memorial Golf Tournament. It was a beautiful day for golfing. The team of the four Coggins from the Elmira/Florida division won the

tournament. The Elmira division did an excellent job. The turnout for the event however, was less than desirable. If anyone has any ideas for next year, please let me know. Regarding next year's event, we still do not have a site for the tournament. If any division is interested in hosting the tournament, please contact me ASAP to begin preparations.

The NYS mixed doubles bowling tournament was held on October 20th 2007. The Monroe Division hosted this very successful event. The bowling was at the Colonial Lanes in Chester, NY. We then went back to Monroe's hall for a fabulous meal. The winners of this year's event were; Kevin Luciana from Monroe, and Stephanie Leahy from Queens. Dennis Browne and his crew did an amazing job, from the lane sponsors to the food, to the door prizes. I want to extend a personal thank you to this crew for making my job easier. The best thing that came out of this tournament was the fact that the State actually made \$1370.00 on the event. This is more than was ever expected; again kudos to the Monroe division. Next year's mixed doubles bowling will be hosted by Rockland County.

The Auburn Division will be hosting the NYS Men's bowling tournament next year. The date will be April 14th 2008. The bowling will take place at Starlight Lanes with a meal to

follow. More information will follow as the event gets closer, but mark the date in your calendar books. I hope everyone has a safe and holy Christmas holiday season.

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## Right to Life

Leo Kane

I attended the Chemung County Fair in Sept. to visit the Chemung County Right to Life booth. Chemung County President, John O'Herron, was a volunteer at the booth. It was extremely informative and was captivatingly displayed in regards to abortion. Chemung County Div.1 assisted in running this booth. This is a perfect example of the AOH helping other Pro-Life organizations to take action. They have appointed a Pro-Life Chairman, Dave Townsend, and this division is now very active on this issue.

The First Annual Pro Life Mass was very successful. It was attended by many National, State, County and divisional members. NYS AOH Chaplain Rev. Henry Reid was the principal celebrant; Broome County AOH Chaplain Rev. James Buckley and Binghamton, NY Police Chaplain Rev. Lawrence Lord were co-celebrants. Father Corey Van Kuren gave an inspiring Homily with the message of "Pro Eternal Life". Father Van Kuren doesn't write his Homilies, he has stated, "My Homilies come from the Holy

Spirit, the Holy Spirit moves me"

At the beginning of my term of office members of the State Board were given a letter in regards to "Eleven Pro-Life Incentives". Please review and you will note that the first two have been addressed. I will be giving all district directors a Pro-Life incentive survey. I feel this information is very important, as it will impact our progress and future goals. I also request this information to be returned to me as soon as possible after the elections. Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

I hope to have the information in regards to the location of the AOH to gather for the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22, 2008. I am presently waiting for this information and as soon as it becomes available to me, I will forward it to publicity chair Brian Nelligan. It would be nice to have as many AOH New York State members there as possible.

New York State records more than 120,000 abortions every year. We need to take action now. Stop Eliot Spitzer's extreme abortion bill (S.5829). Call your state senator today through the Senate switchboard at 518-455-2800. You can also email your State Senator through the New York State Catholic conference web site at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org). Pressure works, Governor Spitzer has

withdrawn his support for the illegal immigrant's drivers' licenses. Please add the following web links to your division web sites, [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) and [RespectLifeToday.com](http://RespectLifeToday.com)-Stem Cell initiative.

I'm presently attempting to put together information packs on blood donations. It would be nice to see a blood drive in the month of March; it would coincide with Irish Heritage Month.

Pro-Life encompasses a lot of areas. I was made aware of recently, (via news broadcast,) of a mother who had recently given birth and had extra breast milk. She froze her milk and donated it to other infants in need. From saving a "life," it is now growing into a world wide effort to save lives. There are presently, over four hundred mothers donating their extra milk. It is amazing that something so small can grow into something wonderful. Think about how you can help and take action.

Hibernians, the plan is simple, get back to "Basics", do something, don't let the culture of "Death", beat the culture of "Life"; we do not want to be put on the moral endangered species list. As we know, life should be respected from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Brothers and their families all, Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

## National Director

Martin Kelly

It is nice to be back after spending a month in Ireland for the summer. Since I came back I was pretty active doing the business of the Order. I had the pleasure of attending many functions. It was nice to see all my friends from Suffolk County where I attended their county board meeting, also my friends at Nassau County which I also attended. I had the great pleasure to attend the **Irish Echo's** awards ceremony in New York City with many of my Hibernian friends. I am glad that one of our own was given an award, Brother David Burke of Mass, for his years of outstanding service to our Order. Congratulations David on an award well deserved.

On Saturday, December 8, 2007 we will hold a seminar for all upstate County and Division Presidents and officers especially the Financial Secretaries at the Watervliet AOH Hall located at 1021 9th Avenue in Watervliet NY at 11am. The subjects that will be covered at this seminar are:

- 1) An overview of all AOH National forms and how each should be completed
- 2) Suggestions on recruiting new members into your jurisdiction
- 3) Suggestions for retaining and motivating existing members
- 4) Information on Statewide grants and programs on these subjects

5) A question and answer session.

The Seminar will be conducted jointly by AOH National Secretary Tom McNabb, New York State President Matt Nelligan, AOH State Organizer Liam McNabb and me. Each year both the State and National Boards face an uphill battle to collect all the necessary forms from each jurisdiction. Conversely we know that local jurisdictions struggle with recruitment, retention and a lack of knowledge as to how to properly utilize the forms that are provided by the State and National. This seminar offers a unique opportunity for us to come together in the spirit of cooperation for the good of our order.

If you have any questions or if you need more information, please do not hesitate to call me at 718-332-6409 or e-mail me at galway21@aol.com. I look forward to meeting with you on December 8th.

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## AOH Publicity

Brian Nelligan

I want to first thank President Nelligan for appointing me as his publicity chair and hope to continue to serve the Order at the best of my abilities. Much has happened since the convention in Albany, first we have created the first state wide email list. If any one wants to be included in our mass e-mails, please contact me at nysaohpublicity@gmail.com; secondly we have been able to

get out notices regarding Malachy McAllister and pro-life/Catholic Action items. We have also created a calling list by which we are able to create a phone messages and send it to all State Officers, County and Division presidents. If you have not received any messages from me then your form 9's are not up to date and you must get the information to me. I need your name, email and phone number.

I have been working closely with Brother Liam McNabb, our NYS Organizer, in promoting our Order in other areas and expect to continue this in the coming year. As announced at the convention, President Nelligan has contracted a publicity firm to help us get information about the Order, and of events that you may be having, out to local area news outlets. All contact with the firm will be through this chair. You can contact me with the information; I will work with the firm and when we have finished with the task, give the requestor an update and the results.

So that we can have articles from NY in the coming editions, if there is anything that you would like to have in the **Hibernian Digest**, please feel free to enlist my assistance in getting your information to the editor. Again my contact information is nysaohpublicity@gmail.com or you can call me at 518-488-8996.

Commodore Barry  
Vic Vogel

"For John Barry, popularly known as the 'Father of Our Navy', has too long occupied a dusty niche in history. His character, his career, his accomplishments have been veiled by the years; careless or biased biographers have distorted his life..." So begins the **New York Times** review by Hanson W. Baldwin of the classic William Bell Clark biography, **GALLANT JOHN BARRY**. And so begins the work of the New York State Board to unveil the character, the career and the accomplishments of Commodore John Barry.

Worthy President Matt Nelligan and his board have established specific goals with regard to the Commodore John Barry campaign. New York would like Commodore John Barry recognized by the United States Naval Academy. New York would like a monument of Commodore John Barry at the United States Naval Academy. New York would like **GALLANT JOHN BARRY** reissued and placed in our libraries and schools. New York will work vigorously with all Hibernian State Boards and Commodore John Barry organizations to accomplish these objectives. When we are successful, we all will share in the reward of knowing that Commodore Barry has assumed his rightful place in American history.

I am honored to be the Commodore John Barry Chairman. I will work diligently to achieve the goals established by the New York State Board. And, I would appreciate information and assistance from any brother who might advance the cause of Commodore John Barry.

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Catholic Action

Dan Case

Brothers, as we approach the holiday season you should be aware of, and make your members the same, a new attack on our faith.

There is a movie called **THE GOLDEN COMPASS** to be released December 7th starring Nicole Kidman. This movie is advertised as primarily for our children to see. It is written by none other than Philip Pullman from England, an avowed atheist!! The fear is that after seeing this movie, that parents will go out and buy the other books in this series as Christmas gifts.

What is disturbing is that these books, of which the movie is the first of a trilogy called **THE DARK MATERIALS**, start out in a very light hearted manner, but the main goal is to teach our children that there is **NO GOD!!** In the movie they do some very strange things and at the very end a boy and a girl who are supposed to be depicting Adam & Eve, **KILL GOD!!!**

My only hope as your Chairman of Catholic Action is that we can get this message out in time for all to see and make the decision not to let their children view the movie. By the way, there are already plans, if this movie does well at the box office, to continue the trilogy.

We must not let this happen. Our faith is already under attack in many ways, to target our children is another way for atheists to get their message to the most vulnerable section of our society.

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Historian

Mike McCormack

Newgrange

On a hill in County Meath stands a monument to the early settlers of Ireland, and their civilization. It is a remarkable structure built more than 5000 years ago. At first it appears to be just a huge mound on a hilltop in the Boyne Valley, but closer investigation reveals a man-made structure surrounded by enormous standing boulders. A magnificently carved kerbstone lies before the entrance to a 65-foot passage which runs to the center of the mound and three chambers formed of interlacing stones. The passage is the most interesting part of the structure for it is inclined at precisely the proper angle to align astronomically with the rays of the rising sun at one specific time of the year – the winter

solstice. At dawn on December 21, the shortest day of the year and the point at which the power of the sun begins its annual return, the rising sun's rays shine through a portal above the entrance, travel along the inclined passage and illuminate the central chambers. This only happens on December 21, and partially on the two days before and after. The mound was called Bru Na Boinne by the ancient Irish; today it is called Newgrange.

According to carbon dating, the structure was built between 3700 and 3200 BC making it the oldest, still-standing, man-made building on the planet. Ancient Irish manuscripts say it was built by the Tuatha De Danann, early inhabitants of Ireland who were such an advanced civilization that the Celtic settlers who came after them considered them possessed of magical powers and guided by the heavens. Today, it is obvious that their "guidance" came in the form of their advanced knowledge of astronomy – knowledge unmatched in the known world at that time. To the Celts, Bru Na Boinne was a domain of the gods, a palace of the otherworld, and a place of festivals. Reinforcing this belief was the fact that approximately 1 kilometer on either side are two slightly smaller mounds, Knowth and Dowth, which are also astronomically aligned with celestial events. Knowth, the oldest mound of the three was

built some 500 years before Newgrange and is aligned with the setting sun on the solstice.

With the coming of Christianity, many pagan forts and monuments were ignored and fell into disrepair. They were eventually overgrown, or eroded by time and weather. In 1142, the land on which Bru Na Boinne stood became part of the farmland of the Cistercian Abbey at Mellifont. Farm fields were called granges and Bru Na Boinne lost its former identity and simply became the new grange. During the Williamite confiscation of church property, the land - now overgrown - was given to a Charles Campbell who used the mound as a source of stones for roads and fences. During the summer of 1699, as workers were carting stones from the base of the mound, they discovered the magnificent entrance stone with its carved spiral designs. Further digging revealed the opening to a long narrow passage which led to the center of the mound and its three chambers. Authorities were notified and Welsh Naturalist Edward Lhuyd came to investigate. It is he who is credited with the discovery of Newgrange. Despite the fact that the Irish had been telling of Bru Na Boinne for centuries, the locals were ignored, and Mr. Lhuyd and several of his colleagues concluded that the great monument was the work of visiting Danes since nothing requiring such skill and intelligence could ever be attributed to the Irish.

In 1750, General Charles Vallancey, a British Army Engineer and professional surveyor, came to Newgrange and discovered its astronomical alignment with the sun, moon, and planets, and first advanced the theory that Newgrange was an astronomical observatory. He explained the standing stones in front of the entrance as sun stones positioned to cast shadows on the carved entrance stone to indicate the seasons. He ascribed considerable astronomical skill to its early Irish architects, but was ridiculed by his colleagues who had never even seen the mound. In spite of local tales which verified this phenomenon, references to the solstice lighting of Newgrange in the writings of George (AE) Russell, the writings of astronomer Norman Lockyer and anthropologist Evans Wentz, no archaeologist took the time to investigate it until 1969, when Michael O'Kelly entered the chamber before sunrise on the winter solstice and became the first modern archaeologist to witness that exciting event.

In spite of the amount of verifiable information available on this historic site, some still stand with their backs to Newgrange, and stare in mock awe at Stonehenge, marveling at the antiquity of a site constructed 1,000 years later. Or they wonder at the pyramids which were only started hundreds of years after Newgrange was completed.

Finally, in 1989, the **New York Times**, which is ever slow to credit Irish accomplishments, noted that a British journal had announced that the astrological alignment of Newgrange appeared to be “by design rather than by accident.” Welcome aboard! It’s now December, and on the 21st, the mound at Bru Na Boinne will again receive its annual message from the sun telling man that the days will now get longer and the long night of winter is coming to an end. Hopefully the long night of ignorance about Irish accomplishments is ending as well.

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## Scholarship

Thomas Conway

If you have a High School Senior in your family, he or she is probably now looking at college possibilities. It is advisable to plan now to apply for the New York State Board’s Austin V. Carew State Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving student whose parent/guardian is an active member and who has taken the Major Degree. In late spring, 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.

It would be helpful if all Division Presidents bring the

following information to the attention of their members regarding the scholarship:

- 1) Parents or Guardians of the student must have taken the Major Degree.
- 2) Student must take our Irish History exam.
- 3) Student SAT scores must be provided.
- 4) Recommendation of a parish priest must accompany the application.
- 5) The application must be completed and returned by Friday, May 16th.

The scholarship is funded by the James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament, which will be held this spring in East Durham on May 2nd. Plan now for the golf outing to help support this endeavor and enjoy a day on the links. What a great combination!

Full details on the scholarship will be in the March issue of the “Empire Hibernian.”

This year with the help of Division 7 East Islip and their Past President Pat Philbin, we are once again able to offer 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 2008 Season (Some restrictions may apply). The chances are priced at \$5each, 3 for \$10 or 5 for \$15. The drawing will take place the weekend of the NYS Board meeting in East Durham on

May 3, 2008. Many thanks go out to Clover Graphics for the printing of the tickets.

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Issue Date	Deadline
March 2008	2/15/08
June 2008	5/15/08
September 2008	8/15/08
December 2008	11/15/08

All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are asked to submit their reports to the editor by the deadlines indicated for the respective issues. Email is preferred in either the message body or a MS Word, Works, WordPerfect or Notepad attachment. Clean, typewritten copy may also be mailed. If you are sending hard copy containing graphics, word art or color formatting, please include a copy of items file to allow conversion to a black and white format usable in the print version of the newsletter.

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All Division and County Boards; please submit a current Form 9 to all superior jurisdictions - even if you are not holding elections this year and no information has changed

The NY State form has been updated to include email addresses. A copy of the new form can be found on the State web site located at [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com).

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## New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians



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### **Hair of the Dog Headlines NYS Ancient Order of Hibernians Benefit Concert**

ALBANY, N.Y. – The New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) will have a benefit concert, featuring Hair of the Dog, on Friday, Dec. 14, at the Capital District Irish American Center (AOH Hall) at 375 Ontario St. in Albany. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the concert benefit two Hibernian charities –The Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal and the Hibernian Hunger Project.

“The FFAI Christmas Appeal aids former political prisoners and their families with job retraining, counseling and other assistance,” said Matt Nelligan, president of the NYS AOH, adding: “The Hibernian Hunger Project supports community efforts to provide food for the needy all around the United States “

Ticket are \$20 per person. Tables of 10 can be reserved for \$200. Reservations are preferred and may be made by contacting either Blake Washington at 518-608-5122 or Liam McNabb at 518-489-1752.

Hair of The Dog has entertained thousands of fans of all ages with their unique blend of Celtic, rock, folk and bluegrass music.

For more information about the benefit concert, or becoming a member of the AOH, visit [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com).

### **ABOUT THE AOH**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest Catholic lay organization in America. Officially formed in New York in 1836, it was organized centuries earlier in Ireland for the purpose of defending Gaelic values and protecting the Catholic Church and its clergy. Although the name AOH can only be traced back to 1641, the organization can claim continuity of purpose and its motto, “Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity,” back to the organization known as the Defenders of 1565.

The AOH in America is organized into divisions, county boards, and state boards, and is governed by a national board. Annual dances, concerts and parades sponsored by all levels of the AOH raise millions for charity, while providing a showcase for the positive contributions of the Irish to every walk of American life.

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