Empire State
Hibernian

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

Volume 5 No.9 Issue 2 June 2010

Charles 'Chip' McLean President's Message

It is with great pride that I report you were all represented in honoring and celebrating our National Chaplain Fr. Thomas O'Donnell's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination as a priest. I traveled to Pittsburgh, PA for a special Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom and a testimonial dinner in his honor. Fr. Tom has given fifty years of his life to our Church and it was only fitting for the Hibernians to have such a significant part in his celebration.

We are all aware of the fact that this last year has been designated as the **Year of the Priest** by our Holy Father Pope Benedict. As the year comes to an end I strongly encourage each of our jurisdictions to plan an event to support our priests. Whether that means a major event involving entire parishes or something as simple as a picnic/BBQ run by your Division with your Chaplain and perhaps the priests of the local parish or even something as simple as taking them out for breakfast, that is up to you, but just do it! Honor and thank these fine gentlemen for their service and dedication to Holy Mother Church. Please don't miss this opportunity, and what you do plan, please notify our State Catholic Action Chairman Dan Case of your plans on behalf of our priests.

We were once again very happy with the recent turnout at our Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock Shrine in East Durham. The weekend began with the Annual Jim Hayes Memorial Golf Outing held on Fri., 4/30 at Sunnyhill Golf Course; followed by a delicious banquet at the Blackthorn Resort. This event is the primary fundraiser for the Austin V. Carew Scholarship Fund, and I sincerely thank all of the jurisdictions of our Order who supported this event with hole sponsorships, and I thank all the individual golfers who attended and supported the fundraising effort by their presence. Congratulations and thanks to Tommy Thompson for his efforts in planning a great event. We look forward to an even bigger event next year.

On Saturday morning, 5/1 we had our semi-annual State Board meeting with a record turnout. It was the largest attendance of Brothers that any of us could remember for a good number of years and our State Secretary's attendance sheets reflected such. The meeting was held once again in the Shamrock House. (I am pleased to report that it is "business as usual" at the Shamrock House which is now owned by a local couple who also own Lawyers Country Store, John and Sue Quirk.) As the Officers and Delegates headed back to their local jurisdictions renewed from our experiences during that weekend in East Durham, one of the messages I asked you to carry is the importance of attending the upcoming National Convention in Cincinnati this July. Once again we have a daunting task ahead of us; we will be working together to have three of our favorite New York sons elected to the National Board. Our National Vice President Brendan Moore has announced he is seeking re-election to the post of V.P. Our National Secretary Tom McNabb has also once again announced he is seeking re-election. And our Immediate Past State President Matt Nelligan has announced he is a candidate for National Director. We will need all of our delegates in attendance and I ask each of you to encourage your members to attend.

County and Division Presidents should check in with your State Officers upon arriving at the National Convention. Our State Sec. Jim Burke will be issuing the credentials for N.Y. State and will be coordinating the delegation. We need to know as early in the Convention as possible how many members we have attending so as to provide for them to be selected as alternate delegates for any jurisdictions needing them.

We intend to continue our sense of fiscal responsibility toward financing our charitable donations to the various Hibernian Charities. Towards that goal we will be sponsoring a ½ **Way To St. Patrick's Day Raffle Month**. It will be a "pick your own number" and will be the daily evening 3 digit Lotto number for every day in the month of September. The ticket will cost $5 each and the prize will be $50 each day in the month of September with Labor Day and 9/17 prizes being $100. The tickets will be available through your State Directors and each of you are asked to sell as many of these tickets as possible. All of the proceeds from this raffle will be used to primarily fund our support of Project St. Patrick and other Hibernian charities.

We are still searching for local groups who have facilities to host fundraisers on behalf of the State Board. Please contact your District Directors if you are able to assist us in hosting any type of a fundraising endeavor.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulation and thank all of our local jurisdictions that either participated or in some way sponsored a celebration commemorating our patron, St. Patrick. The most popular were perhaps Parades, as I participated in a number of them. The State Board as a group marched in the N.Y. City Parade up Fifth Ave. This year a number of members accepted my invitation to march with the Board. We even had a bus load of members from Saratoga & Albany travel south to participate. Why not make plans with your local groups to make the trip next March and join the Board in the N.Y. City Parade?

Please continue to keep your District Directors fully aware of all activities and endeavors. We have a great group of Brothers serving as our Directors and they can only be of service if you keep in touch with them. If for any reason you cannot get in touch with him please feel free to contact me immediately. Also, remember to keep those invitations coming. I know I've turned down a few, but that's not to my liking. I would very much like to be able to be at them all, but I assure you that I will make as many as possible.

I extend to all Brothers best wishes for a very happy **Fathers Day!** "May you **enjoy** a day of peace, relaxation and comfort" as you enjoy the company of your children and families. Have a very pleasant summer and I look forward to working with all of you as well as participating in as many of your events as I possibly can**. "Keep those invitations coming".**

1 / 2 Way To St. Patrick's Day Raffle Month

In an effort to raise funds for our donation to Project St. Patrick and other Hibernian charities the State Board will be sponsoring a 'pick your own" daily number game during the month of September. You will write "your own" number on a raffle ticket and for a $5 donation you have the opportunity of matching the evening three digit number drawn by the N.Y. State Lottery. If they draw your number you will win $50 for that day. If your number is drawn on Labor Day (9/6/10) or on 9/17/10 you will win $100. Just $5 for 30(= 30 days in September) chances to win.

Tickets should be returned to John Hennessy, Calendar Chairman (by the way there are still calendars left if you're interested) at P.O. Box 37, Deer Park, NY 11729. Checks should be made payable to N.Y. State Board AOH.

Please make every effort to support this endeavor. "Come on, it's an easy sell, $5…..try to sell them 2 tickets, that's even any easy sell, $10 for 2 x 30 chances to win??" All jurisdictions with halls are particularly asked to support this as you have a venue to sell them .

Those without halls you can still get your guys who are sellers to hawk them in their travels.

Vice President
Michael J. McNabb

The Burns – Hayes Memorial Award Ballots have been sent to the NYS Board Elected and Appointed, including Deputies, all County Presidents and all Division Presidents whose per – capita is paid. The Ballot must be returned postmarked by July 1, 2010.

I would like to thank the 45 Sponsors of the recent James F. Hayes Classic held in conjunction with our State Board meeting.

The Jack Burns Memorial Golf Tournament will be held in Auburn on Saturday August 21, 2010.

District 2
Dan R. Magill

It is my pleasure to report that St. Patrick's Day in Western N.Y. was celebrated in fine fashion this year. With many well attended events thoughout District 2, among them of course the parades in Rochester on 3/13/10, and in Buffalo on 3/14/10.

Tom Lambert of Div #1 in Buffalo report that a major degree was held at the Buffalo Irish Center on 5/15/10. The event was well attended by many Western New York Hibernians. Tom and his committee should be commended on their hard work putting this event together.

Rochester Div #7 reports that it has been keeping busy with charity work and has made donations to local and worldwide causes. Some of these being: The Veterans Outreach; Birthright; Camp Good Days and Special Times; Daystar and the School For Nomads in Kenya.

Upcoming Events include:
Rochester Irish Day at Frontier Field on 7/3/10; Irish Open Golf tournament on 8/6/10; Rochester Irish Fest on 9/10,11,12 /10
Hornell Irish Fest on 8/21/10 and the Irish Open Golf Tournament

District 4
A.J. Smith

The first order of business, unfortunately, is to report the passing of a true hard working Hibernian, Pat Cahill. Pat held office at many levels of the organization, and was truly devoted to all things Irish and the A.O.H. When I was fortunate enough to be asked to nominate him for the position I currently occupy as District Director at the State Convention several years ago, I said that if the dictionary had a picture next to their definition of the word “gentleman” that picture would be of Pat. He is greatly missed.

Since my last report, I have attended the State Board Meeting at Durham. While there, I obtained the State Secretary report from brother James Burke, and also spoke with our National Secretary, brother Thomas McNabb, and learned the names of the Divisions who are not yet in compliance with dues and paperwork. Notifications are being made to these jurisdictions. I urge all Divisions Presidents and Finance Chairs to insure that you are in compliance.

Otherwise, since my last report, the season of St. Patrick has come and gone, with Westchester and the Bronx being involved and marching in multiple parades, and, of course, the Divisions and County Boards participated in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Fifth Avenue.

In NY County, President Tom Beirne has acted to help Divisions 1, 12 and 29 to keep together or reorganize. As of this writing, The NY County Board is looking forward to their annual fundraiser, it will have been held by time this publication goes to print.

The Westchester County Board is holding a fundraiser at the Brazen Fox in White Plains on 11/1/2010. Tickets are $100 with one lucky winner collecting $10,000. Details on this event will be provided in my next report.

On June 6th the AOH County Board (with the Knights of Co-

lumbus) are holding a joint Communion Breakfast at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. The Mass is at 12:45PM followed by a BBQ afterwards in the courtyard of the school. County President Beirne reminded to tell everyone IT IS FREE! The Bar-B-Que is part of the celebration of the continuing observation of the 200th Anniversary of the Cathedral and its new Basilica status.

NY County Division 7 is having their annual Kruise for Kids Boat Ride to benefit Project Children on June 9. Feel free to contact me for information.

On Monday May 3rd at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NY, there was a memorial conference and Mass in honor of John Cardinal O'Connor on the 10th Anniversary of his death. The A.O.H. was well represented at the event and we were all honored with our own reserved seating area in the front of the Cathedral. The Mass was a beautiful celebration of Cardinal O'Connor's life.

By publication time, Division 9 NY County would have held their annual golf outing, an excellent event every year.

In addition to these events, I had the opportunity of being one of the State Board Officers representing the Order at the annual Easter Monday ceremony outside the Supreme Court building in Mineola, NY. The Easter Monday Memorial is a joint project of many Irish groups on Long Island, including the A.O.H., and I was pleased to see our State President Chip McLean and our State Secretary James Burke, amongst numerous other Hibernians present at the ceremony.

District 6

Vic Vogel

Dia duit! Congratulations to President Brian Clancy and Chairman Tom McKenna for an outstanding Suffolk County Ball. New York State Chaplain, Father Henry Reid, President Chip McLean, Vice President Mike McNabb, Secretary Jim Burke and Past President John Hennessy were in attendance, as well as National Vice President Brendan Moore.

President Mike Byrnes and his committee are making plans for the annual Nassau County Feis. The feis, which is known for its step dancing and pipe band 'competitions, will be held on September 19th at Molloy College.

The Suffolk County Board conducted a service at the site of the Tom Clarke Memorial in Manorville, Long Island. National Historian Mike McCormack spoke about the life and work of Tom Clarke and his wife, Katy Daly. The service was followed by a Communion Breakfast. Congressman Peter King was the featured speaker.

The Nassau County Hibernians participated in a ceremony at the Easter Rising Monument in Mineola, Long Island. The commemoration marked the 94th anniversary of the Irish Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin. Members of Division 15 formed the Color Guard for the event.

The Tara Court Degree Team recently performed a Major Degree in Levittown, Nassau County. Twenty-two members received their degree. The next scheduled Major Degree will be held on October 24th at Division 2 Hall in Babylon, Suffolk County. Any brother without a major degree may register to be initiated. All others are welcome to attend and participate.

Division 8 President Mark Donovan and Division 9 President Walter Butler have begun work on the Long Island Feis which will be held on August 1st at SUNY Stony Brook, Suffolk County. The feis, which is held indoors, features step dance competitions, Irish vendors and air conditioning!

President Phil Baumgartner reports that Nassau Division 11 brothers continue work on their Hibernian Hunger Project. This is a major effort to stock local food pantries.

President Ron Allen of Suffolk Division 1 reports that the Hibernian Festival Singers are preparing for their summer schedule. They have recently performed at the Irish Famine Mass in Bay Shore, the St. Brigid's Mass at St. Joseph's Convent in Brentwood and in "From

Galway to Broadway" in Glen Cove.

President Jim Dawes reports that Division 2 of Babylon is supporting the LAOH Project Outreach Program which supports local food pantries. In addition, look for the monthly ceili at Division 2 hall.

President Jim Henry reports that Division 14 of Lynbrook will host their annual golf outing at Lido Beach Gold Course on June 7th.

Division 15 of Massapequa ran a Night at the Races and Roast Beef Dinner on May 7th. President Ken Ferguson reports that the division also held a Blood Drive on May 11 th at the Marine Corps League . The Tara Pipes and Drums golf outing will be held on June 28th.

Division 3 of Smithtown will host its annual golf outing at the Smithtown Landing Country Club. President Mike Hanley reports that the proceeds support local charities.

President Bob Boden of Hampton Bays Division 11 reports that their annual St. Patrick's Parade fundraiser at the famous Boardy Barn in the Hamptons will be held on September 4th. The parade has become a major attraction on Long Island.

Nassau County Division 17 held its annual golf outing on May 13th. President Brian Sarkey reports that proceeds from the event support the division's scholarship.

President Noel Byrnes reports that Division 3 of Nassau County held its golf outing on May 20th and its annual picnic will be on July 18th.

President Rich O'Neill of Division 7 in Nassau reports that his division took a fishing trip on May 8th.

Division 7 of East Islip will hold its annual Horseshoe Tournament on June 19th. Proceeds will benefit the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band. A golf outing will be held on June 28th at the Wind Watch Golf Course for the benefit of the division's Project Children Program.

District Six is the home of five Hibernian bands: the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band, Tara Pipes and Drums, Saffron United, Glor na Gael and Siol na H'Eireann. All of these bands are presently preparing for the upcoming competition season. They will represent Grades 3, 4 and 5. Good luck to all.

For information regarding any of the events listed in this report, please contact me directly.

District 7

John O'Herron

The divisions in District 7 and beyond have been keeping in close touch recently by sharing in St. Patrick's Day events, the AOH/NYS Board Meeting on May 1st and the exemplification of the Major Degree in Elmira on May 8th. The Major Degree, put on by Elmira's President Tom Corcoran and Past President Mark O'Herron had candidates from Binghamton, Geneva and Hornell, all approximately 60 miles away, east, north and west respectively. Also District 3 Director, Dan Case brought in a contingent from Syracuse. AOH/NYS Vice President Mike McNabb opened and closed the session. On behalf of myself and all those present, we thank Michael Glenn and the Schenectady Degree Team for an impressive ritual.

At the AOH/NYS Board Meeting, Binghamton's AOH President Hugh Reynolds advised Elmira's President Tom Corcoran that he plans on surpassing Elmira in division membership this year. Each division hovers around the 400 mark, with Elmira being slightly ahead in the past few years. We'll see how the numbers fall at the end of the year. Binghamton's Third Annual AOH Captain-n-Crew Golf Tournament will be held on August 7th at Ely Park. With the upcoming opening of Binghamton's Ross Park Zoo, a joint effort will soon be made by Broome County's AOH and two LAOH divisions to spruce up a garden within the zoo grounds. The divisions maintain a 40ft. X 60ft. area by spreading mulch, planting flowers and keeping park

benches and a carousel horse in repair. Also within the garden, candles are lit to commemorate deceased members of the Order. What a wonderful way to espouse the Order in conjunction with community service.

Elmira's Msgr. John J. Lee Division is currently planning their Annual Irish Festival to be held at their facility grounds on Saturday, September 11th from 2pm -11pm. This is an entertainment filled event featuring bagpipers, step dancers and music by Pat Kane, The Stoutman and Hair of the Dog. Admission is free and the food and beverage prices can't be beat. The 11th Annual Josh Palmer Fund / Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 3rd. This tournament is comprised of 90% AOH members who support Hibernian cancer survivor Josh Palmer and family in their effort to help local cancer patients and their families to cope with this disease. This tournament raised $10,000.00 in 2009.

Hornell's Sons of Ireland Division will host their Fourth Annual Irish Fest on St. Anne's grounds after 4:30 Mass on Saturday, August 21st. The event will feature Pat Kane and the Blarney Rebels along with Irish fare, beverage and vendors. The division is proud to be able to help kids with disabilities get out and play baseball by sponsoring two Hornell challenger league teams. The AOH sponsored Irish Open Golf Tournament will be held in September but the exact date has not been set. The four year old division may break the 100 member mark at their next initiation in June.

District 8
Kevin R. Cummings

The following are highlights of the happenings in and around Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Greene, Dutchess, Putnam, Sullivan and Schoharie Counties.

The members of Msgr. Sheahan - Division 1 of Dutchess County are collecting food and personal items to benefit the House of Faith/House of Hope, a women's shelter in their area. The division is also participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program as a way of advertising its presence in the community. The Dutchess County brothers are also planning a summer BBQ for the enjoyment of patients in the Castle Point Veteran's Hospital.

Members of Ulster County AOH have been actively supporting their newly formed Junior AOH Division and we wish them well. The division members have announced the date for the Hooley on the Hudson which will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 from 11:30 am until 9:30 pm. The gathering is one of the premier Irish festivals in New York and a great time is guaranteed. This is a free event - open to the public and they can use the support of the Irish communities in the surrounding counties.

In Greene County, members of the AOH and LAOH will be celebrating their First Annual Memorial Rock Mass on Saturday, June 12th at 11:00 am. The Mass Rock is located on the grounds of the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Center in East Durham. President Tim O'Sullivan and his brothers continue to plan events to raise funds for improving the Mass Rock site.

Rockland County AOH will be holding the 37th Annual Feis and Field Games on Sunday, July 18, 2010. Piping and dance competitions start at 8:30 am. The day includes Mass at 11:00 am. The Feis is held at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area in Stony Point--just off of Exit 17 on the Palisades Interstate Parkway. I had the opportunity to attend the Rockland County AOH Board May meeting held in Division 3, Pearl River. Our brothers in Rockland continue to plan for a successful NYS-AOH/LAOH Convention to be held July 13-17 2011.

In Orange, County, members of Joseph Duelk, Jr. Division 1 held their "Fleming's Fling" on May 29th with all profits going to support the Thomas Fleming Scholarship Fund. To date, the scholarship fund has awarded over $30,000 to deserving recipients. Division 1 will be holding the 8th Annual Joseph Duelk Jr. Memorial Mass at

9:00 am on Saturday, June 12th at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe. The Mass will be followed by an Irish Breakfast at the division hall. The day concludes with a wreath laying at the grave of Joseph Duelk, Jr. in Washingtonville. On May 7th Orange County members from the Fr. Donald J. Whelan Division 2 helped wheelchair bound vets plant a handicap-accessible vegetable garden at Castle Point Veteran's Hospital. Division 2 members also held a very successful American Cancer Society-Relay for Life dinner and raised close to $1000 for Team AOH Division 2 which will be participating in the relay on June 4th.

Fund Raiser Calendar Chairman

John Hennessy

As I reported at the State Board meeting the calendar program for 2009 was a success, not a great success that it could have been. We made a profit of $8668.00, $4556.00 to the AOH State Board $4112.00 to the LAOH State Board. We gave out prizes totaling $6775.00 to 232 winners. As I stated at the meeting we have over 10,000 members of the AOH in this State, and I can't understand why we cannot sell 1000 calendars. It's the only fundraiser the State Board has.

I still have 2010 calendars, and we still have 6 months for you to become a winner. If you want a calendar just give me a call 631 667-8396 or e-mail me @ johnaoh@optonline.net

The National Convention is just around the Corner. We have the following brothers running for office, Brother Brendan Moore for National Vice President, Brother Tom McNabb for the office of National Secretary and Brother Matt Nelligan for National Director. I know we will be coming home winners. SEE YOU IN CINCINNATI.

FFAI

Tim Myles

Once again NYS led the way on donations to the FFAI Christmas Appeal. Over $18,000 was donated by divisions, county boards and individuals. A special thanks to those who donated $1,000.00 or more. They were recognized at the State Board meeting, where National Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Sean Pender presented the personalized hurling sticks. With that said, we cannot rest on our laurels. Large donations were up, but individual donations from the 10 club were down as well as participation by divisions. There can be no reason why each division and county board does not participate in some way in the Christmas Appeal. Once again I traveled to Derry for the Bloody Sunday Commemoration where our donations are disbursed. They are well received and needed. Please see the latest edition of the Hibernian Digest for National FFAI chairman Sean Pender's report and also LAOH FFAI chair Kathy Savage for all the details of our excellent tour.

Speaking of Derry, the theme of this year's march was "Set the Truth Free". The Bloody Sunday families were seeking to see the Saville Report when it is released without having to wait until British government operatives go over the report and possibly delete key parts. The political pressure seems to have worked. Though the release of the report was delayed once again because of British elections this month, Lord Saville has said that some family members will get to see the report as it is released.

Another cause we support is the Omagh Basketball Club. It is a cross community effort and the team will be coming to the U.S. this July. I was able to assist in them to get into Madison Square Garden and possibly play a game prior to a NY Liberty game on July 18.

I wish to acknowledge Ciaran Geraghty and the Albany brothers for getting Albany to pass a United Ireland resolution. Can you do that in your locale? Get involved in your community. We must educate our elected officials. They represent us as Irish-Catholics and we should not just stand on the sidelines.

I was able to attend the Thomas and Kathleen Clarke Memorial and Communion Breakfast in Manorville last month. Thanks

to County President Brian Clancy, Chairman Rich Cremmins, Mike McCormick and the brothers of Suffolk County for putting on this event. I also attended the Nassau County Easter Monday commemoration.

On St. Patrick's Day, besides all the marching and other festivities, I was a guest on the Adrian Flannelly radio show and was able to report the breaking news that the McAllister family had just received delayed action in their case for another year.

Recently I was presented with the first James Connolly Centenary Award by the National Irish Freedom Committee in NYC. I was honored and humbled. As I said to many Hibernians in the hall in my acceptance speech, the award represents all of you from whom I get strength and inspiration.

In wrapping up, please see if you can find the time to attend the 2011 Bloody Sunday March. Assuming the Saville report is released by then, it may be the last march.

New York State AOH FFAI Donations 2009 Christmas Appeal

Thank You All!

Div. 5 Albany	$5500
NYS Board	1500
Syracuse AOH	1263
Div 3 Rockland Co	1000
Div 14 Lynbrook	1000
Div 11 Hampton Bays	1000
Div 1 Schenectady	1000
Suffolk Co. Bd.	1000
Div 4 Staten Island	500
Div 17 Long Beach	500
Div 4 Suffolk	400
Div 3 Smithtown	250
Div 7 Suffolk	200
Div 3 Nassau	200
Div 1 New Hartford	150
Div 1 Bay Shore	130
Div 4 New York Co.	100
Div 4 Orange	100
Div 21 Rockaway	100
Di 1 Bay Shore (10 Club)	100
Nassau Co. Bd	100
Binghamton	100
Div 4 Lockport	100
Div. 1 Williamsville	100
Jeff Nisler	1000
Tom Slattery	500
Tom McNabb	50
Frank Kraft	20
LAOH Niagara Falls	240
LAOH Tarrytown	100
LAOH Div. 2 Babylon	100
LAOH Niagara Co.	50

Will Your Division Or Name Be Here Next Year???

Buy Irish

Robert Flaherty

I hope everybody made it through the winter and had a great St. Patrick's Day. Well it's been a long haul but I have finally sent some listings to our webmaster, Al Norton. He is creating a Buy Irish page on the NYAOH web site.

I know how I am when I go to a city, I have to ask, is there an AOH hall or Irish shop around? So with that in mind I have gotten all the addresses of the AOH halls in the state. Little by little I am going to be adding Irish shops and AOH halls to the list. In the process we are going to try and keep them in alphabetical order by city.

All the shops listed have agreed to give all AOH members a 10% discount. I hope over the next year to really expand it. If you have an Irish shop you want put on the list please send it to me with an address and phone number.

Charities and Missions

Arnold Nagelhout

With our summer break from meetings fast approaching we as Hibernians must continue to remember the Motto of our Order; Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Consider this: in Friendship invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to attend an Irish function, be it a dinner dance, picnic or festival. Then ask them if they would have an interest in joining your division to promote their Irish heritage. In Unity offer to assist your division officers and brothers in working a function your jurisdiction sponsors. Finally, in Christian Charity we can all do something to assist the less fortunate this summer. You may consider helping out at a soup kitchen providing meals for the needy. Your church, school, rectory and convents are always in need of repairs, painting and clean

up, as a division, volunteer to assist on a project they may have. These are easy ways of letting your community know there is a local AOH and you are not just a group of partygoers.

Summer is a fun time for most of us, but hunger goes on. If any of you are on a committee for your local Irish Festival or Concert suggest that a food collection be conducted to help the local food pantry and volunteer to man the project. Most localities sponsor 4th of July fireworks, community picnics and field days; why not approach your local government officials and offer to man a food collection point, during the event, to benefit the local City Mission or Soup Kitchen? Once again the exposure for the AOH is always good and you may even get some new members.

I have received a total of 10 reports since our State Convention last July. Total donations are $64,397.86 and 953 Man Hours which total $7,147.50. Thanks to all of those reporting.

Division 7, Suffolk Co. made donations that totaled $15,510 in 2009. Some of those benefiting are Prostate Cancer Awareness Program, FFAI, Kevin Boyle Fundraiser, St. Mary Church, St. John of God Church, St. Peter the Apostle Church, Hope House Ministries, Manford Missions, Schneider's Children Hospital, St. Anne's Church and Little Flower Children Services.

Myles Scully Division 1 , Westchester Co. has made donations to Sisters of Divine Compassion, Niall Hearty Cancer Fund, Project St. Patrick, Iona College Gaelic Society, Good Council School and NY University Irish Music totaling $6,140.
Division 4, Queens Co. donated $300 to Blessed Sacrament Church and 500 man hours ($3,750) for Holy Child Jesus Social Outreach & Food Pantry.

Padraic Pierce Division 3, Nassau Co. gave $5,100 to several charitable groups and 128 man hours ($960) for the Nassau County Feis.

Patrick Curran Division 9, Queens Co. made donations that totaled $450 to FFAI, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, St. Andrew Avellino School and Glor Na NGail Pipe Band.

Staten Island Division 4, Richmond Co. submitted a report of 257 man hours ($1,927.50) and donations of $13,860 to St. Christopher School, Meals on Wheels, Brian Gorman Fund, Tate Hunt family and Alzheimer Foundation of Staten Island.

Thomas W. Carrol Division 1, Erie Co. continues to report donations to Project St. Patrick, FFAI and Buffalo Irish Center which totaled $1,445 and 36 man hours ($270)

Rev. James J. Browne Division 1, Niagara Co. reported an additional $1,950 to FFAI, United Irish American Assoc., McCarthy School of Irish Dance and Niagara Catholic High School Scholarship. $500 in food was collected and 6 man hours ($45) on St. Patrick's Day for Heart and Soul Food Pantry.

Immigration

Dan Dennehy

Major Breakthrough on Immigration Reform

On April 15, I represented our Order at an informative meeting of the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR) in Sunnyside, Queens along with the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, GAA, United Irish Counties, Senator Schumer and Former Congressman Bruce Morrison. I informed the audience, comprised mostly of recent Irish immigrants, of the long role and commitment of our Order in addressing immigration issues. I related that the total number of Irish naturalizations last fiscal year was at a 10 year low at 1,296 throughout the US. There were only 298 Irish-born naturalized US citizens in New York State (the top number state was NYS). Of that number, the Emerald Isle Immigration Center filed 99 applications or a third of the total within New York State. I finished by stating that this trend cannot continue as it jeopardizes the future of our great Irish communities, our organizations, our heritage and ultimately, our Noble Order.

At that meeting, Senator Chuck Schumer informed us that he would be introducing a reform bill “before May 1.” He spoke with confidence that he would be able to accomplish immigration reform with this bill. Following Schumer, Former Congressman Bruce Morrison, author of the 1990 Morrison Visa said it was “vital that we get something” with regard to “future flow from Ireland.” As promised, on Thursday, April 29, Senator Chuck Schumer along with US Senate Leader Harry Reid and Senator Bob Menendez introduced a draft version of planned immigration reform. The proposed reform includes a two-tier approach where benchmarks on border security, strict employment sanctions and “mandates for detention and removal of unlawfully present persons” must be met in concert with immigration reform. The proposal includes a long path to legalization for illegal immigrants and could change the current family-based system to an employment-based system which would offer "low-tech" and "high-tech" visas.

The highlight of this bill for Irish Americans is the E-3 visa and its 10,500 renewable work visa per annum for future Irish emigrants. According to Bart Murphy, Chairman of ILIR, in order to qualify, undocumented immigrants will need to register, undergo criminal background check and complete other requirements such as payment of back taxes. Upon approval, Lawful Prospective Immigrant (LPI) status would be granted allowing work in the US and travel outside the US. After eight years, the LPI would be permitted to petition for a green card. This aspect of the reform bill would address the AOH demand for correction to the inequities of the late 1960’s removal of quotas for Irish immigrants to the US. I will inform members of further developments on this proposed bill.

President McLean and I discussed the dilemma of Irish tourists and visitors that may have been stranded at area airports due to flight delays caused by the Icelandic volcanic eruptions. Fortunately the flights resumed shortly afterwards, but should the eruptions worsen, we may be faced with a similar situation.

I recently spoke to Eileen Byrne, spouse of Pearl River AOH brother, Joe Byrne. Joe was extradited to Ireland two years ago after a long battle with Irish authorities. Joe has been completely exonerated of all charges and we hope that he is united with his family here in New York soon. I remain in contact with several of our Brothers that face extradition and deportation issues. If you are aware of anyone facing similar dilemmas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am happy to report continued cooperation between our State Board, led by President McLean, our National Board, led by President Boyle, National Immigration Chairman Danny O’Connell and myself on the ever increasing leadership role that our Order maintains on this important issue. We have maintained a working relationship with the Irish advice centers and Irish American lobbying groups. Through this clear line of communication we have been able to assist on incarceration and deportation cases, citizenship and naturalization information and our work towards attaining permanent status for our Republican brothers, undocumented Irish and future Irish immigrants alike.

I believe that our Order’s commitment to this issue has been proven time and again. Our outreach to the member organizations of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers has proven mutually beneficial. With the prospect of immigration reform becoming a reality our Order and its leadership along with a true spirit of cooperation the Irish immigration centers and the ILIR assures that Irish immigrants can not and will not be ignored in any immigration legislation.

Organizer
Edward Rice

As the springtime gets underway, our thoughts should be turning toward making plans for attending our National Convention in Cincinnati. It will be a good time to recharge our batteries as Hibernians, and re-

connect with other brothers from across our great land. The meetings at the Convention are informational, and hopefully, some of you can sign-up to be on the National Organizer's committee meeting. As a positive result, new ideas for our own State organizing can be germinated.

One of those ideas is the recruitment grant program of which divisions should be encouraged to take advantage. So far, the State has dispensed grant money to two divisions. It means some paper-work, but as one of my division brothers pointed out, it's not often that the State gives out money. However, please be specific in how you are going to spend the money. Remember, a Division receiving grant money is required to submit a written report detailing how the grant money was used. Also, long-term goals of membership have to be put forth to be measured against previous membership levels. Examples of how the grant money can be used would be to advertise and to promote our Order. The more we advertise and promote the more chances we will have of attaining our membership goals. We all need to learn more about creative and successful marketing and recruitment strategies that brothers are employing in various parts of the State.

Do not overlook obvious places to advertise your local Division such as the local Church bulletin. County boards should be able to make use of the Diocesan newspapers. The Divisions can ask local Churches to have tables set up to recruit new members after Masses. Much can be done in Churches as good Catholics that we, as Hibernians, are.

I will be in contact with our National Organizer to obtain more posters, tri-folds, table stands, and DVD's espousing the good deeds of our Order.

My recruitment grant committee which includes our worthy State President Chip McLean, Warren Scullin, and Liam McNabb should be congratulated for their patience and guidance in overseeing the dispensing of the grant money.

My work would not be complete without getting leads on new members, potential Divisions, and information on Major Degree ceremonies from our worthy National and fellow State officers; thanks again for all your help. My e-mail address is: jrice13@nyc.rr.com and my cell phone is (917) 209-5829.

National Director and Chairman of Catholic Action

Martin Kelly

It was a pleasure to see so many Hibernians at the annual Right to Life March on Washington in January. Familiar faces like Seamus Boyle, our National President, and Matt Nelligan, National Chairman of the A.O.H. Right to Life Committee, were prominent among thousands of Hibernian from around the country. It is heartening to see the A.O.H. do more than its share in this most noble of struggles.

My home division, Division No. 35 of Brooklyn, honored the Kings Count Financial Secretary, Bob Murphy, who is a member of the division, on occasion of the 131st birthday of the branch. The January salute packed the hall of the Columbus Council Knights of Columbus and was a worthy salute to this fine Irish gentleman.

I've been attending and marching in St. Patrick's Day parades since I came to this country in 1968, but I never tire of being part of the great day on Fifth Avenue. It is amazing that we have endured despite all the brazen attacks over two centuries that are still continuing in this present day. Leading the parade this year was New York's Police Commissioner Ray Kelly – no relation.

Project St. Patrick has received 99 applications from men and women preparing for lives in service to the church. It is a good time to make a donation to this cause that provides for the education of future priests and nuns.

Mike Byrne of Division No. 22 of Brooklyn is the hard-working prime mover of a special commemorative medal to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Order.

Details are still to be released, but it looks like it will be more than worthy of the occasion. Mike has coordinated the production of this splendid work of art and has worked closely with National Chairman Ed Wallace, State Chairman Chip McLean and National Historian Mike McCormick.

Pat Cahill, past state director of New York and currently New York County Treasurer, passed away after an automobile accident recently. Pat was also well known in many Irish organizations around the city and served as a Past President of the County Cavan Association. Another sad passing was Mark Ridge, a member of Division No. 35 when he was a resident of Brooklyn some years ago, and a life long supporter of Irish social and cultural events.

My son and namesake, Martin Kelly, was recently married to Lauren Flanagan in a ceremony performed in St. Jerome's R.C. Church in West Long Branch, N.J. He is well known to many Hibernian members by his attendance at many state and national A.O.H. conventions over the past twenty years.

My granddaughter, Caitlin Martin, finished chemotherapy after over two years of treatment at Sloan Kettering Hospital. I am a thousand times indebted to all my wonderful sisters and brothers who supported my daughter Margaret and her husband Mike and all our family over the most trying of times. Caitlin is in remission and we can thank the magnificent flowing of prayer from all of you. Prayer is the answer and we ask you to continue to remember Caitlin and our family. My daughter Margaret recently gave birth to a daughter, Ann Margaret, on March 29th.

Please contact me at galway21@aol.com with any additional news and comments.

Veterans' Affairs
John M. Ryan

Agent Orange Retro Claims Allowed

About 86,000 Vietnam War veterans, their surviving spouses or estates, will be eligible for retroactive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs—an average of 11.4 years for veterans and 9.6 years for survivors—under a draft VA rule to be expanded by three the number of diseases presumed caused by herbicide exposure in the war. The 86,000 are beneficiaries who can reopen denied claims for these conditions: ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease and chronic-cell blood cancers including hairy cell leukemia. Another 29,000 claims are expected to be approved this year for Vietnam Veterans suffering from these diseases but applying for benefits for the first time. VA plans to hire 1772 new claims processors, starting in October of 2010, to be able to handle these claims. When the final rule is published on April 26, 2010, VA claim offices across the country can begin making payments. To file claims on line visit: http://vabenefits.vba.gov/vonapp/main.asp. Veterans without computers can call a toll free hot line at 800-749-8387.

House Votes to Give Caregivers of Veterans Financial Support

The House has approved new benefits and financial support for the primary live-in caregivers of seriously wounded veterans who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This aid to caregivers is part of a more comprehensive legislation that would permit the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand its assistance to family members of veterans generally. Among other things, the bill calls for seven days of post-delivery care for female veterans' newborns and more accessible health care for veterans living in rural areas. Under a compromise between the House and Senate, caregivers of veterans from more recent wars would be eligible for health care benefits and a monthly stipend to be determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that would be commensurate with commercial rates for home caregivers. Provisions are also made for these caregivers to receive training, education and mental health services. Arrangements can also be made for supplementary care aid for up to 24 hours if the primary caregiver needs to take

a break from caring for veterans who would not be able to live at home unassisted. Care givers of veterans from other eras would be eligible for a more limited range of benefits for now, but Congress could vote to cover them with similar assistance within the next two years.

VA Is Working To Fix Glitches in the New GI Bill

Veterans trying to get an education under the new GI Bill face delayed checks, erroneous payments and uncertainty about what their actual benefits are. The Post 9/11 GI Bill has added a number of incentives, among them; certain service members can transfer their educational benefits to a spouse or child. Members of the armed services are automatically enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill and must take an extra step to opt into the benefits of the Post 9/11 bill, which took effect on August 1, 2009.

Priority Group 8 Beneficiaries
Up to 266,000 veterans from Priority Group 8 - those with lower to middle incomes and no service related medical conditions - became eligible to enroll in the VA health-care system on June 15, 2009 when the qualifying-income threshold was raised by 10 percent. The new national means threshold became $32,342 for a veteran with no dependents and $38,812 with one. For four dependents the benefit is $45,478.

FYI
There is a very useful government web site that can be of interest to all our members. It is USA.gov. The site contains information on benefits and grants, consumer guides, environment, energy and agriculture, health and nutrition, jobs and education and many other topics of current interest. There is also a U.S. Military and Veterans link that contains information for active duty military, family support and veterans benefits. It also contains a veteran's link that outlines many of the benefits that I have previously mentioned. Take a look at this site. I believe that there is something here of interest to everyone.

Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers. God Bless America.

New York State Board Endorses National Candidates

The New York State Board is proud to endorse the election of three Worthy Brothers from our own state in their continued quest to serve our Noble Order.

Brendan Moore is seeking re-election as National Vice President, the position he has served admirably in these last two years.

Tom McNabb is seeking re-election as National Secretary where he has served commendably for many years.

Our Immediate Past State President Matt Nelligan is asking to move forward into the office of National Director; where he can continue to work for all Hibernians.

We ask that all of our membership give these three Brothers their full support as they strive to continue the advancement of the AOH ideal.

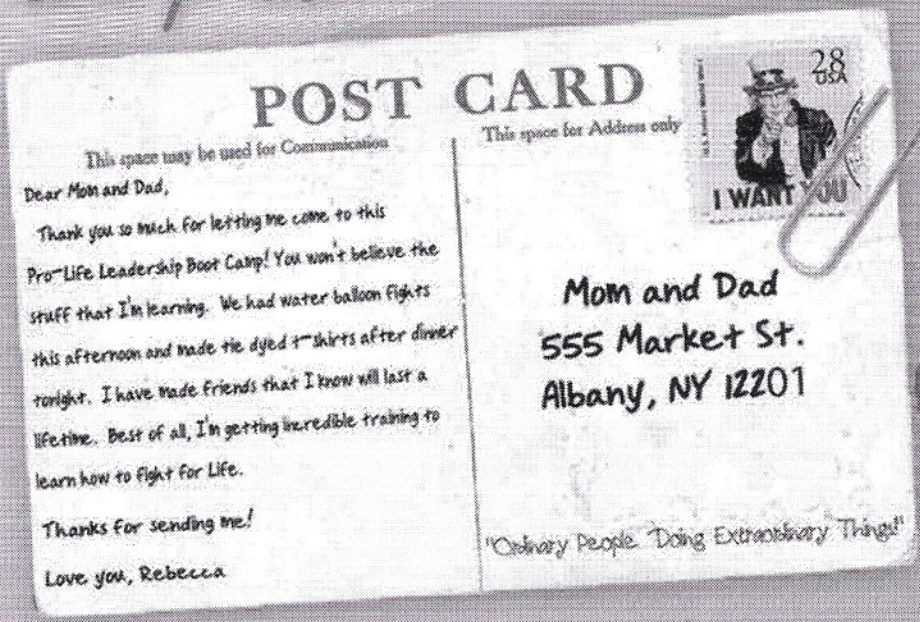
The deadline for the September 2010 issue of The Empire State Hibernian is August 15, 2010. **All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are encouraged to contribute.** Remember, without **your** input, there is no effective communication.

Issue Date	Deadline
December 2010	11/15/10
March 2011	02/15/11
June 2011	05/15/11

AOH
95th Biennial National Convention

July 7 to July 11, 2010
Millennium Hotel Cincinnati
Go to
http://www.hibernians2010.com
for full details and registration information.

New York State Right to Life Presents Camp Esther



In partnership with

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Good News Center

August 6-8th in Utica, NY

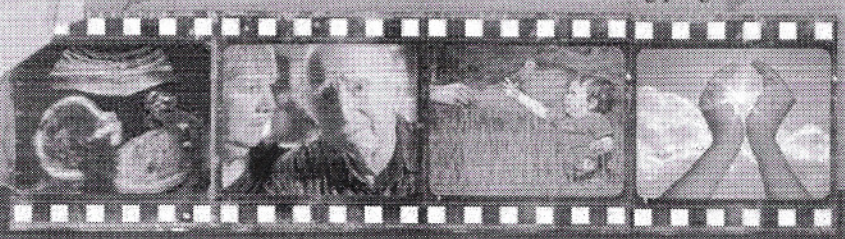
Come to Camp Esther- A Pro-Life Teen Leadership Boot Camp for Students and learn how *you* can help end the atrocities of abortion and euthanasia. The weekend is a blend of intensive training, motivation and tons of fun!

Camp Esther is recommended for any student with a proven burden for Life.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners your cost is only $100 for tuition, room, meals, speakers, t-shirts, and all materials! ($150 if registering June 1st or later.)

Space is extremely limited. Call or email NYSRTL for a registration packet or more info 518-434-1293 or Lhougens1@aol.com with Boot Camp in the subject line.

Many thanks to *Wisconsin Teens for Life and Wisconsin Right to Life* for this awesome Life-Saving program.



Design by Shawn Hunt

Fundraiser to Elect

Tom McNabb
National Secretary

Matt Nelligan
National Director

Auburn AOH 2:00 – 6:00
Saturday June 12, 2010

Music by Kevin McKrell

Donation $20.00

Includes: Guinness, Smithwick's
and Coors Light draughts