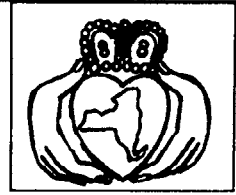




Empire State
Hibernian

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President's Message

Matt Nelligan

I would like to begin by acknowledging the efforts of all of the members of your State Board over the last 10 months. All of our officers have been active and engaged in the performance of their duties and have served this board well. For that I thank each of you.

Obviously one of our big priorities as we move closer to July is preparation for our National Convention in New Orleans. In February we raised more than \$3,000 for our convention reimbursement fund thanks to the work of State Treasurer Jim Burke. Since October the executive board has been working diligently on the jumbo raffle, and after some initial bumps in the road it is now moving in the right direction rapidly. By the time the raffle prize is drawn on the new date (June 12th) we expect to add to the money already raised in February. We will close out our convention fundraising on Thursday, June 12th in Schenectady with a benefit mini fest, featuring performances by four bands, all of who are donating their time. Greenwich Meantime is traveling all the way from Ontario

Canada to assist us with this effort. The event will run from 7-midnight and the cost is \$20 per ticket. After our fundraising concert on June 12th, each jurisdiction will receive a letter from me, outlining the National Convention reimbursement program procedures. This cannot be done until after June 12th, as we are not able to set a per head reimbursement amount until we know definitively how much money is available. Once you do receive this information in mid-June, I encourage all jurisdictions to take advantage of the program. This is just another example of the State Board providing funds and programs to assist our members. Working together we will achieve our overall goal of electing all of our endorsed candidates in New Orleans.

Since my report in the February newsletter I have also been active, traveling throughout the state and representing our Order. In early March I met with his Eminence Cardinal Egan at his residence in New York City. His Eminence was very gracious to me, and very supportive of the efforts of our Order. Our State Chaplain Father Reid sent letters to all of the Bishops in New York State asking for

their support of our recruitment efforts. We received a very favorable response, but none so enthusiastic as the Archdiocese of New York. His Eminence offered to assist us in a number of ways, including sending a flyer to all parishes on our behalf, in the regular mailing from the Archdiocese. He also offered to link to our website from their website and to offer us time on their channel on Sirius satellite radio channel to appear on several shows to promote the AOH. He also expressed his appreciation for our efforts in opposition to the radical abortion bill proposed by former Governor Spitzer and to same sex marriage. I pledged to continue to support the Archdiocese in particular and church doctrine and policy in general throughout our great state. All in all it was a very productive and refreshing meeting.

I also had the chance to march in several parades for the St. Patrick's Day season. I marched with State Board Member and Parade Grand Marshal Leo Kane in Binghamton on March 1st, and despite the cold, had a wonderful time. The following Sunday I joined our brothers from Rockland County in their parade in Pearl River. On that

occasion I was proud to be flanked by an honor guard provided by State Board member Dennis Browne and brothers from Orange County. The following weekend I served as Aide to Co-Grand Marshals Norm Shea and John Weir, both National Life members of our Order. The next day, I headed down to Manhattan to march in the best parade in the world, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Along with the rest of our State Executive board I attended the cocktail party sponsored by the parade committee on Sunday night. The event was well attended and a good time seemed to be had by all. Later that night, we met some of the officers of the New York County Board at the Armory of the famed Fighting 69th Regiment. We were treated to a private tour of that historic building and a drink at the officers club, the Garry Owen. On St. Patrick's Day itself, I attended the annual mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, which was as always, beautiful and impressive. Later that day, I was proud to lead the New York State Board down Fifth Avenue as your State President. Parade Chairman Dunleavy and Secretary Hilary Beirne and all of the officers of the committee are to be commended on an excellent job.

After taking a little rest at the end of March, I attended the State Bowling tournament in Auburn. A great time (if not a great score) was had by all of

the bowlers. As is always the case in Auburn the food was phenomenal, with a full steak dinner included. The next bowling tournament will be in Schenectady next April. On April 27th, I attended the annual Division #3 Communion breakfast in Pearl River. I want to thank President Dermot Moore, County President Vince Tyer and State Director Phil Sheridan for making me feel so welcome. The highlight of the breakfast for me, was presenting fifteen local high school students with scholarship awards sponsored by Division Three. In order to compete for the scholarship, students take a multiple-choice test, and are also judged on a variety of other objective criteria. Congratulations to the division on their outstanding charitable work.

In closing I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past months. Working together we can accomplish anything.

Chaplain

Fr. Henry W. Reid

It was great to see so many of you at our State Board Meeting in East Durham, a place very close to my heart, and to hear about the various activities taking place throughout the State. I would also like to express my sincere sympathy to the Capitol Region Hibernians on the loss of Joe Dolan, and of course my prayers go with his family.

I was challenged recently on my position that Hibernians need to be a presence in their parishes, as to how this could be done. Since we do not organize along parish lines, it may be a little difficult committing one Division to one Parish, but if it is possible to organize enough participation of members this can work. First suggestion: If there are six or seven members of a Division in a parish that are free on Sunday or Mondays (depending on the Parish) volunteer as a counting team (a group that counts the Sunday collection). Don't be insulted if the Pastor says no, but don't let it stop you from volunteering. Second: Blood drives, or any other parish charitable event, volunteer and wear AOH jackets or hats. Just being seen is public witness, do not worry about humility, we need to show people in our parishes that the AOH is committed to Christian Charity. If you do not have enough Hibernians in your Parish, wear the gear, call in a couple of Brothers from other parishes, and organize teams to volunteer at one shot events. While it is great to be present at secular events, keep in mind we are a Catholic Organization, and the good that we do at Catholic events encourages membership, which means more hands to do more work. As I said secular events are great, but I know many Hibernians who have spent much time speaking with "prospective members" at festivals only to find that they were not Catholic.

This actually brings up a sore spot for me. One of the great things about America is that many people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds come together, experience each others' traditions, become friends and strengthen this country, and this is a good thing. The AOH is an Irish-Catholic organization, and neither part of this is negotiable. If someone is merely interested in the cultural aspects of the Irish (something I believe incapable of being separated from Christianity) then there are organizations for them to join. My culture is something I take fierce pride in, and not something to be degraded or used for entertainment by the barbarians. Likewise, my faith is first and foremost in my life (actually inseparable from my culture), and I make no apologies for either. And should I make apologies for the AOH being exclusively Irish and Catholic? No, since it was formed to defend the faith and preserve the culture, and still is needed today.

While it is great that there are Protestants who show an interest in learning about Irish culture and joining the AOH, the fact is that they cannot. If they are thinking about converting, great; introduce them to the local priest and start them on the way to Conversion. If they become Catholics, and are Irish by birth or descent, welcome them in.

One thing we should never let

our halls sink to is the level of local gin mills. If the "social membership" drags down the integrity of the Order then there are serious issues.

My apologies for so long a letter - have a safe and blessed summer, God Bless.

Immediate Past President & Calendar Chairman John Hennessy

It was good to see every body at the State Board meeting in East Durham. My congratulations to the winners of the James Hayes Golf tournament and a job well done to the committee.

As I stated at the board meeting the Hibernian Calendar sales are above last year, but we can do better. If you can sell another calendar or two let me know @ 631 667-8396.

The National Convention is just around the corner, we have the following candidates running for National Office: Brendan Moore for National Vice President, Tom McNabb for reelection as National Secretary, Martin Kelly for reelection as National Director, and myself for one of the openings for National Director, this is why it is so important to get as many delegates as possible to New Orleans.

The drawing for the Jumbo raffle as been changed to June 12th

if you still need a ticket you can contact Chip McLean @ 718 981-3196 or Matt Nelligan @ 518 729-4563 remember the 1st prize is \$5,000.00 and tickets are only \$10.00.

District 1

Robert Flaherty

I hope all divisions had a great St. Patrick's Day. As always there was a parade in Albany that was well attended. Also, all divisions had their festivities for the day or weekend, where people came for entertainment, food, and beverages.

For the month of March the Troy division put an Irish display in the Troy library. They had Irish flags, a 1920 map, Irish crystal, books and other literature.

I must also say that amidst all of the celebrating we should never forget what St. Patrick stood for.

I hope everybody had a very holy and pleasant Easter this year. We should never forget our faith.

I had the pleasure of bowling in the NYS Hibernians bowling tournament at Auburn. The Auburn brothers took the trophy. Pat Burns and our brothers in Auburn did a fine job with everything. As always their hospitality was outstanding.

On the next day the Schenectady Degree team gave

the major degrees in Syracuse. There was a fine showing of 71 candidates from many different divisions including my own district #1. All members should remember the oath they took when they joined. My congratulations to all that took their degrees and to Dan Case for organizing it.

I am happy to say that both Schenectady and Watervliet have had their halls incorporated, separating them from their divisions.

In Schenectady there is going to be a division fundraiser for Project St. Patrick and our own seminar on May 31st. The tickets are \$20.00 each and there will be entertainment by, "Who's Your Paddy?". In Schenectady, there will be a state fundraiser on June 12th. The tickets will be \$20.00 each; there will be 4 bands for your listening enjoyment. This fundraiser is to support our brothers going down to New Orleans for the National Convention. Don't forget to buy your state raffle tickets!

On May 3rd the State Board met in East Durham. The business of the Order was transacted and we also had many visitors who were running for national offices.

On May 7th I was saddened with the news of the death of Joseph J. Dolan. He lived his life for the AOH and the Irish Heritage Museum. He was very proud of his Irish heritage. I

attended his wake and funeral and it was well attended by our brothers of the Order. He will be sorely missed by all. God bless him.

This coming fall Saratoga division will do their laying of the wreath on Timothy Murray's grave. The monument was built in 1912; he is credited with shooting General Simon Frazier at the battle of Saratoga.

District 2

Bill Powers

WNY Hibernians had several events in March. The highlight of these events was when Gerry Adams marched in our Valley St. Patrick's Day parade in South Buffalo. This was the day before our big parade down Delaware Ave. Adams was brought here by Congressman Brian Higgins and after the parade a reception was held at the Buffalo Irish Center.

Niagara Falls had a successful St. Patrick's Day party with over 2,000 attending. Lockport, NY had a family St. Patrick's party. Both clubs remain very active. Rochester also had a St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th. Division 1, Erie County, hired a band to march with their AOH members and it won first place in the Buffalo parade.

We are still working to get the Buffalo Firemen's Division back in the fold. They have a new president and I am sure that

their division will join us shortly.

Division 1, Erie County, is very happy to have Tom Lambert from Suffolk County transfer to our division. He has held several offices and we are glad to have his knowledge and experience. Division 1 will be holding its summer picnic in August, all of the Divisions in the district are invited. We hope Matt Nelligan can fit it in his schedule. Our charity this year will be the St. Vincent DePaul Summer Camp.

District 5

Al Donohue

The following was my report presented at the semi annual meeting held in East Durham on May 3rd. Thanks to all the reports that were given; that meeting was very informative. The veterans report given by Jack Ryan was especially good for any who served in the Armed Forces. We were addressed by some of the gentlemen who are seeking our support at the National Convention in New Orleans. The Jumbo Raffle was not held at the meeting, but will be drawn at the June 12th convention fundraiser in Schenectady, giving more time for many more raffles to be sold. Among the informative items that I learned, was the fact that my own division had not paid its National per-capita in its haste to take advantage of the State By-Law change.

At the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall and Aides Reception, held annually at Antun's in Queens Village, District 5 was well represented. John O'Leary from Division 6 represented Brooklyn and Maureen Leahy represented Queens. The party was great and the Grand Marshall for the BIG ONE was Tommy Smyth, a radio/TV personality. You could not have asked for a better Parade day. Our other parades were the Queens parade which was held in Rockaway, the Park Slope and Bay Ridge in Brooklyn and the Staten Island held on Forest Avenue

Speaking of Staten Island (Richmond) I must complement John Woods who sent out a very informative report. He mentions the County meeting of April 16 held at the Eagles Nest, 126 Simonson Ave. and states that all county and divisions officers are obligated to attend, and that members are strongly encouraged to do so. He gives the dates, time and locations for all of the division meetings. Events coming up in Richmond are; June 7th & 8th the Staten Island Irish Fair and June 22nd the LAOH Division 4 Memorial Picnic. Thank you John, for all your efforts.

Not to be outdone, Mike Kearny puts out a very informative report for Queens County. He mentions The AOH and LAOH joint County Boards Corporate Communion Breakfast which was held on April 20. I would

have loved to attend, but I chose to attend Pope Benedict XVI's Mass at Yankee Stadium. Their county Boards are sponsoring an Irish Night at Shea Stadium on August 23 at 7:10 pm (Mets vs. Houston)

In Brooklyn, Bill Kelly sends out a letter to all the officers of the County and Divisions telling them where and when the meetings are to be held. He had the sad job of retiring the Division 4 Charter at the State Meeting. Hopefully the combining of the two divisions will make Division 19, a more vibrant one. Bill has been pushing to get more and more tickets sold for the Jumbo raffle, even to the point of having his own Division take chances as a division.

All Divisions and County Boards have been informed of their duty to get their Form 9's in as well as paying all their per-capita dues promptly. Even if there is no change of officers, you must send in a new Form 9 annually.

District 6

Edward F. Friel

All our Nassau and Suffolk brothers are getting ready for a great summer on the beaches of beautiful Long Island. We are joining in many great activities such as picnics, golf, Irish Night in the Park and the Feis.

The brothers were very creative when they planned a recruitment drive in conjunction with

a local blood drive in Suffolk County. The event was very successful. Both counties will hold two of the oldest Feiseanna in our areas. The Nassau County Board conducted a food drive for the Rockville Centre Diocese outreach. It was a job well done by everyone.

Nassau and Suffolk have been supporting the State Board by buying tickets for the benefit raffle and the calendar drive. We all look forward to the National Convention and successful campaigns of our brothers.

I hope to see everyone in New Orleans in July. In the meantime have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Political Education

Richard M. Morris

As Political Education Chairman I continue to track and try to keep on top of the issues crucial to our Catholic Beliefs. As Hibernians many of you can attest to that from the amount of memos I send and requests I make about alerting members of our Order and other people in your communities about legislation they may not be aware of and what they may be able to do to stop bad legislation. Issues such as a bill known as the Stewart-Cousins Bill which assaults the unborn also known as the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act (RHAPP), a bill that seeks to strengthen and expand New

York State's abortion related laws. The Rules Committee introduced S5829, and Senator Stewart-Cousins introduced Bill S6045. These two bills have similar wording, with one introduced by the Republican controlled Rules Committee and the other by a Democratic Senator. As you all probably know by now our Governor, David Paterson has been awarded the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Leadership Award in recognition of his support of passage of the same-sex marriage act. It seems the Governor has long been an advocate and considered a friend of homosexual activists. Along the same vein another issue that needs our attention is Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooke, who filed a motion to appeal the ruling of NYS Supreme Court Appellate Division that same-sex marriages performed in other states or nations must be recognized in New York State. The ruling was a result of a recent case brought against Monroe County Community College by an employee seeking medical benefits for her same-sex partner. The couple took part in a civil ceremony in Vermont and later married in Canada, where same-sex marriages are recognized. The couple demanded their foreign marriage be recognized in New York State and that they receive medical benefits from the college. You should be able to find out more about this from our Brothers who live in that area of the state or by going to

<http://www.nyfrf.org/>, the New Yorkers Family Research Foundation This website is worth the visit.

I sense you are becoming bored, but that is just what it takes to get these monster, sick laws passed by the legislatures throughout this and every other state, for you to become bored and indifferent and do nothing. It takes very little effort on our part to make a big difference, an e-mail sent to the right place can help tremendously and takes only seconds to perform. I'm sure even you can perform for seconds? Once again I encourage my Hibernian Brothers to join the Catholic Advocacy Network by signing up on-line at www.nyscatholic.org. Click the "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 the editors of area newspapers and so on. Please join.

Another issue of interest in the news lately is (Pro Choice = No Choice) Planned Parenthood. There is a nationwide effort in place now challenging the governments funding of over three hundred million dollars per year (300,000,000), to a non-profit organization that has over one billion dollars (1,000,000,000) in the bank!! Please take a minute and go to the website and

become a part of the demise of this ugly, diabolical organization that twists the English language to suit its purpose. It is the number one referral agency for abortion. It is always abortion with them!!

I continue to work closely with Pro-life Chairman Leo Kane and Catholic Action Chairman Dan Case, both of who can clue you in on their respective roles. Be aware of the subtle Catholic bashing that is going on in this progressively secularist country we now live in and stand-up for your religion and speak up for your faith. Be Hibernians.

On Monday, April 28, Pro-life Chairman Leo Kane, NYS Director District 4, John Hyland and I met with representatives of the Archdiocese of New York, in New York City, who consisted of Sister Mary Elizabeth of Sisters of Life and Edward Meechman, of Safe Environment Office. Leo and I also met briefly with Sister Lucy Marie of Respect Life. The meeting was prompted by Cardinal Egan via request of Leo Kane. At the meeting we gave a history of the Order, explained we had approximately 10,000 members and we expected to show support for their efforts concerning issues of importance to our Order. It was a surprising revelation when we found out they had not heard of us, let alone know the extent of our membership and what beliefs we were founded upon. It was revealed by us that our Presi-

dent Matt Nelligan had met twice with the Cardinal and they were most impressed with our efforts and commitment to become involved.

The meeting turned into more or less a brain storming session with ideas being hashed over and discussion of the best way we could be of service to each other. Some ideas were quite feasible and some not. Kathleen Gallagher's name surfaced on more than one occasion as a good resource contact and I will re-establish my connection and offer to meet with her at her office in Albany in the near future. Other suggestions were mentioned, one a Pro-Life Mass in NYC for example, I will defer to John to inform you of his exchange of ideas with the Archdiocese representatives. There was also talk about getting Cardinal Egan to call for a "Respect Life" Sunday Mass throughout the state which each AOH Division could support, co-sponsor and attend with sashes on and be shown as proud Hibernians.

There were other issues that will be discussed by Leo to the membership. Leo Kanes "Lady of Knock" Award was also discussed and recognized as an outstanding idea, again I will defer to Leo to further explain his idea and the discussion.

It was clear that there is a need to follow church doctrine if anyone is to have a positive impact on today's society. Several

ways to promote pro-life were discussed, the best being to write in the local newsletter, recognize that one in three women have had an abortion, but that they are not being condemned in any way by the Church or its followers and make reference to The Gospel of Life Encyclical #99, by Pope John Paul. Have or create a post abortion outreach center.

We requested, through his representatives, that perhaps Cardinal Egan put out a request to make the Right-to-Life issue a subject matter throughout the NYS Diocese. The request was acknowledged in a positive manner.

Right to Life

Leo Kane

Since our last State Board Meeting on Nov. 7th, I traveled to Chemung County to deliver calendars and support their Beef Raffle. Also, in November, I assisted Immigration Chair, Dan Dennehy in helping a twenty-two year old tourist from Ireland who was having immigration issues; they were finally resolved. Thanks also to Broome County Vice President, Hugh Reynolds for helping with this.

January 6th Robert Deemie and I helped District Seven Director, Tom Boslet with the installation of officers for Broome County, Division 1. On January 18th, I attended the installation

of officers in Chemung and Hornell Counties. New York State President, Matt Nelligan, was the installing officer. Tom Boslet and I placed red roses on each officer at the installation in remembrance of our pro-life movement. On January 21st and 22nd, I was in Washington, D.C., for the 35th Right To Life March. On January 21st, I attended the vigil mass at the Basilica Of The Immaculate Conception. His Eminence, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, was the principal celebrant, and homilist. The Homily was extremely moving to the 7,000 people in attendance. On January 22nd, I attended the AOH Breakfast. In attendance was National President Jack Meehan, National Vice President, Seamus Boyle, and His Excellency Donald Weri, Archbishop of Washington D.C., who gave an excellent reflection on pro-life issues. Afterwards, we attended mass and joined in the march to the Supreme Court. Other members that were there included, Jim O'Brien, (and the contingent from Buffalo), Joseph Duell, (from Monroe County), and District 5 Director Alfred Donohue. I also noted that there were other NYS AOH members spread out in the march, coming in with other groups that I did not get an opportunity to speak with. However, the NYS AOH numbers were extremely low. I plan on making other recommendations for next years march in the near future.

February was a pleasantly busy month as I was chosen to be Grand Marshall, for Binghamton, N.Y. I attended the Irish Heritage Ball on Feb. 23rd, it gave me an opportunity to briefly talk about pro-life and what it means to me and hopefully everyone in attendance.

March 1st was our AOH Mass for our deceased members followed by the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Binghamton, N.Y. I want to thank NYS AOH President Matt Nelligan, State Secretary Mike McNabb, State Publicity Brian Nelligan, Albany County President Tim McSweeney, Chemung County President John O'Herron and State Director District Seven Tom Boselet for coming. It was a cold day, but a great day!

On March 11th I went with the Syracuse Diocese to Albany for the N.Y. Catholic Conference Public Policy Day. My group met with District 52 Senator Tom Libous and assembly woman, District 126, Donna Lapardo. Various issues were discussed, i.e. Governor's Abortion Bill, Education Tax Credit, Same Sex "Marriage"/Civil Unions, Services for Immigrants/Migrants. Questions were asked, (separately to both people). At 11:30 am, in the Empire State Convention Center, I attended a Pro-Life Mass. His Eminence, Cardinal Edward Egan, was principal celebrant and homilist. Bishops of NYS were concelebrants. His Homily in regards to pregnancy was,

"It's Not a Tomato it is in reality, a human being, just like us in the Mother's Womb".

On April 7th Dave Townsend, (Chemung's Pro-Life Chair), and I attended the Chemung County Legislature Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the Chemung Counties vote on funneling money through Plan Parenthood, to the YMCA Teen Cafe Program. Eventually the vote was, 11 to 4 in favor of going through Plan Parenthood. As some of you know, (and President Matt Nelligan wants us to be aware of), Margaret Sanger, (the founder of Planned Parenthood), believed that abortion, was a way to control the population of "undesirables" and to reduce their numbers.

On April 26th I attended the Broome County annual Right to Life Dinner. A short video was shown and information was exchanged. Their immediate plan is to spend \$9,500 on billboards to promote pro-life issues.

On April 28th Director District 4, John Hyland, Director of PEC, Richard Morris, and myself, met with the Archbishop of NYC Public Policy Director, Edward T. Meechman and Sister Mary Elizabeth., Director of Family Life/Respect Life. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange ideas of pro-life issues in NYS.

At our next State Board Meeting, (Oct.4th), we will be hav-

ing our Second State Pro-Life Mass in Albany at 5:00pm.

I want to thank all of you for your involvement with blood donations during the month of March (Irish Heritage Month), especially Mark Donovan, for taking up the challenge. Blood donations save many lives.

I'm presently working on awards for the next State Convention. There will be an award for an individual and recognitions for divisions, who have exemplified pro-life issues. This award will be called "Lady of Knock Queen of Ireland Award". Details to follow.

Sports

Patrick J. Burns

On April 5th 2008 the Auburn Hibernians hosted the NYS Bowling Tournament. The team of Patrick Burns, Thomas P. McNabb, Scott Shaft, Bruce Adams Jr., and Bruce Adams Sr. from the Auburn division won the tournament. The Auburn division did an excellent job running this year's event. I would especially like to thank the lane sponsors. The State also made some money on the bowling this year. The total profit for the event was \$655.50. This money has been turned over to the State. The turnout for the bowling however, could have been much better. If anyone has any ideas for next year, please let me know. Regarding next years event, the

Schenectady division will be hosting the tournament.

The NYS Jack Burns Golf tournament is fast forthcoming. As of this time we still do not have a location for this event. I have spoken with many divisions, for one reason or another they can not hold the tournament. We need a division to step up and take the event on, or we will be in jeopardy of not having our annual tournament.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the golf outing here in East Durham. I would like to thank Mike McNabb for his help with this year's golf outing. Mike not only helped me a great deal with the event, but he took care of all of the hole sponsors as well. I will be sending out information on the NYS Jack Burns golf tournament as soon as details are set. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Charities & Missions

Dennis Browne

It is imperative that I receive your charities and missions report by June 15th. The report is from July 2006 through June 2008. I realize that it has always been the Irish Way to not take credit for what we do for others. But... as the National Board is still attempting to petition our Government for fraternal status for our many Hibernian halls, just think how much more we can accomplish together for the

people we help in our communities.

In an attempt to facilitate this reporting I am going to provide three different means of communication; 1. Email: aohbrowne@hotmail.com
2. Address: 15 Park Drive
Chester, NY 10918
3. voice-mail 1-845-774-9436
Please do not forget the man hours @\$7.50 per hour.

On another note; during my visits to Hibernian Houses in our great state the one thing that is consistent is that there is always a food bucket for a local food pantry. I would like to remind everyone of the Hibernian Hunger Project. The National will offer ten (10) \$1,000 awards for local A.O.H. projects submitted as a, "Commemoration of an Gorta Mor, The Great Hunger." In these dire economic times, with gasoline and food prices, along with heating costs rapidly rising \$1,000.00 plus our own contributions would greatly help communities in need.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of the A.O.H., O.C. who volunteered their time in many capacities during the Papal visit to New York City at Ground Zero and Yankee Stadium. Their names need not be mentioned, for God knows who they are. 23-343-37
Lest We Forget

Catholic Action

Dan Case

Many of us will never forget the wonderful reception that the American public gave to Pope Benedict XVI on his first trip to the USA as Pope.

But again our religion came under attack from entertainers and talk show hosts!! My main concern as your Catholic Action Chairman was the unwarranted attack by Bill Maher of the HBO network. His comments I will not get into as they were vulgar to say the least. Are we as members of the Catholic faith to just stand by and listen to such garbage? If he attacked the Black Churches as he did with us there would have surely been some huge protests at the HBO headquarters.

I sent a letter to Chris Albrecht, President & CEO of HBO Inc. I hope that my letter in some way helped Mr. Albrecht to make the decision to fire Bill Maher, which happened two days later.

As we are practicing Roman Catholics, we do not need people to entertain us with their diatribe against the Pope!! The nasty accusation of a "cult -vs. - a Church" because of the horrible clergy sex abuse scandal was completely unfair, insulting, and harmful. I cannot believe that HBO (and many of us as subscribers) would allow Maher to be so bigoted in his remarks.

Then we have Lou Dobbs, the CNN News/Talk show host, on April 17th, lashing out at Pope Benedict. From Bill Donohue, Catholic League: "Well, he's (the Pope) mixing religion and politics on his first trip to this country. We'll tell you how the Pope is blasting our society, our immigration policy and a little more as well". "Well, he's in America, partner. And you know what, when we're in Rome, we'll do as Rome does. But when Rome comes to America, how about a little salute and, stay out of our politics."

If the Pope is so accusatory of the United States, how can Dobbs explain the cover story in TIME magazine (which is the flagship publication of Time Warner, the parent company of CNN as well?) "Why the Pope Loves America." If Dobbs is right about the Pope blasting America, how come no one else agrees with him?

I think Dobbs needs to have a copy of the First Amendment: it guarantees freedom of religion and freedom of speech, two rights that apply to the clergy as well as the laity.

I am continuing my efforts to have more members in our many divisions to use the Project St. Patrick Cards. We seem to have not remembered that this money, from the sale of these cards, is vital to vocations into the Priesthood by young men that have been called to

serve our Lord. With the daily costs of providing the things they need to continue on their path to ordination constantly on the increase, we need to promote the use of these cards whenever possible. There is no more loving tribute to the loss of a loved one than to have that person always remembered in the prayers of a newly ordained Priest.

At present the NY State legislature has yet to bring to the floor bills S5994 & S5884 on the Same Sex Marriage issue. We are, therefore, still waiting to present the petitions so many of our AOH members signed to our legislators.

Since the years have passed we have to still remind ourselves of the devastation that was caused by hurricane Katrina. Our Catholic Churches were badly hit by the storm. Many Priests have completely lost their parishes, and have had to move into the rectories of other parishes. Many of the good working Sisters have been scattered all over and the good work they had been doing in those poor neighborhoods is now gone. We see the rebuilding of New Orleans every day on TV, what we don't see is the poor neighborhoods that are in most need. PLEASE if you see those Katrina Relief boxes show your support, we are the ones that need to do this.

Dan Dennehy Immigration

It is my pleasure to report that the period from October, 2007, our last State Board Meeting in Binghamton, to date has been one of great cooperation, friendship and effort concerning immigration issues by this Order. At a moment's notice, many of you have acted on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our Irish American community. Your swift and generous efforts have helped to improve the conditions of young Irish immigrants in distress and are a credit to both you and our entire organization.

Many members, like Timothy Myles, are involved with aiding Brother Malachy McAllister's family. Men like Malachy McAllister and Pol Brennan fought hard for many years to prove that the unjust policing in Northern Ireland was a reason for them to be allowed to stay in the US and begin a new life. Hibernians understand the need of America to secure itself from all threats, but increasingly, overzealous officials have taken upon themselves the role of immigration enforcement to the peril of Irish immigrants innocently traveling on train, bus or plane.

In one case, a young man from Donegal visiting his girlfriend was arrested during a raid on an overcrowded college town bar. He was being released without charge, when an officer took it

upon himself to check his immigration status. Instead of being on his planned return flight home, he was turned over to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and spent the next eight weeks being shuffled across New York State from one dangerous prison to another, without notice or forwarding information. Several AOH members, led by NYS Board Pro Life Chairman Leo Kane, visited the man, donated and deposited money for him to purchase necessities, and kept in constant communication with his family here and in Ireland. The young man was eventually returned to Ireland and is banned from entering the US again for 10 years.

Last month, a member of Division 3, Pearl River, visiting New Orleans with his Irish American fiancée, was held by a TSA agent because his passport was missing a required stamp. Despite the efforts of the Irish Consulate, New Orleans National Convention Chairman Judge James McKay, NYS President Matt Nelligan, District 8 Director Phil Sheridan, the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, and their families the young man was deported and subjected to a 10 year bar from returning to the US. He leaves behind in US his fiancé, home, business, friends, neighbors, a promising future as a member of our community and possible future leader of our Noble Order.

As your Immigration Chairman I continue to meet with US and Irish politicians, immigration advocates and leaders of Irish organizations to promote Irish immigration reform. I am grateful that this outreach allows terrific cooperation with the Irish Consulate in New York and organizations like the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. During some of these crisis's, staff of both organizations have provided information, advice and resources the affected parties and to me without regard to time or day of week.

The future of this Order and our entire culture depends on our maintaining contact with, and assuring legal immigration for Ireland's people. We must continue to educate and encourage our legislators, as we have successfully done in the past, that secure and legal Irish immigration benefits both nations. At home, we must get to know these young Irish immigrants and continue to encourage them to join our ranks. I urge each County and Division to do so by appointing an Immigration Chairman to help in this effort. I would be happy to work with any interested Brother, in hopes of reestablishing the AOH Immigration network.

I close with the words of Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn in his address to Congress Wednesday, April 30, 2008:

“Whenever we have asked for help, America has always been

there for us - a friend in good times and in bad. From the very outset, Ireland gave to America presidents, patriots and productive citizens of a new nation.

We are working, as are you, to welcome those who contribute to our society as they lift up their own lives, while we also address the inevitable implications for our society, our culture, our community and our way of life.

So we are profoundly aware of those challenges as we ask you to consider the case of our undocumented Irish immigrant community in the United States today. We hope you will be able to find a solution to their plight that would enable them to regularize their status and open to them a path to permanent residency.

On this great issue of immigration to both our shores, let us resolve to make the fair and rational choices, the practical and decent decisions, so that in future people will look back and say:

They chose well.

They did what was right for their country.”

Contacts for Immigration Advice, American & Irish Citizenship, Free Irish Passports for seniors:

Consulate General of Ireland
Email: congenny@aol.com
345 Park Ave 17th Floor New York, NY (212)319.2555

Emerald Isle Immigration
Center : Website: www.eiic.org
29-26 Woodside Ave Woodside
NY 11377 (718)478.5502
or
4275 Katonah Ave Woodlawn
NY 10470 (718)324.3029

F.F.A.I.

Frank Corcoran

*92nd Anniversary of the Rising
in Dublin*

*27th Anniversary of the Long
Kesh Hunger Strikes*

Brothers, I thank you for your help in the past 6 months. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Current North Issue:

We must remain vigilant to progress in the North. Sinn Fein is in government and much has been accomplished, but this's a start and there is much work to do. There are two areas of initiatives in the North we should be aware of in the coming year; Financial and Political.

The financial issues are that we should support investment in the north by organizations to stimulate the economy for all citizens. We should be mindful that such investment should be fair and accessible to all. An investment conference is scheduled for May for the business community of the USA. We hope the money goes to those communities which need it most and some for outside of Belfast.

The recent \$150 M (the largest North investment ever by a US entity) commitment by the New York City Pension Fund and its adherence to the McBride principals is a good example. We all know "money flows to money" so we must be vigilant that these investments don't just go to the people who currently own the big business and leave out our Nationalist friends. It was brought to my attention that an organization called Operation Ireland, which invests in projects on both sides of the border, just appointed a former RUC Assistant Chief Constable Peter Sheridan as their new President. Brother Sean Pender is looking into this organization and we will be planning actions if necessary.

Political issues are concerned with the pending change to policing and courts. Their administration is due to be turned over to the new government this month. There was talk of delaying this, but as of now it will happen on schedule. More on this as it develops. As well, the government has put off elections from 2009 to 2011. The Parades Commission is also being talked about as being disbanded in favor of local committees of Orange Order and Nationalist Community groups; Sinn Fein supports this as written. The structure and ability to control these parades by the new structure is very cloudy at this time. The status of the Maze stadium project is due to be resolved in the next two

months. Also there are several commissions tasked with investigating various British and RUC collusion in sectarian murders. The Seville commission has completed its work into the Bloody Sunday massacre, but the report hasn't been released. The commission investigating Rosemary Nelson's murder has just begun and it is expected to take many months. Once again the investigation into the murder of Pat Finucane has been blocked by the British. There are many more. We must be vigilant and demand a full and honest accounting if a new and honest government is to exist.

Remembering our Heroes of the Struggle:

At this time of year there are many Anniversaries of the Irish struggle for peace and justice.

I ask you to remember and honor these brave men who gave their all for the cause we all believe in, cherish and continue to support.

The executions of 1916:

In all, 16 men were executed for their parts in the Rising and related events.

In Kilmainham gaol, Dublin:
May 3rd: Patrick Pearse, Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh
May 4th: Ned Daly, Willie Pearse, Michael O'Hanrahan, Joseph Plunkett
May 5th: John MacBride
May 8th: Sean Heuston, Michael Mallin, Ea-

monn Ceannt, Con Colbert May 12th: Seán MacDermott, James Connolly.

In Cork Detention Barracks: May 9th: Thomas Kent (for the murder of Head Constable Rowe of the RIC)

In Pentonville Prison, London August 3rd: Sir Roger Casement (for high treason).

In Long Kesh 1981: The hunger strike of 1981 was one of, if not the most influential periods in the IRA's long campaign to remove Britain's role in Irish politics. It not only thwarted Britain's plans to criminalize the IRA prisoners in the H-Blocks, but concentrated world wide media attention on the war in Ireland, paving the way for Sinn Fein's entrance into the political arena and the electoral successes that followed.

Ten men, Irish Republican volunteers, paid the ultimate sacrifice during those summer months of 1981. Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Tom McElwee, Kieran Doherty and Mickey Devine. Their names are written on the hearts and minds of every Irish Republican in Ireland and abroad.

"Everyone, Republican or otherwise has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small; no one is too old or too young to do something."
Bobby Sands (1954-1981)

I ask that every Brother remember these men in their prayers and that you honor their sacrifice at all of our upcoming Division and County meetings.

Christmas Appeal 2008:

Soon you will receive information on the 2008 Christmas Appeal. The Christmas Appeal was a big success for 2007 mostly due to a generous gift by the NYS Board. NYS Hibernians raised \$12,203 for various causes in the North. This money goes to organizations that have very little other choices for funding. They are considered untouchable by most organizations who donate based on "non political" criteria. Most receive no funding from the Belfast Government and the EU. Our help is critical to their success. We must continue our efforts on their behalf during this critical period of a developing government.

In 2007 only 20% of Division and County Boards contributed. As Bobby Sands said, "we each can play a part no matter how small." I appreciate your support. Please make sure to attend the FFAI report at the New Orleans Convention. Sean Pender will present a 'Relatives for Justice' program on the Massacre of Ballymurphy could Bloody Sunday have been prevented.

Scholarship

Thomas Conway

Once again, it is my pleasure to let New York members know about our Scholarship. The New York State Board sponsors the Austin V. Carew State Scholarship which is awarded to a deserving student whose parents/guardians are active members who have taken their Major Degree. Applications and requirements have been distributed to the Presidents and were sent out with the March issue of "the Empire Hibernian". The response has been very encouraging as I have received several outstanding applications. At present Jennifer O'Rourke, Kacey O'Herron, Kristin Armstrong and Bartholomew Johnson are the present recipients of the scholarship.

The scholarship is sustained by the James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament which is held the first weekend in May in East Durham, the same weekend as the New York State Board meeting. This year, the Tournament was once again a resounding success thanks to the contributions of the membership and sponsors. Also, a big thank you to all of the members and friends who played a great round of golf and enjoyed the post tournament festivities at the Shamrock House.

This year we were able to offer A DAY AT THE BALL PARK, which raised over \$800.00 for the scholarship. Many thanks to

Pat Philbin, the members of Division 7 Suffolk County and Clover Graphics for making this possible. The raffle was won by the Suffolk County Board.

I welcome any suggestions you may have that could improve this annual event. Till next year, keep those clubs swinging.

Organizer

Liam McNabb

“All Irish Need Apply”

Great news- the new members of the Oneonta AOH Division (Otsego County) will be initiated in May or early June, and I expect officers to be elected at the same meeting. In other areas over the past several months, we have made progress with attracting interested members in Johnstown (Fulton County) and Elizabethtown (Essex County). In Columbia County, the Valatie/Kinderhook group continues to grow and we are now starting to focus on the Hudson area. Tim Carey, a member of Div. 5 Albany is from Columbia County and has been instrumental in our efforts in Hudson.

I was recently contacted and met with individuals about interest in organizing a division in Poughkeepsie and will work to promote the Order in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. During recent months, I was interviewed on radio stations in Albany, Amsterdam, Johnstown

and Eastern Massachusetts and I promoted the order and provided our 1-800 telephone number as well as my personal contact information. Next month, I am scheduled for an appearance on a radio station in Columbia County.

Thanks to Webmaster Al Norton, our NYS AOH website now has a “Join the AOH” page on the website which includes a brief history of the AOH and information about how to join. The site also has a list of divisions in each county, when and where they meet, but since every division doesn’t have a website, Brother Norton couldn’t include meeting places on the website. We respectfully ask that divisions and counties to view the website and provide Brother Norton or myself with any needed information.

Reminder- to assist with recruiting efforts, funds are available through NYS AOH Advertising, Marketing & Recruitment Grant program. Divisions are encouraged to apply for and use these funds to assist in promoting the order in an effort to recruit new members. You can download a form from nyaoh.com or contact me for an application.

In closing, I encourage Brothers to contact me for more information about the recruitment and retention grant program as well as if anyone has organizing tips or areas of interest for organizing.

Commodore Barry

Vic Vogel

These past months as Commodore John Barry Chairman have been an experience that has enabled me to make contacts with many interesting people whose care and concern of the Irish heritage is admirable. Previous Chairman Mike Kearny has been very kind in taking the time to explain the responsibilities I have assumed and to recommend specific goals I should accomplish to further the cause of Commodore Barry. Of primary concern to Mike is the Commodore Barry Monument.

I have made contact with several Commodore Barry divisions in order to elicit projects and programs that have been undertaken in his honor. On one occasion, I met with Keith Carney and my son, Greg Vogel, of Commodore Barry, Division One in Washington D.C. At present, they are working on the restoration of Commodore Barry’s commissioning papers that were signed by George Washington.

President Mary Nolan of the Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn has included me on the club’s monthly mailing list. She has been a significant source of information regarding activities and ceremonies in the New York City area. Recently, John Barry’s birthday was commemorated at Commodore Barry Park in Brooklyn. On Sunday, May 25th, club mem-

bers will make their annual bus trip to Philadelphia where they will attend Mass at St. Mary's Church and place a wreath at Barry's gravesite. Please feel free to contact me if you have any interest in the Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn.

Thanks to Mary Nolan, I received a biography of John Barry written by John Barry Kelly of Philadelphia, who is a descendant of the Commodore. In order to advance the cause and insure Commodore Barry's proper place in history, he recommends reading the following books: Commodore John Barry: Father of the American Navy by Joseph Gurn, 1933; Gallant John Barry, A Naval Hero of Two Wars by William Bell Clark, 1938; and Barry or Jones, "Father of the United States Navy" by Leo Gregory Fink, 1962.

Historian

Mike McCormack

IT HAPPENED IN JUNE

In the early 1700s, Morris O'Brien, a native of Co. Cork, emigrated to America and settled in Kittery (near Portsmouth), then Scarborough (near Portland), Maine. He was a volunteer in the expedition against Louisburg in 1745 which was considered one of the most extraordinary military achievements of the New England Colonies. Louisburg, on the Island of Cape Breton, belonged to the French who threatened the New England

lumber industry and spent millions of dollars in erecting fortifications. The New Englanders attacked and won the fort.

In 1765, O'Brien moved to Machias, about 50 miles up the Maine coast from Bar Harbor, where he engaged in the lumber business with his six sons: Jeremiah, born in 1740, Gideon, John, William, Dennis and Joseph. When the Revolutionary War began and news came of the battle at Lexington, the people of Machias erected a liberty pole in the town center. It was a tall pine tree with all but the very top branches stripped off, an increasingly common symbol of defiance in the colonies. Some time later, an armed British schooner, *Margaretta*, entered the harbor, escorting two sloops that were to retrieve lumber for British defensive works in Boston. The Captain of *Margaretta* threatened to fire on the town if the pole was not taken down. The citizens decided to capture the British officers while they were at a meeting on shore, but the Brits saw them coming and hastened aboard their ship and sailed down the river, firing shots over Machias as they fled. Some Machias men fired musket shots at the ship from small boats and canoes, as well as from shore. The firing lasted until *Margaretta* was out of range.

The next day, June 12th, 1775, 233 years ago, the men of Machias commandeered one of the lumber sloops, *Unity*, armed

themselves with muskets, pitchforks and axes and then set out after *Margaretta*. When the Brit Captain saw *Unity* coming, they weighed anchor and sailed off, but a brisk wind broke *Margaretta's* main boom, crippling its navigability. As a result, O'Brien's crew overtook the crippled ship. On the approach of *Unity*, *Margaretta* opened fire, but the Machias crew managed to avoid the fire and pulled alongside *Margaretta* and stormed aboard. Captain O'Brien's brother John led the boarding party. In an exchange of shots, the Brit Captain fell with a musket ball to the chest. With their commanding officer down, the British quickly surrendered to Captain O'Brien. The surviving British crew were handed over to the Provincial Congress.

This was the first naval battle of the American Revolution. The armament of *Margaretta* was transferred to the sloop *Unity*, which was re-named *Machias Liberty* with O'Brien in command. The Brits sent the ship, *Diligence* and a tender from Halifax to recapture *Margaretta*, but O'Brien captured them as well. This gave the Machias residents two armed ships of war. *Liberty*, with Jeremiah O'Brien as captain and his brother William as lieutenant, and *Diligence*, on which his brother John was lieutenant, were commissioned by the provincial government and ordered to intercept supplies destined for the British troops. The

O'Briens cruised the coast for a year and a half, taking several prizes. In 1776 and 1777, different British officers received orders to go and destroy Machias, but the residents withstood these efforts to such an extent that Machias became known as the "Hornet's Nest" to the British admiralty. One British officer, presumed to be Sir George Collier, said "The damned rebels at Machias were a harder set than those at Bunker Hill." Jeremiah's brother, John, while in command of a privateer called *Hibernia*, also captured the Brit ship *General Pattison*, having on board a number of British officers returning to England. Jeremiah then assumed command of the privateer *Hannibal* that his brother John and others had built at Newburyport. However, while cruising off New York, his vessel was chased by two frigates and captured. He was confined for six months on the notorious prison ship *Jersey* in Brooklyn, and then sent to England's Mill prison, from which, after a few months, he succeeded in escaping back to the war. In later years, he was appointed the federal customs collector for the port of Machias. A position he held until his death in October, 1818.

The capture of *Margaretta* is considered the first time British colors were struck to those of the United States. Even though *Unity* was not formally a member of the Continental Navy, the U.S. Merchant Marine claims

Unity as its member and this incident as their beginning. Five U.S. Navy ships have been named *USS O'Brien* for Jeremiah O'Brien including the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*, a Liberty ship built during WWII and now a floating museum based in San Francisco. It is the sole survivor of the 6,939-ship armada that stormed Normandy on D-Day, in June, 1944, and one of only two currently operational WWII Liberty ships afloat of the 2,751 built during the war. Appropriately built in South Portland, Maine, and launched on June 19, 1943, this class EC2-S-CI ship not only made four perilous round trip wartime crossings of the Atlantic and served on D-Day, but later saw sixteen months of service in both the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean calling at ports in Chile, Peru, New Guinea, the Philippines, India, China, and Australia, keeping the name of a proud and patriotic Irish American afloat.

Veterans Affairs

John M. Ryan

As much as our young men and women have suffered through the war and the wounds they have received, their families have suffered too. There is a program I want to bring to your attention that deals directly with the families of the wounded. The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership (also a 501 C (3) non-profit organization) that supports America's military families in

time of need. The Fisher House Foundation donates comfortable lodging near-by or on the grounds of major military medical centers. They enable families to visit loved ones during their time of hospitalization. There is at least one Fisher House located at every major military medical center in the U.S. This has provided a home away from home for some 110,000 families in their time of need. The nearest Fisher House is:

Stratton V A Medical Center
Fisher House
113 Holland Ave., Albany,
N.Y. 12208
518 626-6910
Jerry Jensen, Manager

We are asking our brothers to consider supporting Fisher House. If you have some time, please consider volunteering your time to this worthy cause. You can visit each of these worthy causes on line. They outline their programs and suggest ways of supporting our troops through their facilities.

Along these lines, I am asking each member of the order to contact me and give me the names, ranks and units of service of their relatives who are currently serving. I will publish these in the state Digest in the hope that our members will write them a letter and let them know that they are in our prayers and thoughts.

BRENDAN MOORE

FOR NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

- ✓ **Has effectively managed AOH resources as National Treasurer**
- ✓ **Has served two terms as National Director**
- ✓ **Appointed National FFAI Chairman by four successive National Presidents**
- ✓ **Chaired our National Board's Anti-Extradition Committee**
- ✓ **Promoted AOH efforts in prisoner re-adjustment and job training**
- ✓ **Raised record-breaking Christmas Appeal donations over 14 years**
- ✓ **Led AOH efforts to achieve peace with justice in a united Ireland**
- ✓ **Represented the AOH in Washington, Belfast, Dublin, and Derry**

Martin Kelly for National Director

Martin Kelly was born in Castlelambert, Athenry, Co. Galway and emigrated to America in 1964. His family has long been prominent in the Irish nationalist movement. His father was a member of the Old I.R.A. and was imprisoned by the British in Frongoch Camp in Wales following the 1916 Rising, the same prison camp which held leading members of the nationalist movement including Michael Collins and Eamon DeValera. Martin first resided in the Bronx after coming from Ireland. But after his marriage to the lovely Anna Marie Gallagher of Frosses, Co. Donegal he was persuaded to move to Brooklyn. He and Anna Marie have four children, Bernadette, Margaret, Martin and Sean, and 3 grand children Caitlin, Liam and Victoria.

Employed by Verizon for thirty-five years, Martin recently took an early retirement from the positions of manager of the Special Services Department in Manhattan. He was constantly recognized by Verizon for his leadership skills and, in 2002, was awarded the esteemed "Leader in Excellence" award. Martin and his department were recognized by the New York Stock Exchange for their outstanding work in rebuilding the stock exchange in only four days after the disastrous events of September 11. In fact, Verizon employees, including Martin & his team, were given the prestigious honor of ringing the closing bell of the New York Stock Exchange on January 7th 2002.

Martin Kelly has devoted himself to the advancement of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for over twenty-five years. He has held every office at the division, county and state level. In addition to extremely successful terms as Kings County President and New York State President, he served a term on the state board as Chairman of the Commodore Barry Committee, Political Education Chairman and was past Director of District No.5 comprising the counties of Staten Island, Queens, and Kings. He is currently serving as National Director.

Shortly after being elected State President, America suffered the dreadful terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001. Martin was very instrumental in organizing a committee for a disaster relief fund that rose over \$100,000 and provided families of eighteen members of the A.O.H. with at least \$6,000 each. Martin is also a member of another relief committee, as Past State President, to distribute over \$1.2 million to needy families of the 9/11 disaster. He served as host to the contingent of Hibernians who traveled from Ohio to NYC to present a check in memory of Fr. Michael Judge who was killed on 9/11. He also organized and helped raise over \$35,000.00 for the Special Olympics held in Ireland in 2003.

In addition to his philanthropy as a Hibernian, Martin is also very active as a volunteer and committeeman for both the New York and Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parades. He is vice-president of Hibernians of Flatbush, Inc., and a member of Rosary for Life, Inc., and is an active member of the Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn, the The Cathedral Club, and the Saint Patrick's Society of Brooklyn, The Good Shepherd Catholic Club of Brooklyn, The Galway Society of New York and the Knights of Columbus Council #126. Martin has served on the Pastoral Council of his parish Good Shepherd, where he is an usher, Eucharistic minister and member of the choir.

HENNESSY CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

John Hennessy, currently New York State Immediate Past President NY State Board has announced his candidacy for the position National Director to be elected at the National Convention in New Orleans on July 23 thru July 26, 2008

John is a charter member of the Father Murphy of Boolavogue Division 9 of Suffolk County. He is currently serving his 12th term as Treasurer of that Division. For the past 40 years, John has been an active Hibernian, holding all elected Offices at the Division, County, and State level. National President Jack Meehan appointed him National Protocol Chairman.

John is also Co-Treasurer of the Long Island Feis for over 29 years and is an active member of the Tara Court Major Degree Team of Suffolk County.

Hennessy served as Chairman of the New York State Conventions in 1993 and 1999, was Aide to the Grand Marshal of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1991, was named the First Hibernian of the Year by Suffolk County in 1992. In 2002 he was awarded National Life Membership.

Hennessy served in the U.S Navy for three years and holds a B.S. degree in Business and a M.S. degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from New York Institute of Technology.

He resides in Deer Park, Suffolk County, with his lovely wife Margaret. They have three daughters, Sharon, Patricia, and Theresa living locally, while their other daughter Rosemary, son-in law Chad, and three grandchildren Amanda, Matthew and Andrew reside in Winchester, Virginia.

John and Margaret are parishioners of St. Matthews's parish in Dix Hills. He is retired from a local Utility Company and is presently a part-time tax preparer, and a full time Hibernian.

His own Division and Suffolk County, as well as the New York State Board have unanimously endorsed John.