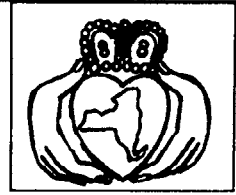




*Empire State*  
**Hibernian**

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



Volume 5 No.9 Issue 4

December 2010

President's Message  
Charles 'Chip' McLean

I would like to begin by thanking all of our officers who traveled to Staten Island for our recent N.Y. State Board meeting. The meeting was very well attended and much work was accomplished. At the meeting we heard an extensive report from our State Convention Chairman Warren Scullin regarding progress on the planning of our Convention which will be held in Pearl River, Rockland County on Wed., July 13th thru Sunday, July 17th, 2011. We are very happy to have an enthusiastic group of local members who are very interested in conducting their duties in a thorough fashion.

Continuing with our efforts toward fiscal responsibility our Lucky October Raffle was a resounding success and provided the necessary funding for the State Board's contribution to Project St. Patrick as well as assist in funding other charitable contributions. At the Board meeting we presented the National Chairman of Project St. Patrick with a check for \$2,500 representing the State Boards' donation for the current administration on behalf of the entire

State. I encourage all jurisdictions to remember Project St. Patrick when considering their charitable contributions for the year. Also, remember the Project St. Patrick memorial cards as well as the cards that can be used when honoring an individual. You can make a donation in honor of someone living as well as one deceased. I thank all who supported this endeavor, and I strongly criticize those who simply ignored this State Board activity. The level of support that we were asking for was so 'doable' that I can't believe anyone would pass up this offer. Much thanks to John Hennessy for administering this program.

Compliments go to Tim Myles our F.F.A.I chairman for running a successful fundraiser and all those who made an effort to attend the event held to support the State Boards' contribution to the Christmas Appeal. I would ask all of our jurisdictions to remember to support the F.F.A.I. Christmas Appeal and to have your individual members participate in the annual "Ten Club".

On October 3rd the N.Y. State Pro-Life Mass was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in N.Y. City in conjunction with the Sisters

for Life. Some 100 Hibernians joined by LAOH members; led by their State President Meg Redling; were warmly received at the Mass by the Archbishop of New York, His Excellency Timothy Dolan.

Commemorative Coin ... At our State Board meeting we witnessed the unveiling of the AOH's 175th Anniversary Commemorative Coin. This coin has been minted by the National Board in partnership with our own N.Y. State Board. We are financial partners with the National Board and as such seek to see the coins all purchased in order to have a fruitful financial outcome of our partnership. So, towards that end I am asking all of you to go to the back cover of the most recent Hibernian Digest and utilize the order form there to order your own piece of Hibernian history. A similar coin was minted for the 150th Anniversary of the Order and became a much sought after collectable. This coin was designed and minted after much work by some notable New Yorkers; Mike McCormack and Ed Wallace as well as Mike Byrne (Kings County) and Tom McSorley (Richmond County). Please act quickly as judging from the interest in this coin even in the concept phase at our National

Convention, it should sell out. The coin is a very good looking item that comes sealed in a clear plastic case that makes it perfect for display. It's ideal for gift giving or even appropriate to give to an honoree as a presentation.

Congratulations to all of the Division Officers who have been elected during the recent weeks 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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District 1  
Brian J Nelligan

Brothers, it is with great please to congratulate our Immediate Past New York State President Matt Nelligan was chosen by the New York State Board as the 2010 recipient of the Burns-Hayes Memorial award. This is the highest honor that the New York State AOH bestows upon

an individual. The member who receives this represents the ideals of our order. Not only was Matt our Past President, but Matt is also a member of Albany, Division 5. It was my honor to be present at the Presidents Testimonial dinner when Matt received the award.

There is much that has been going on in district 1; I attended the Schenectady Celtic Day at the Park, a great family event which had great weather. I also attended the annual FFAI Concert presented by Division 5 Albany. Congratulations to event organizer Ciaran Gerghaty, it looks like Albany may once again have the largest donation to FFAI.

I want to congratulate in advance all of the new officers that will be installed over the next month or so. I will be attending the Albany, Saratoga, Troy and Watervliet installations. I also want to wish everyone A Merry Christmas and look forward to a successful 2011.

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District 4  
A.J. Smith

This will serve as both my New York State District report for our meeting on November 19, 2010 and has been submitted to the New York State Digest.

This month I would like to start off in the Bronx since they have an important event coming up on November 20, 2010. Their annual Dinner Dance is being held on that day from 3-7PM at Rory

Dolans on McLean Avenue in Yonkers. This was a fun event last year, and this year promises to be just as good.

The Bronx will continue their tradition of joint installations of Divisions on 2 separate dates. On December 5, Divisions 5, 7 & 9 will be installed from 3-7pm at Cornyn's Coach n Four, 602 South Broadway, Yonkers. Bronx County Divisions 3&4 will install on December 10 at the Chippewa Club, 1447 Ferris Place, Bronx, NY. Finally, note that Bronx County Division 3 has postponed their December 5 Dinner Dance, new date to be announced.

In New York County, County President Tom Beirne continues to keep the Order involved in the Inauguration of the Minor Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral scheduled for 4 o'clock on December 5. Information can be obtained at <http://www.oldcathedral.org>. We are hoping for a large Hibernian presence at this event.

New York County is also highly involved in the discussion regarding the events to be held in New York County surrounding the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the A.O.H. Tom Beirne has done a lot of work helping to price hotels and events, and the whole committee is working hard to give us a weekend full of events worthy of such a special anniversary.

Westchester County recently held a major fundraiser/raffle. Although I was unable to attend the drawing, the County was report-

ing excellent sales, and it seems they were headed for a great success. The County did a great job of rallying around this first attempt at holding a raffle of this kind.

County Organizer Dan Dennehy, in response to what appeared to be a need in not just Westchester but in many jurisdictions, came up with and carried off a very special "Leadership Seminar" at the Westchester (Peekskill) Division 18 Hibernian Hall on November 13. This very creative idea, which appears to me to be unprecedented, was scheduled to address the topics of: 1) AOH Officer & Member: Roles, responsibilities & duties; 2) AOH Hall, Meeting and Ceremonies: Layout and Decorum 3) Our Constitution & Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order: "For the Good of Our Order" and 4) Recruitment & Retention: "Brothers for Life".

Brother Dennehy was able to attract National, State, County and Division officers, many of whom traveled a long way to do this timely and informative seminar type program. The brothers I spoke to afterward all seemed to feel that this was an excellent program that was both informative and fun. Many comments included that the program was also interesting because the brothers were interested to learn how other jurisdictions did things, and were happy to take some of these ideas back to their groups.

Sadly, I must report that the need for such a seminar was highlighted at a recent Westchester County Board meeting. At the meeting, a brother who was from another county that was not even in our district appeared uninvited by the County Board President. While protocol would dictate that such a member is an invited guest only, this brother took it upon himself to publicly challenge the President of the County at the meeting. Hopefully more such leadership programs will assist in teaching people proper decorum at meetings.

Finally, on an up note, I would like to thank Bronx County Secretary John Hyland and New York County Secretary Ed Meehan for going the extra mile in their County meeting notices. Brother Hyland took to including a schedule of events in his monthly meeting notices, and this practice has been adopted by Brother Meehan. The schedule includes events from both their local county jurisdiction and adjoining jurisdictions, and they are quite helpful in keeping up with all the events in the area. Good job men.

Hope everyone has happy, healthy and holy holidays, and may 2011 be a great year for our organization.

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District 5  
A. Warren Scullin

Since my last report I attended a Queens County recruitment/retention strategy meeting

on June 22. In July, I represented District # 5 at the National Convention in Cincinnati. On August 5, I coordinated a District # 5 trip to see a Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game. This event, which was their "Irish Night," was attended by members of Kings, Queens and Richmond Counties.

On August 19, I represented the State in assisting the Brothers of Kings County Division # 12 in reviewing and revising their 2010 membership list. I have also worked with the office of the National Secretary in ensuring that all Divisions in District #5 have filed their EIN documentation with the National Board.

On September 9, District 5 had a recruitment table at The Great Irish Fair at Keyspan Park, Coney Island. At that event many men approached the table wishing to join to our order. The names of these men were given to the County Presidents for the areas that the person wished to join. I would like to thank Ed Rice, Frank Thompson and Francis McLoughlin for their participation during that day.

On October 9, District # 5 hosted with the CuChulainn Celtic Warrior Degree team of Richmond County a Major Degree in Rockaway Beach. At that ceremony 19 Brothers of the order obtained their Major Degree. I would like to thank Rockaway Beach Division President Mark Edwards for hosting the event. Special thanks to Degree Team President Jack King and all the members of the team for the outstanding job they

did that day.

On November 13, I attended the Queens County Ball. The Man of the Year was Rev. James Devine. I would like to congratulate Rev. Devine for all of his years for service to the order and to our faith.

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District 6  
Vic Vogel

Nassau County President, Mike Byrne, reports that the 38th Annual Nassau County Feis and Festival was a great success with publisher Paddy McCarthy named the 2010 honoree. The Irish dance and bag piping competitions were excellent; Nassau County is also in the process of organizing a Junior Boys division.

Division Eight presented Jim McCabe with his Life Membership Award at the Swan Club in Roslyn. President John Hanley reported that 180 people attended the dinner that was organized by Joe McDonald.

Now that the men of Division Three have returned from their trip to Atlantic City, they will begin plans for their annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance on March 5, 2011. President Noel Byrne indicates that the Installations of Officers Ceremony will be held on January 2, 2011.

Division Seven is pleased to announce that John King has been chosen as the Nassau County Aide to the Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day

Parade in New York City. Congratulations John!

President Jim Henry announced that Division 14 will again run their "33 Club" raffle in support of the Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal. Contact Tim Myles for tickets. The Installation of Officers Ceremony and Christmas Party will take place on December 17, 2010 at the VFW hall in Lynbrook. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

The annual Long Beach Irish Day Parade, run by Division 17, was held on October 2nd. Once again, it proved to be an outstanding event.

The Suffolk County Board is making plans for their annual Suffolk County Ball to be held on May 6, 2011 at the Larkfield Manor in East Northport. Congratulations to County Presidents, Brian Clancy and Winnie Morrissey, who will be honored as Suffolk County's Hibernians of the Year.

Congratulations to John Rattigan of Division Two for being named the Suffolk County Aide to the Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. President Jim Dawes reports that the division has begun work on a fundraiser to benefit St. John of God Parish in memory of Fr. Jim Kissane. The Installation of Officers Ceremony for Division Two will be held on January 2, 2011 at 3 pm at their hall in Babylon.

Division Three will be honoring Mike Griffin with his Life Membership Award at their Christmas Party on December 5th. The division had a great time at the Notre Dame - Navy football game at the Meadowlands. President Brian Clancy obviously had a hand in planning this outing!

Division Four of Huntington is working on their annual Turkey Drive for the needy families of St. Patrick's Parish. Jack Ryan reports that the date of the Installation of Officers Ceremony will be announced after the election.

President John Hurley reports that Division Five will hold its Installation of Officers Ceremony on December 12, 2010 at 1:30 pm at their hall. The annual Fall Dance was a great success.

Division Seven presented Tom Conway with his Life Member Award. The division will hold its annual Christmas Party on December 11th. They will also host their annual Christmas party for community children in need on December 12th. The Junior Boys and Girls, under the leadership of Mac McFadden and Liz Colgen, presented a Veterans' Day reception in recognition of the members of Division Seven who served in the United States military.

Division Eight honored Gary Breslin and Jeanine Wilson as the Hibernians of the Year at their annual Dinner Dance. The Installation of Officers Ceremony will be held on December 5th at 2 pm at their hall.

Walter Butler of Division Nine led the Tara Court Major Degree Team in Conferring the Major Degree on 39 brothers at a recent ceremony held in Babylon. Tara Court is making plans for three Major Degrees in the next Year.

The brothers of Division 11 are stocking the food kitchen of St. Rosalie's Parish in Hampton Bays for the Christmas season. President Bob Bowden reports that all is going well.

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District 7  
John O'Herron

The membership in District 7 wishes a plentiful Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year to all. For the past six months, the divisions in District 7 have made a positive impact on their local communities and have supported the Church in various endeavors.

At their September meeting, Broome County's Msgr. Donal O'Callaghan Division voted to change their name to the Msgr. Lawrence E. Giblin Division #1. The official dedication of the new designation is November 14th at their clubhouse in Binghamton. Preparations for Binghamton's annual AOH sponsored St. Patrick's Day Mass and Parade is already in progress. Each year, the Mass collection of nearly \$1,500.00 is contributed to the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God. This international religious order assists persons with disabilities from birth to adulthood to

develop a skill to work within their communities. The division has been actively initiating new members and is closing in on the 400 membership mark. It appears that two terms Division President Hugh Reynolds is passing the reins to VP Mark Kadlecik. ... at least for a while.

Elmira's Msgr. John J. Lee Division's annual Irish Festival on September 11th enjoyed the best possible weather and was a most successful fund raiser. The proceeds from the festival are earmarked to the corporation building fund with portions allotted to AOH and LAOH divisions for charitable distributions. The AOH sponsored Josh Palmer Golf Tournament took place on October 4th and raised \$10,000.00 to aid local cancer patients and their families. The division is able to continue its sponsorship of youth sports in 2011 with the success of their 366th Annual Beef Raffle on November 5th. A joint contribution of \$800.00 each from the division's AOH and LAOH financed the restoration of the St. Patrick stained glass window in St. Mary's Church in Elmira. President Tom Corcoran and the entire slate of officers have been re-elected for their respective terms for 2011.

President Steve Donlon of the Sons of Ireland Division in Hornell reports that their Irish Fest on August 21st raised \$3,000.00 which was distributed to Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Steuben Rural Ministry, Hornell Birthright and the local YMCA.

The division sponsored Irish Open Golf Tournament on September 25th had over 30 teams play on a DRY day (weather, not drink). Food stations were set up along the course and a band was brought in after the tournament. The proceeds went to the Hornell Youth Golf Program. A noteworthy project the division took on was replacing St. Ann's School's sidewalk. Fifteen AOH brothers supplied the labor and a fund raiser offset the cost of materials and equipment. The next time I'm in Hornell I'm going to make it a point to check out that new sidewalk.

Well known AOH personality Dick Dalton is on the mend after some recent surgeries and it didn't take him long to get his various subject e-mails back in motion. Don't believe the rumors that he had his lap top in the recovery room.

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District 8  
Kevin R. Cummings

Around the different counties in the district, Fr. Con Colbert Woulfe, Division 1 in Ulster County is continuing to collect donations for the local food banks and kitchens. President Jim Carey and his Brother Hibernians hope their efforts will offset the increasing costs associated with providing food to needy people in their community. Donations made directly to the division's Feed the Hungry Project at the \$1000 level will be recognized by having the donor or honoree(s) name engraved on the base of the beautiful An Gorta Mor Memorial

Cross located on the grounds of St. Mary's Church in Kingston. Ulster County AOH will kick off their St. Patrick's Parade season with a Grand Marshal's Night on February 11, 2011 with the parade to be held in Kingston on March 13, 2011.

In Greene County, President Tim O'Sullivan and our brothers in Division 2 will hold their Officer Installation and joint AOH/LAOH Christmas Gathering on December 5, 2010. As in the past, it will be my distinct honor to attend and participate in the installation. I wish to thank Kevin Moore, Orange County Financial Secretary for his assistance in conducting the installation ceremony here in Greene County and elsewhere throughout District 8. As a reminder, Greene County AOH/LAOH members continue to raise funds for improvements at the Mass Rock site they and the local LAOH sponsor in East Durham. Any assistance offered will be gladly accepted.

Members of Dutchess County's Msgr. Sheahan, Division 1 attended a memorial Mass celebrated in honor of their division's namesake Rev. Monsignor Joseph F. Sheahan. The Mass was held on November 2, 2010 at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in Poughkeepsie. The division continues to raise funds and collect supplies for the House of Faith/House of Hope domestic violence shelter in Wappinger Falls. Division President Gearoid McVicker and his Brother Hibernians have

set a date of February 5, 2011 for the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Emerald Ball. Congratulations to Brother Matt Cunningham of Division 1 on his selection as Grand Marshal of the county's St. Patrick's Parade to be held in Wappinger Falls on March 5, 2011.

On October 11, 2010, I attended the AOH/LAOH 2011 Convention meeting held at the Irish American Cultural Center in Blauvelt, Rockland County. The planning meeting was attended by many enthusiastic members of the county's AOH/LAOH. The room was filled with those eager to participate in the many committees. Conducting the meeting were Rockland County AOH President Vince Tyer, Rockland County LAOH President Linda Sheridan and District 5 Director and 2011 Convention Chair Warren Scullin. Plans are well under way to make the July 13-17, 2011 Convention a memorable event. Elsewhere around Rockland County, John Cardinal Dalton, Division 3, Pearl River held their annual senior citizen Thanksgiving luncheon on November 20th. There was also a joint County Board meeting of the AOH and LAOH held on November 16, 2010 to discuss the 2011 Pearl River St. Patrick's Parade.

In Orange County, a hearty job-well-done to Brother Jim Kelly, Coordinator of the Seamus Comiskey Memorial Shamrock Degree Team and his team members from across the county who conducted a very successful

county-wide initiation on November 4, 2010. The degree ceremony, held in the Father Donald J. Whelan, Division 2 Hall, was attended by more than 30 candidates and 20 observers from across the county. Congratulations go out to Hibernian Brother Ron Heppes of Father Emmanuel Hourihan, Division 4 on his selection as Grand Marshal of the Mid Hudson St. Patrick's Parade. The parade will be held in Goshen on Sunday, March 13, 2011. Across the county, the divisions have been busy with many fundraisers to benefit veteran groups here at home and troops serving overseas.

The end of the year is upon us and so are the division elections across the district. I look forward to the many invitations to participate in the installation of the officers. As we are busy preparing for those elections and installations, it is important to remember to submit an updated Form 9 to the National, State and County Secretaries in a timely manner.

Finally, I wish all Hibernians and their families a bountiful Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please remember to say a prayer for our troops serving far from home.

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Deputy Chaplain  
Fr. Henry W. Reid

I just want to thank all of you who have offered congratulations on my being named Deputy National Chaplain; it is a great honor that our worthy National President, Seamus Boyle, has given to me.

This is also a good time for me to congratulate my friend, our Past- State President, Matt Nelligan, on being chosen to receive the Burns Hayes Award.

Back in July, when we were at the national Convention, we faced one of the greatest disappointments possible, our brother, Matt Nelligan, who we all believed would become one of the National Directors lost that election. Needless to say all of us recognize that Matt would have been the best person for that position, and that everything he has done for the A.O.H. in New York State and Nationally as Right to Life Chair, was always with the best interests of our Order and our Faith in mind. The reason why he did not win this position is simple. It was not anti-New York sentiment, although that was one of the forms it took, it was anti-Hibernian behavior that was at the root of it.

After the vote was counted and the results made known, I asked several brothers from other States why they did not vote for Matt, the response was really political, sort of non-committed, vague type answers about New York having too much representation, and the West needing more reps. The quickest response to this is that most of the NYS AOH divisions have more members than the State of California, and that New York has the most amount of members. But this is not the best response, and it plays into the hands of those who are using anti-New York nonsense to promote their own agenda, and as a result, de-

stroy the A.O.H... Why should Matt Nelligan have won that election? Because he was one of the most qualified; because he takes what the A.O.H. stands for seriously; because he stood by a position he had to take as National Right to Life Chair, despite the fact that it was unpopular with a number of brothers, but it was the right decision to make.

Since the Convention I have heard a lot of resentment, and a lot of accusation from different brothers in New York. Obviously we are all disappointed with the result, and we are pledged to having a full delegation at the 2012 National Convention, to insure that the best qualified brothers are elected to office, that is good. But, there are two things that bother me: I do not want our actions, which should always be for the benefit of the A.O.H., to feed the anti-New York sentiment that some brothers are using for their own benefit, and creating divisions within the Order. Secondly, having close friends throughout New York State, I do not want to see the Hibernians in this great State become divided. I have already heard different accusations about this brother or that group not voting at the Convention, or voting in ways that cost a Director's seat. Whatever happened in Ohio, we need to get past. If someone did or didn't do something, they have to live with it. As Hibernians, we have to look to the future, to the good of the Order, and to the promotion of our Catholic Faith and

Irish Heritage. Yours in Christ and in Our Motto, Fr. Henry W. Reid

P.S.: I am working with several others in organizing an Irish Festival in East Durham, August 12-14, 2011. (Details will be sent out via emails and websites, etc....) The three main reasons for this event is 1) to promote Irish Culture; 2) to raise funds for the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Center; and 3) to bring business into the town of East Durham, which has a unique place in the history and culture of Irish New York. If you're free that weekend, come to the Irish Alps.

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State Fund Raiser  
Calendar Chairman  
John Hennessy

By the time you read this column the fall State board meeting will be over. The Testimonial Dinner honoring our State President as well as the prestigious Burns-Hayes award will have been presented to our Past State President Matt Nelligan a well-deserved honor to both Brothers.

I had the honor of visiting the campus of Notre Dame University and attending the football game between Notre Dame and Western Michigan, won by Notre Dame. Words can't express the beauty of the Basilica and of course the Golden Dome.

As of October 31, 2010 we have given out \$6400.00 to winners of the calendar for 2010.

The calendars for 2011 were distributed at the State Board meet-

ing or mailed to District Directors. Let's make the calendar program more successful in 2011 than 2010. You can do it. If you need additional calendars call me @ 631 667-8396 or e-mail johnaoh@optonline.net. The results of the Lucky October raffle there were 717 tickets sold @ \$5.00 for \$3585.00. Total winnings distributed \$850.00 giving us a profit of \$2735.00 for Project St. Patrick

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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Veterans Affairs  
John M. Ryan

Hopefully those of you who have planned to send packages and mail overseas to our GIs have already done so. There is nothing like receiving a package from home. If you do not know anyone overseas I suggest that you make a Christmas donation to the Wounded Warrior Project at P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516. You can also make a donation to Fisher House, VA Medical Center, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

The NYS assembly has passed the Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act. Please call your NYS Senator and ask that the Senate pass their version, S7961. This would call on NYS to study veterans behavioral health issues and to make a plan to assist NYS veterans. There is also no \$ attached to this bill, so the

budget crisis should have no bearing on this legislation. This bill will give us a good jumping off point for our veteran's advocacy efforts going forward.

VA is easing Rules to Cover Stress Disorder

The government is preparing to issue rules that will make it substantially easier for veterans who have been found to have Post-traumatic Stress Disorder to receive disability benefits, a change that could affect hundreds of thousands of veterans from the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam.

Under the new rule, which applies to veterans of all wars, the department will grant compensation to those with PTSD if they can simply show that they served in a war zone and in a job consistent with the events that they say caused their condition. They would not have to prove, for instance, that they came under fire, served in a front line unit or saw a friend killed.

Women Veterans

On June 8, 2010 the Department of Veterans Affairs held a Women Veterans Forum. The VA has undertaken major initiatives to transform the department to meet the unique health care needs of women veterans and provide the best quality of care at every VA medical Center. In addition, the agency is working to shorten the delays for claims processing, improve access to VA health services for minority and rural veterans, end veteran homelessness, and ease the transition back to civilian life.

Please keep our troops and all our veterans in your prayers. Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you; Jesus Christ and the American Soldier. One died for your soul; the other for your freedom.

Have a Holy and Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. God Bless America.

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Pro-Life  
Matt McFarland

N Y AOH Respects Life At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City: Members of the NYS AOH attended the annual Respect Life Mass held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on October 3rd, 2010. NYS President Charles McLean and LAOH State President Meg Redling led the large contingent of Hibernians up the center aisle and were warmly greeted by Archbishop Timothy Dolan. The large group consisted of members from all five boroughs of New York City, as well as from the surrounding suburbs.

In his homily, Archbishop Dolan reminded the congregation that the Right to Life was not only a right proclaimed by God, but is also a founding principle of the United States. He said "God saw a reign of life, not destruction; a kingdom of life, not extinction; a culture of life, not of death; that's God's vision". He also assured the crowd that the culture of life will ultimately prevail.

The mass was co-sponsored by The AOH and The Sisters of Life, a religious order founded in 1991

by the late John Cardinal O'Connor for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life.

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Archivist  
Jerry Callahan

We are setting up an Achieves Display in our Hibernian Baile na nGael headquarters. If anyone has any interesting artifacts to add to this display please contact me immediately. Some items I have come across Include:

Delegates badges from the following conventions:

St. Paul Minn. 1941

Albany NY 1950

Brooklyn, NY 1939

Atlantic City NJ 1952

Troy NY 1946

Boston Mass. 1950

In addition I have acquired a reverse Hibernian ceremonial badge from Kings County Div 22 circa 1900. A St. Patrick's Day Parade By-laws from 1987 and a New York State By-laws revised 1956

I have made numerous requests for any information about any artifacts available but none have responded. Please call me at (917) 582-7171 to help add to this collection.

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F.F.A.I.  
Tim Myles

This is the time of the year for the annual FFAI Christmas Appeal. NYS always leads the way and I hope we will once again be in the forefront. Your dona-

tions are still needed to support groups that work for truth and justice like that Pat Finucane Center and Relatives for Justice as well as former prisoner groups and cross community efforts. I'm asking District Directors and County Board Presidents; please make every effort to get all in your jurisdiction to participate in some way in the Christmas Appeal. Those who donate \$1000.00 will receive a personalized hurling stick and recognition at the national convention. There are some individuals who always step up. This is the second year that Jeff Nisler (Suffolk Co.) has donated 1K. Ciaran Geraghty and the Albany Brothers recently had a very successful FFAI benefit. I regret I was unable to attend and hear the Screaming Orphans. Thanks Jeff and Ciaran for your support.

The State Board will be able to donate 1K thanks to the successful fundraiser last month at O'Reilly's, NYC. We had a very nice social thanks to all the brothers and friends of the AOH who attended. Special thanks to Tom Casey (New York Co.) for providing the entertainment and also thanks to Tom Wright (Nassau Co.) and Matt Reilly (Rockland Co.) for working the door and selling raffles.

National FFAI chairman Sean Pender has organized another tour around Bloody Sunday Commemoration weekend where we distribute the donated funds. The tour is almost sold out. From what I hear, NYS will have nice representation on the

tour. The Babylon AOH hall hosts the Derry 14 Mass every January. I hope many brothers on Long Island will attend this event.

Looking ahead we are approaching the 30th anniversary of the Hunger Strikes. I can not tell you how important it is to remember this event in Irish history. I urge all divisions to do something to commemorate this sad event. Can you have a Mass said? How about organizing a speaker to educate the next generation? The least you should do is have your historian give a report at your May meeting. I have asked the Molloy College Irish Studies program to do something for the anniversary. If you have a college in your area with an Irish Studies program, please ask them to plan some event. As we move forward in life, we must not forget our past. On May 7, 2011 Irish Northern Aid and Clan Na Gael will have a commemoration in NYC. I'll have more details in my next report

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Immigration Chairman  
Dan Dennehy

I would like to start by wishing you and your families a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year. I would also ask that you please consider the thousands of Irish undocumented who will sadly spend another year away from their loved ones. With the election day past, it is now our responsibility to remind our elected officials, both new and seasoned, of our Order's commitment to reversing the decades of discrimination against Irish people seeking safe and legal paths of immigration to

the US. Since 1967, when the quota of 18,000 visas from Ireland ended, inequity has prevented Ireland from a reasonable amount of legal immigrants. In early November, the DV lottery application period ended and thousands of hopeful Irish immigrants will be again pitted against the larger nations like Poland for the small pool of visas. These larger nations receive the lion's share of DV lottery winners with Ireland receiving one or two hundred visas. Clearly this is not enough and you as AOH members are the best advocates that Ireland can have. Speak to your legislators; let them know that our culture and heritage is being short-changed by the current immigration climate.

I recently attended a meeting of Thar Saile ([www.tharsaile.org](http://www.tharsaile.org)) and Irish American Unity Conference ([www.iauc.org](http://www.iauc.org)) and had the opportunity to meet with members of both organizations including Thar Saile President Matt Morrison and new IUAC President Thomas Burke. It has become increasingly difficult for the men of Thar Saile since they received deferred status from the US government. Although they were willing participants in the peaceful measures attained by the Good Friday Agreement they remain in a bureaucratic limbo. The AOH is committed to working with Thar Saile, IUAC, and the interests of all former detainees who have yet to achieve green cards and US citizenship. I encourage you to visit the above

websites to learn more about both organizations; more to follow shortly.

I was honored on October 30 to share the dais at the Emerald Isle Immigration Center ([www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)) dinner with many of NY's labor, business and political leaders. The evening provided an opportunity to discuss immigration matters with Consul General Noel Kilkenny, both of New York's US Senators; Schumer and Gillibrand, US Representatives Caroline Maloney, Eliot Engel, Joe Crowley, Anthony Wiener as well as labor leaders Jack Ahern and Richie Fitzsimmons. The services provided by our Irish immigrant centers are so invaluable that these leaders are compelled to support them and so should we all as Hibernians. To find your nearest center and introduce yourself to the issues they address and become a better informed member of the Irish American community, visit the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers ([www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)).

Please consider volunteering to be your Division's Immigration Chairman today. The AOH has always stood ready to help our people, our heritage and our Faith, now it is your turn to help insure a bright future and remove forever the words illegal and undocumented from association with our Irish immigrants.

The following resolution was passed unanimously at the AOH National Convention.

*“BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that each level of the AOH shall appoint a Chairman of Immigration who duties it will be to work with the Immigration Chair appointed by the National Board.”*  
Request that District Directors kindly notify their County and Division Presidents of the need to appoint Immigration Chairmen. Please have your Immigration Chairman contact me via phone (914) 588-2710 or email [dandenney@hotmail.com](mailto:dandenney@hotmail.com). As legislation becomes closer to reality, it is important that every level of our Order is working to ensure that we, the AOH and fellow Irish Americans, have a say in the process.

For current information on Irish and American immigration issues please refer to the following websites:

Coalition of Irish Immigrant Center website: [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)  
Emerald Isle Immigration Center [www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)  
Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform [www.irishlobbyusa.org](http://www.irishlobbyusa.org)

Charities and Missions  
Arnold Nagelhout

Come on guys! Many of you are at the end of your Presidential Administrations. Please make sure the efforts of your term are recognized and have your division send a Charities and Missions report to me. President Mc Lean and I would like to have a 100% jurisdictional reporting from County Boards and Divisions at the Convention in July 2011. A lot of our divisions and county boards, I'm sure, make some donation or do-

nate man hours. Please, even if it's only \$5 or a few man hours, send in a report. It would be a pleasure to inform the National Board that each and every jurisdiction in New York State has assisted with Charities and Missions during this 2 year administration.

To date only 10 divisions and no county boards have submitted reports since our last State convention. There are 13 County Boards and 83 Divisions in New York State so this is a very low percent accounting. Let me remind you the National AOH By Laws require each jurisdiction to submit a report of your charitable contributions.

Three Divisions have submitted updated reports:  
Thomas W. Carroll Division 1, Erie Co. has donated \$100 to the Western New York Famine Mass committee.

Rev. James J. Browne Division 1, Niagara Co. has made donations that total \$4,125 to Niagara Catholic High School, Heart and Soul Food Pantry, FFAI Christmas Appeal and Niagara Active Hose.

Staten Island Division 14, Richmond Co. has reported 258 man hours and \$38,281 going to several organizations including St. Patrick Missions, 2 wounded Army soldiers, Irish Cultural Center, Fr. Daniel Tuite, Wounded Warriors Project, Volunteers of America, Friends

of St. Florian and Wounded Warrior Project Dinner.

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Sports  
Thomas W. Thompson

We had a wonderful turnout for the Jack Burns Memorial Golf Tournament held in Auburn on August 21, 2010. A great time was had by all; looking forward to an even bigger turnout next time!

Hope everyone had a great summer and are gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Safe traveling to all and God's blessings in the New Year!

Pencil in your calendars, Friday, April 29, 2011: Twelfth Annual James F. Hayes Golf Classic. This game is very important for our SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. More details will follow.

Looking for someone to host a Bowling Tournament in 2011. Contact me or Chip McLean.

N.Y.S. Sports Chairman Thomas W. Thompson, phone 3631-588-3008 or Cell #631-786-3128; e-mail seaspray114@yahoo.com. Thank you and God Bless.

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NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade 2011 Scholarship

Every year the AOH New York State Board joins the many thousands of marcher's participating in the NY City Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

This parade, the largest in the world, has been held continuously since 1762. It honors the Patron Saint of Ireland and celebrates the faith and traditions of our people.

An additional benefit of our State Board's affiliation with the Parade is; each NY AOH member in good standing has the opportunity to sponsor family member applicants for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee Scholarship. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Topic - Francis P. Beirne College Scholarship Contest - The 250th Anniversary of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade is dedicated to Ireland and Irish Immigrants in America. Select one decade during this 250 year history and discuss Irish Immigrant experiences during that decade and their significance for Ireland and America.

Topic - Margaret O'Rourke High School Scholarship Contest - The 250th Anniversary of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade is dedicated to Ireland and Irish Immigrants in America. Discuss myths and misunderstandings of the Irish Immigrant in America.

Full details with application requirements will be posted at NYCStPatricksParade.org , as they become available. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 4, 2011.

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All jurisdictions are reminded to submit an updated Form 9 each January to all superior Boards even if no information has changed.