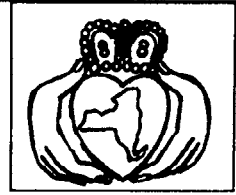




Empire State
Hibernian

*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.8 Issue 4

December 2009

President's Message

Charles 'Chip' McLean

I am very proud to report that the work of our noble Order continues and each of your State Board Officers are hard at work promoting the goals of our administration in each of their areas.

First and foremost I must pronounce a great big "Thank You" to our Brothers in Elmira for the outstanding work and service they provided the Order in hosting the State Bd. meeting in October. From the moment our members arrived in Elmira they were feted with extraordinary hospitality. From the fun and revelry we participated in at the Hibernian Hall on Friday night to the righteous way we celebrated the 3rd Annual Respect Life Mass to the business we conducted at our Bi-annual State Bd. mtg even until the Mixed Doubles Bowling Tourney and Banquet back at the Hibernian Hall in the evening, all was in the true spirit of Hibernianism. The Mass of course was enhanced spiritually by the participation of the local Hibernian Choir who sounded great. Thanks again to Worthy Div. President Mark O'Herron and all of our Brother Hibernians as well as our Sister Hibernians in Elmira for all of their hard work in hosting this event.

Brother Dan Case in his role as Catholic Action Chairman remains diligent in monitoring the current attack on traditional marriage that is underway in our State Legislature. As you all are probably very much aware that our State Legislators are addressing near catastrophic fiscal issues. But while they are concentrating on the critical financial state of our State they are being barraged by those who wish to debase the value of traditional marriage. It is vitally important, now more than ever, that we continue our efforts to make our State Legislators, in both houses aware of our support for traditional marriage and our opposition to same sex marriage. Please monitor our website for vital instructions as to action alerts for this effort.

Congratulations to all of our elected Division Officers, both new and returning Officers. I thank you all for your service and encourage you in your endeavors on behalf of your Divisions. All Division Presidents are encouraged to conduct proper installation rituals for your Officers. Each of your County Bd. Presidents as well as our State Directors stand ready to assist in every way possible.

I myself have been invited to a number of installations and intend to make as many as possible. I have already conducted the first Installation of the season in

Schenectady. Congratulations to Worthy Div. Pres. Owen Cole who was installed with a fine group of men and I wish them well. I was assisted by an array of State Officers from V.P. Mike McNabb, State Sec. Jim Burke, State Treas. Tim McSweeney, State Dir. Brian Nelligan, State P.E.C. Chair Liam McNabb, State Buy Irish Chair Bob Flaherty to State Calendar Co-Chair John Juhren. Even our National Respect Life Chair Matt Nelligan was in attendance and assisted.

Please, keep those invitations coming, I promise I will make every effort possible to be there, I consider it an honor to participate in each of your Installations.

Our State Sports Chair Tom Thompson worked well with the local committee in putting on the Mixed Doubles Bowling Tourney. He is starting preparations for the Jim Hayes Memorial Golf Tourney in E. Durham during the Spring State Board meeting weekend held April 30th – May 1st & 2nd. More information will be forthcoming.

Our State F.F.A.I. Fundraiser is shaping up to be a great affair and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the event. See Chairman Tim Myles' article for all of the details. Funds raised will allow us to make our NY State

Board contribution to the Annual Christmas Appeal Fund. I encourage each of the Divisions to participate in the Christmas Appeal and encourage your members to participate in the "Ten Club". While the peace is holding for the most part in the six counties, there is still a tremendous need for our people. There is a need for counseling both concerning employment/job training as well as psychological since there remains a very high rate of suicide in the Nationalist community.

I was recently very pleased to be present at the 60th Anniversary Dinner/Dance for N.Y County Div 9 where our own Past State Pres. Matt Nelligan was feted for his dedication to the causes of our noble Order. Congrat's to Matt as well as the Worthy Div. Pres. Reilly and the members of N.Y County Div. 9. Additionally, I was very happy to be at the Bronx County Annual Dinner/Dance once again where Past County Pres. Mike Flynn was honored as Hibernian of the Year for Bronx County.

Progress has been made in finalizing the contract with the Hilton Hotel in Pearl River. After a productive meeting with both representatives of the local comm. as well as the Hilton reps we are now awaiting the final contract that will be passed by our legal team and if all is acceptable it will be signed and all will be in place for a great Convention in 2011.

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.

Secretary

James Burke

Brothers, just a reminder that it is that time of year again. Division Form 9's are due! By now elections should be well behind you and the contact information for all officers, elected and appointed are to be sent into the State and National jurisdictions. Please note that the NYS Form 9 is slightly different than the National. Both are available online. This information is critical if we are to be able to maintain a flow of communications with Divisions throughout the state. A Form 9 must be submitted even if there is no change in officers. Thank you for your prompt compliance with the rules of our Order.

Very shortly your Financial Report Form will also be due. Please submit this information and your per capita assessments promptly in January. Note that dues postmarked by January 31st may deduct a discount of 50 cents per member from their payment up to \$250.00. Those postmarked after March 31st will be charged a 50 cent per member late fee per Article XI, Section 8 of the NYS By-Laws. Please note that the NYS Financial Report Form is substantially different than that of the National Board. DO NOT interchange them! What's theirs is theirs and what's ours is ours. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

I would also like to thank all of those Divisions who have invited me to attend their installations and Christmas parties. I consider it a

great honor and will make every effort to do so if at all possible. Best wishes for a very happy and holy Christmas to you and your families and for a happy and safe New Year

Past President & National Pro-Life Chair

Matt Nelligan

As we move toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is important that we reflect on our values as Catholics and as members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This includes commitment to our motto and to our heritage, but also acting as staunch defenders of our faith.

In Washington D.C. a Health Care reform bill recently passed the House of Representatives in a close vote. This final bill was far better than earlier drafts because it included the Stupak Amendment. This amendment would ensure that abortions would not be funded in any public health insurance option provided in the bill. Contrary to what some on the pro-abortion side would have you believe, this is simply a natural continuation of the intent of the Hyde Amendment, passed more than 20 years ago, that disallowed any Federal funding for abortion, through government programs. The bi-partisan coalition of pro-life legislators in the House of Representatives deserves enormous credit, for standing up for our values and ensuring that Health Care Reform is not used as a cover to expand abortion. Of course, we must all remain vigilante if we are to ensure that future legislative and cultural threats to the cause of life are to be successfully combated. As the

fight moves into the United States Senate, please keep up the pressure to make sure that language similar to the Stupak amendment is also adopted there.

That is why it is vitally important this year that Hibernians attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. on Friday January 22nd. The March brings together Pro-life advocates of all faiths and backgrounds to show our commitment in a very public way. If you have not attended the march in the past, you should know that it is a positive and inspiring experience to march alongside tens of thousands of people who share our beliefs. Details in regard to where Hibernians should gather as well as hotel and other information will be sent to all Division and County Presidents over the next few weeks.

In terms of my role as Past-President I don't have much to report. I have enjoyed some much needed time with my family, but plan on remaining very active in our Order. I look forward to seeing all of you at an event somewhere soon, but if I don't, have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

National Director /
Catholic Action

Martin Kelly

In September I was pleased to attend the Mass of Investiture at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Among the new inductees was at least one Hibernian, Patrick Allen of New York County, Three other Hibernians, Hugh Harvey, Patrick W. Johnson

and John Joseph Gilhooly, all of Brooklyn, received promotions in rank on this occasion. Hugh is currently A.O.H. Kings County President. The ceremony was performed by Cardinal Edward Egan and Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.

On the 4th of October the New York State A.O.H. in conjunction with the Little Sisters of the Poor sponsored a pro-life mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. New York State President Chip McLean, County President of New York Tom Beirne and John Hyland, Past Director of District 4, were prominent in organizing the participation of the Hibernians. County presidents of all the surrounding counties were present and a large contingent of several hundred members.

On the 7th of October Brooklyn was the site of another pro-life mass under the auspices of the Rosary for Life at Good Shepherd Church in Marine Park. The mass was very well attended, but the death of Al Donohue, a member of the Rosary for Life Board and past Kings County President, was felt by all present. Al died suddenly after a short illness. May his soul rest at the right hand of God!

Completing the series of pro-life masses was one held in Elmira under the auspices the New York State Board and the Elmira A.O.H. on October 17, 2009, at St Mary's Church. The mass was especially beautiful and the Hibernian Choir was outstanding; a breakfast followed in the church hall. Afterwards a state board meeting was held at the Hibernian Hall, conducted by our state president Chip McLean. The president of the El-

mira Hibernians, Owen Cole and his committee did a first rate job in organizing the day's events.

I would like to thank the many Hibernian brothers and sisters from across the country that made donations to Sloan Kettering Hospital. Donations were made to support the participation of Michael Martin in the running race for cancer care. Almost thirty thousand dollars was raised thanks to the wonderful support of many dear friends. Michael Martin, a fellow Hibernian, is my son-in-law and father of my granddaughter, Catlin, who has been undergoing treatment at the hospital.

I attended the announcement of the grand marshal of the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly is the man who will lead the parade. Many Hibernians from throughout the metropolitan area were present and a few strangers I did not know. I was talking to one woman who looked familiar, but I did not recognize. We chatted for a while before someone mentioned to me I had been talking with the Hollywood superstar Jennifer Lopez! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All.

National
Vice President

Brendan Moore

**HAVEN'T HEARD FROM
YOU YET?**

You recently received a set of AOH return address labels for your use. This is an effort on the part of the AOH National Board to express our appreciation for your past and anticipated support. We

urge you to join us in continuing to meet the needs of the many vital charities we have assisted over the years.

- IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT A DONATION YET, please forward a check PAYABLE TO: AOH National Board.

- Please send TEAR-OFF form in the return envelope to:

Ancient Order of Hibernians
P.O. Box 71
Blue Point, NY 11715

- If you have already sent us a donation, THANK YOU for your continued generous support.

- Please promote the AOH by using our labels on all of your correspondence.

Contact: Brendan Moore,
AOH National Vice President
Email: brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Phone: 631-363-2388

District 1

Brian Nelligan

The next few months will be busy for us all, with elections and installation of our new officers. I will be attending 5 installations over the next couple of months, starting with Schenectady on Nov 21, followed by Saratoga, Albany and then Troy and Watervliet. I wish all newly elected and returning officers the best of luck, and ask them to contact me with anything I can do to help their divisions. I also want to congratulate Albany Division 5 on another great FFAI Christmas Appeal event. Particular congratulations to Div Pres Kevin O'Reilly and Albany Division 5 FFAI Chairman Ciaran Gergherty who chaired the event. Also congratulations to long time Division 5 member Cliff Nolan

our 2009 Fr. Thomas Murphy award winner.

Finally I would like to extend a Merry Christmas and Happy and Productive New Year to all of my Brothers in the AOH.

District 2

Dan R. Magill

It is my great honor to serve as District 2 Director for this upcoming term. As the fall begins and the divisions start up again, there are a great number of events planned. I have been in contact with many of our brothers and I'm pleased to report that Hibernianism is alive and well in Western New York.

It is my pleasure to report that a new division has been installed in Geneva, NY. The installation took place on 9/26/09 and was presided over by Tom Corcoran from Elmira. The Rev. Michael Mc Hale Division of Ontario County is a welcome addition and shows that our numbers are growing larger each day.

While many areas of District 2 have had successful Irish Festivals, the Rochester and Hornell Festivals have continued to grow and are a proud example of what Hibernians and other Irish organizations can produce.

On May 15, 2010, the Buffalo AOH Division #1 is planning on sponsoring a Major Degree. Anyone wishing to attend may contact Tom Lambert of Div. #1 in Buffalo or myself. The Degree will take place at the Buffalo Irish Center, times and further details will follow.

District 3

Daniel Case

Many thanks go out to the board members and friends for their prayers for my recovery from the flu. They were greatly appreciated. Sorry I could not attend the Board meeting in Elmira, but rest assured I will take on my duties as the District 3 representative now that I am feeling so much better.

I have had the pleasure of attending the anniversary party at the Auburn Club rooms; it was indeed a pleasure to see the faces of our brothers and sisters there. Heartfelt congratulations to that division and many more years of success to them.

The Syracuse Downtown Festival was a huge success again this year and the Gaelic Mass was well attended. Once again, the Syracuse division is hosting their Christmas / Installation party; traditionally this event has been very well received.

The AOH will be holding a Breakfast with Santa for the under privileged children of the Syracuse area. This event underscores our AOH commitment to the community. The Syracuse division is also selling newspapers for the Old Newsboys to buy toys for local under privileged children. These types of events are examples of ways the AOH is involved in the communities you live in.

Many thanks to the divisions that have provided me with their email addresses and newsletters, it is important that I receive this information to better serve you, the members of our district. Please note

that my new address is: Dan Case
3404 Hammocks Dr #206 Bald-
winsville, NY 13027, the email
address and phone are the same.

District 5

A. Warren Scullin

Since my last report about the activities of District # 5 at the State Board Meeting in Elmira on October 17, many positive things have happened to the members of Richmond, Kings and Queens Counties.

The CuChulainn Celtic Warrior Degree team of Richmond County conducted the Major Degree of our Order on Saturday, October 24, at the Holy Rosary Church Hall. At that event thirty-three members of the Order obtained their Degrees. The team did a great job.

In October, I attended the Kings County Board meeting held at the Baile Na NGael Hall. At this meeting, recruitment strategies were discussed and many New York State calendars were sold. I look forward to working with Kings County President Hugh Harvey and the members of his County Board in the coming months.

In Queens County, I can report that the County Dance on Saturday, November 7, at the Irish American Center was a great success. The Queens County Man of the Year was Walter Cooper and I congratulate him for his years of service to our Order.

I assisted in the installation of the new Division # 7 in Woodside, Queens. This Division under their new President, Francis McLough-

lin, has members from Woodside and Astoria. It was good to see so many new faces who want be a part of our organization. This Division meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Knights of Columbus, Lincoln Council, located at 48-18 25 Avenue, Woodside, NY 11103. I pledge my support to them and wish this new Division all the best in the coming years.

There will be a meeting of the County Presidents of District #5 to discuss 2010 activities. I can be reached at 917-751-1661.

District 6

Vic Vogel

Dia duit! Greetings from Nassau and Suffolk Counties and its 17 divisions. The Tara Court Major Degree Team performed their annual major degree in Babylon, Suffolk County on Sunday, November 15th. National Vice President Brendan Moore, New York State President Chip McLean, and New York State Past President John Hennessy, and numerous county and division officers were in attendance. Congratulations to our 35 brothers who received their major degree. Congratulations to the Tara Court Degree Team and Chairman Walter Butler for another outstanding ceremony. The Tara Court Degree Team has performed the major degree more than 100 times since its inception.

This is a busy time of year for our Order. Most divisions are in the process of conducting elections of officers and planning for their installation. All divisions have been notified of the need to update their Form 9 and reminded that the New

York State form differs from the National form. In addition, the divisions have been reminded that all Per Capita Assessments received by January 31, 2010 qualify for a discount.

The holiday season brings with it many acts of charity from our divisions, such as donating presents to the less fortunate or stocking food kitchens for the needy. All divisions have been reminded that they should keep a record of their charitable activities for the state and national Charities and Missions chairmen. This includes money spent and man hours volunteered.

Divisions have been informed of the Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal and the fundraisers in New York City. New York State Calendars have been disbursed throughout both counties. It appears that Nassau and Suffolk Counties will support the calendar drive with the same generosity they have shown in the past.

There is still time for New York State Hibernians to be an influential force in having a statue of Commodore John Barry constructed on the grounds of the United States Naval Academy. Jack O'Brien, Chairman of the John Barry Memorial Committee, has requested that constituents of Rep. Peter King contact him and ask that he send a "Dear Colleague" letter throughout Congress for support of the Commodore John Barry Project at the United States Naval Academy. Hibernians from all other constituencies should contact their own Congress-

sional Representatives directly and request that they send a letter for the same purpose to Vice Admiral J. L. Fowler, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. Emails appear to be the most appropriate method of contacting members of Congress as the regular mail is frequently delayed for security reasons. The time to act is now!

Emails to Congressman Peter T. King should be sent to Adam R. Paulson, Senior Legislative Assistant, at: Adam.Paulson@mail.house.gov

Nollaig Shona Duit.

District 7

John O'Herron

This is a busy time of year with the upcoming holidays and related events along with the nominations, elections and installations of 2010 division officers. Best wishes to all stepping up to the plate as new division officers and to those who are retaining their positions. The 2010 Irish History Calendars have been distributed and I urge all divisions and their memberships to support this effort to advance the charitable work of the Order.

We thank Binghamton's Worthy President Hugh Reynolds and crew for their hospitality as Elmira's President Mark O'Herron, VP Tom Corcoran and I joined them for their October Division Meeting. Binghamton's beautiful hall is evidence of the pride and commitment put forth by the members of the division. President Hugh reports that the Celtic New Year/Halloween Party was well attended

and the costumes were fantastic. The division has been busy hosting other events including a Turkey Party on Oct 30th and an Irish Breakfast on November 8th. The installation of division officers will take place on January 11, 2010 (1-3pm).

Chemung County's Msgr. John J. Lee Division was the sponsor of the Tenth Annual Josh Palmer Golf Tournament on Oct 4th and raised over eight and a half thousand dollars to aid local cancer patients and their families. The division will continue supporting this cause by selling 50/50 tickets in the Josh Palmer Fund- Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Tournament on Dec. 26th - 29th. The division's Annual Beef Raffle on November 6th raised over three thousand dollars used to sponsor youth sports teams in the area. The division strives to keep "Christ" in Christmas by annually placing a proclamation in the local newspaper encouraging the use of "Merry Christmas" as opposed to the generic "Happy Holidays." The installation of division officers will take place on January 9th.

Worthy President Steve Donlon from the Sons of Ireland of Steuben County reports that the division has recently donated a new roof for a utility shed at St. Ann School in Hornell by purchasing the material and providing the labor. As noted in my recent NYS Board Report, the division's 3rd annual Summer Fest and Irish Open Golf Tournament both raised over \$2,500 each with donations going to St. Ann's Church, Faith in Action, the Knights of Columbus, YMCA and Youth Golf. The division has two year terms for their

officers so there will be no installation this year.

I wish all a merry and blessed Christmas.

Kevin R. Cummings

District 8

I had the pleasure of attending the semiannual state board meeting on Oct.17th in Elmira. The day began with a touching Pro-Life Mass held in beautiful St. Mary's Church and then continued with a productive meeting held at the Elmira AOH Hall. Our Hibernian brothers did a great job in hosting the meeting and should be commended for the warm welcome afforded to our members from near and far. While at the meeting, I picked up the 2010 Hibernian Calendars and have been visiting the different counties looking for buyers. This is a major fundraiser for the State Board and your support is sought (they make great Christmas gifts!!). If I miss you, please contact me and I will gladly get them to you or members of your division.

Around the different counties in the district, Fr. Con Colbert Woulfe, Division 1 in Ulster County held a rededication of the An Gorta Mor Cross at St. Mary's Church in Kingston on October 24th. I had the opportunity to join my Hibernian Brother Liam McNabb on November 3rd in sitting in on a meeting with Ulster County brother and sister Hibernians along with several young people. The division, under the leadership of Division President Jim Carey and direction of Junior Mentor Greg Riley, has sponsored and reformed a Junior Division

with eight eager and enthusiastic young men. We wish Ulster County AOH and LAOH well in this worthy endeavor.

In Greene County, President Tim O'Sullivan and our brothers in Division 2 continue to raise funds for a Mass Rock or "Carraig an Aifrin" to commemorate the seventeenth century practice in which devout Catholics were forced by Cromwell's policies to celebrate Mass in remote, hidden locations across Ireland. If you can help in anyway, please contact Tim. It will be my distinct honor to attend and participate in the installation of Greene County's Division 2's officers on December 6th.

In Rockland, I attended the October county board meeting and spoke with County President Vince Tyer who, along with his brothers, is anxious to finalize the plans for the 2011 State Convention in Pearl River. I have offered my assistance and the State Board's cooperation in helping the process along. Around Rockland County, John Cardinal Dalton, Division 3, Pearl River held a joint LAOH/AOH Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 1st. Division 3 brothers also held their annual senior citizen Thanksgiving luncheon on November 14th.

In Orange County, congratulations go out to Dennis Browne and his members for successfully hosting the Jack Burns Memorial Golf Tournament at the end of September. Members of the county were duly honored by a visit from the National President, Seamus Boyle, who was the guest speaker for 29th Annual Communion Breakfast, held by the Joseph Duell Jr., Divi-

sion 1. On the evening before the breakfast, President Boyle paid a visit to the Fr. Donald J. Whelan, Division 2 Hall whose members were at the time were hosting a post-West Point football gathering for about 60 members and friends of Division 4 visiting from Scranton, PA – a great time was had by everyone!

Speaking of Joseph Duell Jr. Division 1, I attended their fantastic 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance held on October 25th. Congratulations to Division President Brendan O'Dowd, and dance committee members Keith Reynolds, and Don Higgins who did a great job in organizing the celebration. On November 28th the U2 Tribute Band headlines a fundraiser concert jointly sponsored by Orange County LAOH Division 5 and AOH Division 1. All profits will benefit various Hibernian charities.

The final quarter of the year is upon us and so are the division elections across the district. 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.

Fund Raiser Calendar Chairman

John Hennessy

Brothers, sorry I wasn't able to attend the last State Board Meeting. I want to thank Brother Butler for bringing the 2010 calendars to

the meeting and distributing them with my co-chairman John H Juhren Sr.

Directors, let's make 2010 the best year for the sale of these CALENDARS. If you need additional calendars you can call me at 631 667-8396 or e-mail me at joh-naoh@optonline.net You can also contact Bro. John H Juhren Sr. 518 377-7999

As of October 31, 2009 we had 189 winners, totaling \$5,500.00

I want to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. REMEMBER YOU CAN SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

WHY NOT GIVE A HIBERNIAN CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMAS?

Buy Irish

Robert Flaherty

Fall is here and so is the cold weather. I'm sure everybody is busy setting up for functions and installations. Buy Irish is new for me, but I will do my best. I am waiting for information from the last chairman to complete my first phase. I have also been in contact with our web master. My vision is to set up a web page attached to the NYS web site for our members to go to. On the page will be a list of shops that sell Irish products. These shops will have a sticker in their window that says BUY IRISH along with our logo. These shops will have agreed to give our members a discount if they show their membership card.

This list will also have Irish pubs and division halls. They will be

listed by city with full addresses, when you are visiting other towns you can check the list. But - I do need your help, if you want to add something to the list contact me at 518-399-4960 or email gelic46@aol.com

Charities and Missions

Arnie Nagelhout

With Thanksgiving past and Christmas not far off I hope all jurisdictions have made plans to assist the less fortunate in some way. With the high number of lay offs being announced, many Americans are finding them selves in a situation they never thought could happen. Many that are going hungry and even losing their homes are looking to organizations like our own to help them through this difficult time in their lives. If your jurisdiction hasn't made any plans to assist the less fortunate, now is the time for the AOH to put our MOTTO into practice. We must Unite in Friendship to help those in need of our Christian Charity. Monetary donations are always helpful, but for small divisions with limited funds, consider asking your members to help out at a food kitchen or conduct a food collection for them.

National Charities and Missions chairman, Frank Kearney, in his report at the National Board meeting on October 31, 2009 announced that awards for outstanding charitable work will be presented at the 2010 National Convention in at least four (4) categories: Large and Small Divisions (membership size to be determined) recognizing charitable contributions both financially and in man hours of donated service.

Since our State Convention in July I have received 2 reports from Thomas W. Carroll Div. 1, Erie County with total donation of \$50 to Project St. Patrick. I urge all jurisdictions to submit a report to me of your works performed since July 1, 2009. Report forms are available on the NY State web site. If you are unable to get a form just write the information down and send it to me. I will fill out a form for you. Beannachtai na Nollaig go leir. Blessings of Christmas to all.

FFAI

Tim Myles

Our annual FFAI Christmas Appeal is now underway. At your division meetings please promote the "10 Club" and get your division to make a donation. Our goal this year is 100% participation. Any donation is appreciated. More information about where our donations go is available at www.aoh.com and in our Hibernian Digest. There is still a need for our donations which go to former prisoner groups, truth and justice initiatives and cross community building efforts. I also urge all brothers to consider taking part in the annual Bloody Sunday Commemoration March. Our tour, arranged by National FFAI chairman Sean Pender, begins Jan. 29 through Feb. 6, 2010. We will visit Belfast, Derry and South Armagh. This is a great opportunity to see where our donations go and also meet Hibernian Brothers from the states as well as the Board of Erin.

Plans are underway for our down-state FFAI Christmas Appeal benefit social at O'Reilly's Pub, 31st St. and Broadway, NYC. The

event will take place on Thurs., Dec. 3 from 6:30-10:30pm. Special thank you to brother Tom Casey for providing the entertainment. I look forward to meeting many brothers at this event. I also have a big thank you for another NY Co. Div. 7 brother who gave a \$500.00 donation. WOW!!!!

I had the pleasure to attend Albany Div. #5 FFAI Christmas Appeal Concert and Awards Ceremony. If every division could do half of what our Albany brothers do I would not have to beg for greater participation. A great job was done by Chairman Ciaran Geraghty and Div. 5 Pres. Kevin O'Reilly. Congrats to honoree Cliff Nolan. We also had the opportunity to listen to Sinn Fein U.S. Rep Rita O'Hare. I have been very busy the past month attending the state board meeting in Elmira and then traveling to Philadelphia for the National President's Dinner. Please contact me if you would like me to attend, or, if you need a speaker for an event.

I also want to remind brothers to try and get support for a united Ireland passed in your local jurisdictions. Rita O'Hare mentioned this in her remarks at the Albany concert. In closing, I want to thank all the brothers for their continued support of the FFAI Christmas Appeal. NYS always leads the way and we want to continue that tradition.

Publicity

John O'Connell

All county and division presidents should appoint a publicity officer. There's a tendency in some divi-

sions, in a sincere expression of humility, to keep our acts of Christian charity quiet. But letting the community-at-large know of the Lord's good deeds done through the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is not boasting.

A good publicity officer will get to know the editors of the local community newspapers, Catholic and Irish-American media and local websites. It's important for the AOH County and Division publicity officers to understand the local media's mission, which is to inform their readers, listeners, viewers and online users about what's happening in their communities.

Armed with an appreciation for the secular media's role, and having formed professional relationships with the editors and calendar-coordinators at these companies, our Hibernian publicity officers can provide them with information they will want to publish.

Publicity officers should arrange donation presentations when appropriate, take photos of the presentations, write brief captions, and send the picture and caption off to local media. Find out their preferred format. Some may want high-resolution jpg photographs for print. Online sites may need only small versions for quicker upload and download.

Publicity officers should also be put in charge of getting event announcements broadcast on local radio stations, especially those Irish themed, local cable access TV stations, and all local and nearby newspaper calendars, in print and online.

Don't forget to send items to the National Hibernian Digest. Let your Hibernian brothers know what your division is doing. You may give some other division an idea they too might try, either in charity fundraising, social events, recruiting and organizing, political action, Catholic education, immigration, Freedom for All Ireland, Hibernian Calendar sales, vocations or other deeds that advance the mission of the Order.

The county and division president should have a preliminary meeting with the new publicity officer and develop a "media strategy," a plan for which media outlets will be contacted when activities and events are planned, how they'll be contacted, how long before the event, etc.

The publicity officer should write announcements and issue statements at the direction of the president and obtain approval of all material before transmission to the media. It's important that county and division presidents know, see and approve all AOH publicity before publication. It is ultimately the worthy president's responsibility to insure that we always present the Order in the best light.

Hibernian divisions should not hide their good works done in the name of Christ and the Order. Good, honest publicity is an excellent indirect recruiting tool and a way for us to "own the message" about the Irish, Irish-Americans, our Order and its mission.

Feel free to suggest specific topics you would like me to write more about in future reports. I can offer suggestions on how to write more

effective press releases, how to take better photos so publications are more apt to use them, or give practical advice on other aspects of the publicity role. If you just want some individual help on fulfilling the publicity officer's duties, let me know.

You can contact me at
NYAOHpublicity@me.com

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. In light of the murders at Ft. Hood, you can send a donation to the Fisher House at Ft. Hood.

There is a new Veterans Report now on line and you can subscribe for free. It is www.military.com/NL, among other items of interest; it contains a listing of military friendly employers who have posted jobs. Beginning in January I will post job listings from the N.Y. State Department of Labor, Veterans Employment Representative. It will include full and part time jobs throughout the State of New York. At present, Astoria Federal Savings Bank is listing several full time and part time jobs. You can access these listings at www.astoriafederal.com. If you

need to check up on your veterans entitlements you can go to our state web site and click on the veteran's link.

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.

Immigration

Dan Dennehy

Immigration Legislation

Although Immigration legislation seems to be off both Congress and the US President's agenda until the New Year, I remain in contact with our legislators in order to maintain our position on the issue. I was reassured by a recent conversation with Senator Schumer that he intends to include the interests of our current and future Irish immigrants in any immigration legislation he has a hand in. In addition, Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) this week spoke of his proposed immigration reform bill, which merits our attention. It seems the one thing our elected officials can agree upon is that our immigration system needs to be overhauled. I can assure you, having spoken to many of them during a recent visit to Ireland, young Irish men and women are eager to come to the US once a legal path is created.

Detention Issues

I continue to work with the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers

(www.ciic-usa.org) and the Irish Consulate in streamlining response to detained Irish nationals in US correctional facilities and detention reform. I am happy to report great progress on this issue. I thank our Brother Hibernians in Law Enforcement for their guidance and assistance in this issue.

The Senior Helpline USA

Please encourage Irish born Senior citizens in your community call the Senior Helpline toll free number Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon at (877) 997-5777. Irish seniors man the lines and offer a friendly voice to let other seniors know they are not alone.

AOH National & LAOH NYS Immigration Chairs

It is my pleasure to report that AOH National Immigration Chairman Danny O'Connell and I have been working closely on the National AOH Immigration webpage and share information on a variety of issues on a regular basis. I have spoken to NYS LAOH Immigration Chair Maureen Lahey and look forward to our future collaboration.

Outreach and Cooperation

As part of the Order's outreach and cooperation with other organizations, I encourage Brothers to support the various Irish immigrant centers and their fundraisers. To that end, I recently attended the Aisling Irish Center's (www.aislingcenter.org) and The Emerald Isle Immigration Center's (www.eiic.org) dinner dances. At a recent meeting with Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Michael Martin, Irish Ambassador to the US Michael Collins, and Consul Gen-

eral of Ireland NY Niall Burgess there was an emphasis on comprehensive immigration as the best solution for the undocumented.

Organizer

Edward Rice

Once again I want to express my appreciation and deep honor on being asked to serve on the N.Y. State Board as your new State Organizer. There is much to do if I am to meet your expectations over the next two years. I wish to extend best wishes to my fellow board members in the hope that they also will meet theirs.

I have met with two State Directors, Warren Scullin and A.J. Smith. Warren and I worked on a recruitment table at the Great Irish Fair in Brooklyn. The brothers were able to obtain many names of prospective members for our Order, but the follow-up here is very important. I want to commend those brothers from Suffolk County who helped out, too.

With A.J. Smith, I attended a Westchester County meeting, and met with the County Organizer, Dan Dennehy. We would like to see what we can do about rejuvenating the Division in White Plains. We have to seek out those divisions that need our help to stay vibrant and active. The County Boards can do a lot in this regard. In my own County, we are starting a new division with the help of our Past County President, Fran McLoughlin; it will be Division Seven in the Astoria/Woodside area. As County President, I hope to have the pleasure of installing the new officers. My second coming as a County President is an ef-

fort in itself as an Organizer. Wish me good luck. I'll need it.

I've been in touch with our worthy National Director Chris Norris, who is in charge of organizing. He promptly answered my request for obtaining organizing materials. Now, I can start to respond to those counties and divisions who seek my help in getting the same.

Over the summer, I spoke with a brother Hibernian from Dutchess County, Bill Leo, who asked for help in setting up a recruitment drive. We look forward to helping the Hibernians in Dutchess County. The brothers in Nassau County are looking to do the same.

I've become aware of the fact that there is pending approval on an application for a recruitment grant, and I am presently in possession of another from Dutchess County. We will be forming a committee to review these grant applications.

My predecessor, Liam McNabb, has apprised me of what's going on with prospective divisions in Tioga and Essex Counties. Again, thanks, Liam, for your help and advice.

Passing of a Brother

Brian O'Hagan, a third generation, 53 year veteran of The AOH passed away on October 10, in Matthews, NC. Brother O'Hagan joined the AOH in 1956; he belonged to the 'Round Tower Major Degree Team' which was organized by his grandfather in 1897. Brian was elected to National life membership in the AOH, an honor also bestowed upon his father, grandfather and brother. He leaves

behind his wife Patricia, 6 children, 11 grandchildren and a great grandson. He also leaves 3 sisters, and 2 brothers.

A mass of Christian burial was held in St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church in Mathews, North Carolina on October 12, 2009.

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade 2010 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.

The topics for the 2010 scholarships are as follows.

Topic & manner of presentation:
Francis P. Beirne College Scholarship Contest

Topic – "The Impact of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith on Irish Unity" A minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 typewritten pages double spaced, standard one inch margins, with accompanying bibliography.

Margaret O'Rourke High School Scholarship Contest

Topic – "The Impact of Michael Collins on Irish History" A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 typewritten pages, double spaced, standard one inch margins, with accompanying bibliography. Applications must be postmarked by April 5, 2010.

Full information and application forms will be found on the Parades official website NYCStPatricksParade.org.

Sports

Tom Thompson

I want to thank everyone who came to the John J. Lee Division 1 in Elmira on

October 17th, for the AOH Mixed Doubles Bowling Tournament; all had a good time. Thank you, Elmira and brother Hibernians.

Mark your calendars; New York State Hibernians Bowling Tournament hosted By Fr. Henry Tansley Div. 5 Saturday April 17, 2010 in Albany. The cost is \$30.00 Per Bowler; 5 man team format; more information will follow. The James F. Hayes Golf Classic / Raymond J. Meehan Memorial Trophy is Friday April 30, 2010 at Sunny Hill Golf Course more details to follow.

The deadline for the March 2010 issue of *The Empire State Hibernian* is February 15, 2010. All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are encouraged to contribute.