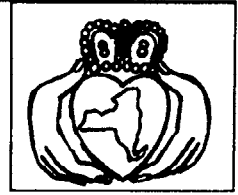




Empire State
Hibernian

*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 3

September 2010

Charles 'Chip' McLean

President's Message

Once again I write to you and thank you all for your efforts, in this case for advancing the goals of NY State at the recent National Convention in Cincinnati. As you all know by now: we were able to successfully have two of our three National candidates elected to office at the Convention. Congratulations to National Vice President Brendan Moore and National Secretary Tom McNabb on their vote of confidence from the National membership of our Order. As a result of all of your hard work the NY delegation was well represented, actively participated in all of the various committee meetings at the Convention and we were able to extend too many of our Brothers from around the country good old fashioned NY hospitality in our hospitality suite.

Unfortunately when it came to electing our third candi-

date to the position of Director, we did not prevail. This is the first time that any of us can recall that NY State does not have a sitting Director on the National Board of the AOH. This is most disappointing and even upsetting not to mention unacceptable. The fact that NY State with a membership of over 10,000 is not represented with a Director speaks volumes. Many of us even detected a trace of an anti-NY sentiment from many regions of the country. This is being examined by your State Executive Board and we are dedicated to addressing this entire issue when the next National Convention comes to NY in 2012. The bottom line is...we need all of you to commit, right now to have your full delegations present for the Convention and the vote when we go to Turning Stone, on the NY State Thruway midway between Albany and Syracuse in July of '12.

We did have other victories from the Cincinnati Conven-

tion that we can celebrate. Our own Mike McCormack has been once again appointed to the post of National Historian. Also our N.Y. State Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy has been named National Immigration Chairman. Degrees & Rituals will once again be chaired by Patrick Shannon. Congratulations to these fine Hibernians.

Camp Esther

Camp Esther is a Pro-life Teenage Leadership Camp that we as a State have supported for at least the last two years. Your State Board has been a partner in providing funding for this camp along with a number of local Divisions who responded to a request from our State Pro-Life Chairman Matt McFarland. Earlier this month I traveled to a beautiful spiritual center in Utica to meet with the staff and the attendees and to see first hand the program that we have supported. I am happy to report that what I observed was nothing but out-

standing. I speak with great certainty when I say that every one of our Hibernians dollars donated was well worth it and served the cause down to the penny. There were 26 young leaders in the camp, many from throughout N.Y. State as well as one from Spain! I would definitely recommend that your Divisions consider donating to this charity when you make up your charitable donation budget for the year.

Project St. Patrick Raffle

The raffle previously announced as our Half Way To St. Patrick's Raffle has been shifted to the month of October. All of the particulars remain the same. 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 October. The ticket will cost \$5 each; the prize will be \$50 each day in the month of October with except Columbus Day (10/12) and Samhain (Celtic New Year's Eve 10/31) the prize will be \$100 on those days. PLEASE, do everything you can to sell each one of these raffle tickets.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment and

congratulate all of the various jurisdictions who endeavor to produce and hold various festivals and feis that promote our culture and history in song or story. Please, always remember while producing these events to keep it all in good taste and to promote our people and all that we stand for at every opportunity. Sometimes in the rush and activity of lining up all of the details for these major events we miss the little things that can come across as derogatory. Be on your guard at all times Brothers. Good luck with the weather and do well. I will try and make as many of them as possible.

Speaking of public events I would like to congratulate our group of dedicated Hibernians who put on the Rockland County Feis as well as the Suffolk County Feis, both were well organized and very successful. The Brothers and Sisters of Green County dedicated a Mass Rock that I was very happy to be a part of. Despite the wet weather both the AOH & LAOH teamed up under their very capable leaders and had a great Mass and ceremony. More jurisdictions should consider such an endeavor so as to commemorate and recall our

history from way back in the Penal Days of Ireland.

Our fall State Board meeting will be held in Staten Island on Saturday, November 20th. It will be held in conjunction with the President's Testimonial Dinner. At the Dinner the Burns-Hayes Award will be presented to Matt Nelligan, a very worthy recipient of the State's highest award. Much work is going into preparations for the meeting and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Vice President

Michael J. McNabb

Immediate Past New York State President Matt Nelligan was chosen by the New York State Board as the 2010 recipient of the Burns-Hayes Memorial award. This is the highest honor that the New York State AOH can bestow, as it memorializes the contributions of two outstanding past State Presidents Jack Burns and Jim Hayes and recognizes the recipient for exemplifying their ideals and work.

New York State President Charles "Chip" McLean congratulated Brother Nelligan on receiving this honor "The Burns-Hayes award was established in order to

recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our Order. Through his leadership and ingenuity at the local, State and National level, I can think of no better recipient than Matt Nelligan. I have worked side by side with Matt on the New York State Board, and I know first hand his accomplishments and contributions to our organization. I know how deeply Matt and his family appreciate this honor, and I look forward to presenting him with our State's highest award."

Elected as State President at age 34, Matt was the youngest person to be elected to the presidency. During his time in office, he made significant progress toward modernizing the recruitment and public relations efforts of the AOH. In addition, he helped to raise more than \$20,000 for AOH related charities and expanded our Order into two counties that had never before had an AOH presence.

District 4

A.J. Smith

This report is written during the time when the Order is in transition. The Convention has ended and most Divisions and County Boards

are gearing up for the end of the summer and a new year of activities. Obviously, the most important event in the summer was the National Convention held in Cincinnati. I was pleased to attend and got to spend some time hanging around with NY County President Tom Beirne and Westchester President Brian Kelly, as well as many other members of the District and fellow officers from the New York State Board.

I am pleased to announce that our District has happy news to report from the convention as Dan Dennehy from Westchester County Division 18 has been appointed the National Chairman of Immigration. It is hard to imagine anyone more deserving and he now serves in the dual role of both State and National Immigration Chair.

The Convention also saw Division 1 Yonkers receive one of the National Community Service Awards for their extensive charitable work. Well done brothers.

During the Convention I was pleased to attend a meeting of the Committee that is working on the 175th Anniversary Celebration of the Order that is slated to be

hosted in the birthplace of the Order in New York City. Former National President Edward Wallace is Chairing the Committee, and NY's own Tom Beirne is heavily involved in assisting with this event. The event is slated for Columbus Day Weekend 2011. I volunteered to help with local accommodation and transportation and gave my report at the meeting. As details become available, I will pass them along.

Perhaps the best coup of the summer was pulled off by Division 18, Peekskill in Westchester. Thanks to the generosity of the Verplanck Volunteer Fire Department, the Division was able to establish a new Hibernian Hall at the historic "Red School House." The facility was built by Irish immigrants and the House was completed circa July 1876. The House includes a meeting hall, extensive grounds and extensive parking. Congratulations.

I feel it is also appropriate to report on the Hudson Valley Irish Fest. To partially quote their press release: "The Hudson Valley Irish Fest, a not for profit charitable corporation and educational trust was established and contributed to by the

combined efforts of the AOH Division 18 and the Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade Committee." 3,000 guests attended the first festival last year and "AOH Division 18 more than doubled its membership". The Hudson Valley Irish Fest will once again be located at Peekskill Riverfront Green on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 11am to 7pm and feature Shillelagh Law, Celtic Cross, Mary Courtney, The Ruffians, hometown favorites Seisiun, and direct from Ireland, Pat Whelan and Just Two, as well as traditional sessions, step dancers and massed pipe bands.

New York County AOH's close affiliation with Old St. Patrick's Cathedral will continue as many members are expected at its dedication as a Basilica. The event is scheduled for December 5 with a reception afterwards, and all Hibernians are invited to attend.

Since my last report, NY County held their annual party and raffle, which was both enjoyable and successful. Many NY County members made special trips in July and August to watch the band Hell or High Water who annually donate their services to the County for the fundraiser/raffle. The

band is lead by NY Division 7 member Tom Wipf, and plays on the third Thursday of every month at the Rodeo Bar in NY.

June also saw the Annual Division 7 Kruise for Kids benefitting Project Children.

Finally, after my first year in office, I want to thank all the members and especially the officers of the Divisions and County Board's in my jurisdiction. Please remember to send me all meeting notices, e-mail is fine and can save you some mailing costs. I look forward to another great year in the service of our organization.

District 5

A. Warren Scullin

As I start my second year as Director of District 5 a region that comprises the Counties of Kings, Queens and Richmond, I would like to thank all the brothers of New York State who have supported me. Your input and enthusiasm during that time I will always remember.

Since my last report I attended a Queens County recruitment/retention strategy meeting on June 22. In July, I represented District # 5 at the National Convention in

Cincinnati. On August 5, I coordinated a District # 5 trip to see a Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game. This event, which was their "Irish Night", was attended by members of Kings, Queens and Richmond County. On August 19, I represented the State in assisting the Brothers of Kings County Division # 12 in reviewing and revising their 2010 membership list.

District 5 will have a recruitment table at The Great Irish Fair at Keyspan Park located at 1904 Surf Avenue, Coney Island, on the weekend of September 18 and 19 from 11:00 am to 6:00 p.m. All brothers are welcome and encouraged to participate in the efforts to expand membership in our order.

Major Degree Oct. 9

District 5 will host; with the CuChulainn Celtic Warrior Degree team of Richmond County; a Major Degree of our order on Saturday, October 9 at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 333 Beach 90 Street, Rockaway Beach, 11693. Candidates are required to arrive at 1:00 p.m with the Degree commencing at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are due on September 29 and can be placed

with A. Warren Scullin at (917)-751-1661.

Queens County Division 7 will be sponsoring a cruise around Manhattan on September 19th. The boat will depart from the Flushing Marina at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$75 per person which includes a buffet and refreshments. Reservations can be placed with Francis Mcloughlin at (212)268-0892.

Queens County will be having their County Dance on Saturday, November 13 at the Irish American Center located at 295 Willis Avenue, Mineola. The Man of the Year is Rev. James Devine. Tickets are \$60. For ticket information and if you are interested in placing a journal ad please contact Edward Rice at (917) 209-5829.

I can be reached at 917-751-1661 and I am looking forward to working with my fellow officers of the State as well as the officers of District 5 to promote the good works of our order.

District 6

Vic Vogel

The National Convention opened with an Icebreaker called "A Taste of Cincin-

nati". The event, featuring local foods, was a hit, and so were the ribs and chili!

National President, Seamus Boyle, Vice President, Brendan Moore, Secretary, Tom McNabb and Treasurer, Jim McKay were reelected without opposition. The AOH and LAOH reached an agreement that will foster future harmony and guarantee continued AOH/LAOH National Conventions. The National Board is working toward establishing an Irish American Heritage Month and will need the support of every Hibernian division.

Congratulations to Siobhan Dennehy of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center for being selected as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Recipient for her leadership on all issues related to Irish immigration. In a time when the United States of America faces so many immigration problems, it is important to protect those who have made so many contributions to our country -- the Irish.

The 2012 National Convention was moved from Albany to the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York. The 2014 National Convention will be hosted by St. Louis. Congratulations to our brothers from Missouri for an excellent

presentation!

After the scheduled receptions, the hospitality rooms provided plenty of socializing and entertainment. As always, the National Convention created an opportunity to meet many new Hibernians and to make many new friends.

Please consider sharing this piece of history with your divisions. On the morning of September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered to the Allies, thus ending World War II. The ceremony, which lasted less than one half of an hour, took place on board the battleship USS Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Supreme Allied Commander General Douglas MacArthur opened the ceremony with an inspiring speech calling for "a better world...a world founded upon faith and understanding...a world dedicated to the dignity of man". Among the many attendees who signed the document that ended World War II were Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Admiral William F. Halsey and Rear Admiral Forrest Sherman. And so the Greatest Generation fulfilled its greatest mission: preserving freedom and democracy for the world. For all of those brave, patriotic mem-

bers of the Greatest Generation, especially those who are members of the Ancient Order of Hibernian, we will observe the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II by recognizing your heroic accomplishments. Thank you all!

Major Degree Oct.24

Division 8 Suffolk County will sponsor a Major Degree of The Order; exemplified by The Tara Court Major Degree Team; on Sunday, October 24th 2010; at the Division 2 Hall in Babylon. All Candidates shall be dressed in jackets and ties and arrive by 1pm .The Degree will start promptly at 2 pm. The cost is \$15.

Contact Division 8 President Mark Donovan @ 631-689-6411 by October 15th so appropriate accommodations can be made.

District 7

John O'Herron

Since my June report, the division meetings in District 7 have been in recess and I hope all are enjoying this wonderful summer weather. I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the National Convention in July and to have shared the major points of business with the

divisions in my district. Congratulations and best wishes to New York's Brendan Moore and Tom McNabb on their continued terms as National Vice President and Secretary.

Broome County's AOH /LAOH Family Picnic was well attended at Binghamton's Ross Park Zoo on August 1st. President Hugh Reynolds and crew manned the grills as everyone enjoyed an afternoon feast under a large pavilion. I was impressed by the 40 ft. x 60 ft. garden the division maintains at the zoo entrance. The decorative garden adds a touch of beauty to the zoo grounds while commemorating the AOH's deceased members.

I was also privileged to witness Fox News cover the LAOH's presentation of a \$9,000+ check to Diane Stento to help support Danielle's House. Diane Stento is the mother of Danielle Stento who was seriously injured from being struck by an automobile in Buffalo N.Y. in 1989. The Binghamton area Stento family spent an extended period of time in Buffalo while Danielle convalesced. Grateful for the support they received in Buffalo, the Stento family created Danielle's House, a

local hostel to provide shelter and emotional support to out of town family members visiting patients in the Binghamton area hospitals. Also included in their summer events, the division hosted a golf tournament on August 7th and held their annual Our Lady of Knock Mass on August 22nd.

My two brothers, Dan and Mark and I represented the Msgr. John J. Lee Division in Elmira as delegates to the National Convention in Cincinnati. We all enjoyed the experience as well as the company.

Irish road bowling was introduced to the division this year and a tournament took place on August 14th. The game sports a 28 oz. cannon ball ("bowl" or "bullet") about the size of a tennis ball which is hurled down a country road. The player or team with the least amount of shots from the start to the finish line wins. The results of the tournament will be in my next report.

The area's leading Irish festival will take place on Saturday, September 11th from 2 pm until 11 pm on the clubhouse grounds. This event will feature musicians Pat Kane, the Stoutman and Hair of the Dog along with

the Caledonian Highlanders and the Ring of Chiarraighe Dancers. Lastly, the 11th Annual Josh Palmer Fund/Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 3rd. This AOH affiliated tournament's proceeds are directed to aid local cancer patients and their families cope with the disease.

Steuben County's Sons of Ireland Division volunteered as score keepers for the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament in July and had their 4th annual Irish Fest on Aug 21st featuring Pat Kane and the Blarney Rebels. The division continues its charitable efforts by contributing \$500.00 to a parish in Ghana for mosquito netting. This is the season for golf tournaments and so the division will sponsor an Irish Open Golf Tournament this month.

District 8

Kevin R. Cummings

The summer has been quiet as many of the divisions have suspended meetings during the months of July and August. The following are highlights of activities in and around counties of District 8.

Greene County AOH and LAOH members held their first Memorial Rock Mass on June 12th. President Tim O'Sullivan reports that while the weather did not cooperate, he and his members appreciated the good attendance and hope to see more at next year's Annual Mass. The Mass Rock is located on the grounds of the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Center in East Durham. AOH and LAOH members continue to plan events to raise funds for improving the Mass Rock site.

Members of Ulster County AOH are holding their Annual Hooley on the Hudson 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. Many musical groups, including Seven Nations and the Andy Cooney Band are scheduled to appear. This is a free event and your support is needed to continue this tradition.

I had the opportunity to attend the AOH/LAOH 2011 Convention planning meeting held in Pearl River Hall on August 10th. The meeting was attended by more than fifty members of the

county's AOH/LAOH delegation. Also in attendance were NYS President Chip McLean, LAOH National President Margaret Hennessey, Past NYS President John Hennessey, NYS Secretary Jim Burke and District 5 Director and 2011 Convention Chair Warren Scullin. The enthusiasm was evident and the planning committees are off to a good start. Continued support at both the state and local levels will ensure a very successful NYS AOH/LAOH Convention on July 13-17 2011. Please mark your calendars. Also in Rockland, members of AOH Division 4 in Suffern held a Memorial Golf Outing on August 31st. The event was held to honor the memory of Vincent Crotty, son of division member, Paul Crotty who died in an automobile accident this past March on his way to baseball practice. Our prayers continue to be with the Crotty Family.

In Orange County, members of the Fr. Emmanuel Hourihan AOH Division 4, along with the women of LAOH Division 4 and the Orange County Irish Festival Committee came together on August 21st to celebrate a Mass in honor of Our Lady of Knock. The Mass was held at the National Shrine of

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown. Members of Joseph Duell, Jr. AOH Division 1 and Mary of the Gael LAOH Division 5 have scheduled a dinner for Orange County clergy on September 17th. The celebration will mark the conclusion of the "Year of the Priest" and will be held at the Church of St. John The Evangelist in Goshen. On October 2, 2010, members from the Fr. Donald J. Whelan Division 2 will host an Irish Oktoberfest and Pig Roast with all profits benefiting local veteran charities. Additional details on these events can be found on the respective division websites.

I wish all Hibernians and their families a happy and healthy autumn season.

Fund Raiser Calendar Chairman

John Hennessy

It was great to see the brothers at the National Convention. I would like to congratulate Brendan Moore and Tom McNabb on their successful reelection. This was a very busy convention and a lot was accomplished. I hope everybody will enjoy the rest of the summer; this has to be one of the warmest summers we have had in a long while.

As of July 31, 2010 we have given out \$4475.00 to calendar winners, some winners have won more than once. Worthy president McLean has asked me to continue the Calendar program for 2011. These calendars will be available the end of September or early October. There will be new guide lines for the sale of these calendars; they will be included with the calendars. Remember this is the only fundraiser for the State Board.

Let's make 2011 a banner year for calendar Sales.

FFAI

Tim Myles

On June 15, the long awaited Saville report on the Bloody Sunday massacre was released. The findings were a welcome relief to the families of those murdered on that January day. British Prime Minister stated the killings were unjustified and unjustifiable. One of the family members stated that now the whole world knows what we knew all along, our family members were totally innocent. Members of the AOH can be proud of standing with the families for all these years. In the days following the report's release there was much acknowl-

edgement in the Irish community for the AOH's continued focus on this tragedy. The full report is available at www.aoh.com

We do not know what will happen next, but there is a feeling that the soldiers who perjured themselves at the inquiry should be prosecuted. The AOH will still stand with the families. We do not know yet what plans will be made for next year's anniversary, though I am sure Hibernians will be there in Derry with the families.

I attended the national convention with focus on FFAI. The FFAI committee meeting had N.I. First Deputy Minister Martin McGuinness address the group. I did ask him about the troubling conditions in Maghaberry prison. Our committee has always been concerned about prisoners' welfare and it is hard to believe we are many years removed from The Maze and we find conditions not dissimilar to what happened in the H-Blocks. I will continue to monitor this situation. **BREAKING NEWS....**As this report is going to print an agreement has been reached to improve conditions at Maghaberry prison.

A pleasant surprise was via Skype, we had Kate and Linda Nash, sisters of William Nash, who was murdered on Bloody Sunday, interviewed as part of our meeting.

Several of us attending the meeting were disappointed that we did not have time for a working meeting. Some brothers questioned me on where our funds are donated. It would have been nice to have a discussion on this. Martin McGuinness expressed thanks to the AOH for support of the David Irvine Trust and the Nash sisters were very thankful for our support of the Bloody Sunday Trust and our cross community efforts. Special thanks to the many brothers who attended this meeting. It demonstrates the importance of the FFAI committee. It was estimated 200 brothers attended the meeting.

Now that the Saville report has identified the British paratroopers as the instigator on Bloody Sunday, the Ballymurphy community wants the deeds that the Brits did in their area six months before the Derry massacre brought to light. 11 people were murder over a three day period. Once again the FFAI committee will sup-

port those efforts.

National FFAI Chairman Sean Pender has just released a tentative tour for next Jan/Feb. It will be 9 nights with stays in Belfast, Derry, Omagh/Strabane and Dublin. Watch The Digest or contact me for more details. This is always a most rewarding experience.

Our NYS AOH FFAI fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 28 at O'Reilly's Pub, 31st St. and Broadway, NYC. Please spread the word and I will need assistance from FFAI division and county chairman to make this event a success. Our support is still needed for many organizations and programs in the six counties. If you can't get to NYC, don't forget Albany's FFAI event on Sat. Nov. 6. Contact Ciaran Geraghty for details.

Buy Irish

Robert Flaherty

Well we have had a great summer. I hope everybody has enjoyed it. I have sent my first group of division homes and Irish Shops to the State Webmaster to put on the State web site under Buy Irish. I am now waiting for a list of Irish Shops in the southern part of the state.

This will also include the homes of other divisions.

I still need your help. I have yet to get information from members in the western part of the state. Don't be afraid to phone (518-399-4960) or email (gelic46@aol.com) me; make the subject AOH.

Charities and Missions Arnold Nagelhout

The New York State Board received the K Club award and the Community Service award at the National Convention for their charitable work over the last 2 years. Soooo! Have you done it yet? Done what you ask. Well, help your state board raise funds to continue making charitable contributions, is the answer. In an effort to raise funds to support Project St. Patrick and other charities requesting assistance the State Board is sponsoring a pick your own daily lottery # game during the month of October. It's only \$5 a ticket. Get your tickets today!

There were several other National Awards presented to jurisdictions from New York State. Congratulations to them.

K Club Awards --- Suffolk County Board; JFK Div.1, Schenectady; Div. 2, Syra-

cuse; Div.5, Albany; Div. 11, Suffolk Co.; Div. 14, Nassau Co.; Hibernian House Div. 3, Pearl River and Jeff Nisler.

Community Service Awards - Div. 1, Queens Co.; Div. 1, Yonkers, Div. 2, Onondaga Co.; Div. 4, Richmond Co.; Div. 3, Rockland Co.; Div. 1, Niagara Co.; Div. 4, Suffolk Co.; Div. 7, Suffolk Co.; Div. 1, Westchester Co. and Div.3, Nassau Co.

An outstanding service plaque was also presented to John F. Kennedy Div. 4 Huntington, NY.

AOH HIBERNIAN CHARITY awarded \$500 grants to jurisdictions for Hunger Projects. Thomas W. Carroll Div. 1, Erie Co. and Rev. James J. Browne Div. 1, Niagara Co. each received grants to be used in their localities.

Since the last edition of the State Hibernian I have received the following reports.

Fr. Henry Tansey Div. 5, Albany submitted an annual report from July 09 to June 10 with totals of \$21,657 and 2565 man hours valued at \$19,237.50. Some who benefited were FFAI, Ronald McDonald House, Irish Heritage Museum, Siena College, Christ the

King School, A V Carew Scholarship, Wounded Warriors Program and Camp Ester.

Commodore Barry Div. 11, Nassau submitted an annual report for June 09 to June 10 donations went to FFAI, Achilles International, Camp Ester, Wounded Warriors Project and Thanksgiving baskets. St. Ignatius Human Services and Holy Family Outreach Pantry received 202 man hours valued at \$1,515 and 5,742 #'s of food valued at \$4,030.

Michael Collins Div. 11, Suffolk Co. submitted a report of \$17,435 donated to various organizations including: St Rosalie Food Pantry, Karen McGuner Fund, Hospice Care Network, Hampton Bays School, Amityville American Legion, NY Right to Life, Dominican Sisters Family Health, FFAI and Hampton Bays Voluntary Ambulance. 3,027 man hours valued at \$22,702.50 was given to St. Rosalie Food Pantry, Little League, Wounded Warrior Project, Adults with disabilities, Project Most, Hampton Bays Beautification Committee and Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Thomas W. Carroll Div. 1 Erie Co. reports 16 hours valued at \$120 in organizing and assisting a blood drive at the Irish Center and \$100 to Camp Ester.

Rev. James J. Browne Div. 1, Niagara Co. reported 23 man hours valued at \$172.50 in preparing and serving over 150 meals at Heart and Soul Food Pantry.

Immigration

Dan Dennehy

This has certainly been a summer to remember!

Let me start by welcoming home Joe Byrne, Pearl River AOH member, following his vindication from the years of deportation hearings and many months exile from his family and friends. Thanks to Matt Reilly, Matt's dynamic family and all the Hibernians who helped the reunion of Joe, his wife, Eileen and daughter, Mairead a reality. The photo of US Rep. Eliot Engle joining the Reilly's and the Byrnes' at the airport for Joe's return demonstrates the perseverance of this Order when we focus on an issue.

The AOH/LAOH National Convention in Cincinnati was an opportunity to meet with National Immigration Chair Danny O'Connell, his

counterpart from the LAOH, Anne Marie Doherty and Hibernians from across the country and address immigration issues.

I was honored to participate in a historic joint caucus of Immigration and Freedom for All Ireland hosted by Danny O and National FFAI Sean Pender. Speakers included Deputy First Minister of NI Martin McGuinness, Rita O'Hare from Sinn Fein, Siobhan Dennehy from the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, Ciaran Staunton from ILIR and Liam Boyle from Thar Saile. Many topics were discussed from Immigration and FFAI including citizenship, the elderly, deportees, Unite Ireland, undocumented, reform legislation, and the Nash sisters, Linda & Kate, whose father and brother were killed as a result of Bloody Sunday discussed the Saville Report by videophone from Derry.

An immediate result of the Immigration Caucus was the unanimous passing on the following resolution on the convention floor. "BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that each level of the AOH shall appoint a Chairman of Immigration who duties it will be to work with the Immigration Chair appointed by

the National Board." I would request, at this time, that our District Directors kindly notify their County and Division Presidents of the need to appoint an Immigration Chairman and please have those Immigration Chairman contact me via phone (914)588-2710 or email

dandennehy@hotmail.com. As legislation becomes closer to reality it is important that every level of our order is working to ensure that we, the AOH and fellow Irish Americans, have a say in the process.

The highlight of the Convention was when my wife, Siobhan Dennehy received the Order's prestigious John F. Kennedy Medal from the AOH/LAOH Boards. Siobhan was honored for her assistance to our Order as Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center "EIIC" and as President of the Coalition of the CIIC. It was great for my daughters, Ashling (9) and Cara (8) and I to witness Siobhan first being introduced by National Immigration Chair Danny O'Connell and then awarded by two NYers, AOH National Vice President Brendan Moore and LAOH National President Margaret Hennessy. Siobhan had received advice

from the Bronx AOH Immigration Committee when she first came to NY and she spoke to the receptive capacity audience of her work and that of the Irish Centers, the importance of the AOH on immigration issues in the past and how we can work together in the future.

Finally, I am honored to report to you that National President Seamus Boyle and his Executive Board have appointed me AOH National Board Immigration Chairman. I have discussed this with our New York State President Chip McLean and I look forward to working with our NYS and National Boards. I have started by reaching out to the leaders of the various organizations involved in matters relating to immigration issues as well as past and present Immigration Chairs throughout the Order. I thank my predecessor, Danny O'Connell for his effort to bring focus on Immigration and once again putting the AOH at the forefront of this important issue.

Organizer
Edward Rice

As I write this report I am finding it hard to believe that we went three quarters of the way through this un-

usually warm summer, and by the time you read this report, it will be a memory. However, I hope everyone had a pleasant summer. The highlight for me was our National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. If you attended it, I hope you came away with more interest in and knowledge of our Order. If you weren't able to be there, I brought back some information that I gleaned from our National Organizer, Chris Norris, who lead a Power-Point seminar on organizing at our committee meeting.

The focus of Brother Norris' presentation was on organizing new divisions which can begin with contacting the local parish priest who can be given information on our Order. Then, the priest could be asked for space in the church bulletin for two weeks. Brother Norris suggested reminding the priest that we are a Catholic Men's organization that can only help his parish. The key would then be to get the help of an influential parish member who would be interested in starting a new division. A person starting a division should be given support, information, and follow-up phone calls. The District Director, State Organizer, and County Presi-

dent should be kept informed about the progress of the division. They should be involved at the organizational meeting stage. Take time to show the organizer's video. Help the division to fill in paperwork for County, State, and National Boards. The District Director should go to the division's initial meetings to make sure the division is headed in the right direction. Brother Norris recommended helping the new division obtain a set of officers' medallions and American and Irish flags. If you have any questions on organizing new divisions, please give me a call or e-mail me. If you need organizing materials, call our National Organizer, Christopher Norris, at (570) 323-7789, or e-mail him at norri-saoh@aol.com.

The AOH video "The Way Home" has been put on the National Web site and our National Organizer encourages us to have divisions show it to their membership. This video has been useful in informing perspective members about our Order's history and mission.

While the work of starting new divisions is important for the growth of our Order, recruiting and retaining members is the life blood of

our Order. Recently, I read in an earlier Organizer's report that divisions have been listed in the Yellow and White Pages of phone books. This could be where new members could find a contact person for your division.

I want to thank all those who sent me e-mail messages. While the weather is still warm, outdoor events are good places to display and disseminate information regarding our organization. We must use these opportunities to get our Orders name out there.

Veterans' Affairs

John M. Ryan

For those of you who may have misplaced your DD 214, you may get a copy on line at www.vetreca.archives.gov. It is suggested that you register your DD 214 with your Town Clerk so that it becomes a permanent record. This helps when applying for tax relief on real property.

Veterans Alliance

The NYS assembly has passed the Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act. Please call your NYS Senator and ask

that the Senate pass their version, S7961. This would call on NYS to study veterans behavioral health issues and to make a plan to assist NYS veterans. There is also no \$ attached to this bill, so the budget crisis should have no bearing on this legislation. This bill will give us a good jumping off point for our veterans advocacy efforts going forward.

VA is easing Rules to Cover Stress Disorder

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

Under the new rule, which applies to veterans of all wars, the department will grant compensation to those with PTSD if they can simply show that they served in a war zone and in a job consistent with the events that they say caused their condition. They would not have

to prove, for instance, that they came under fire, served in a front line unit or saw a friend killed.

Women Veterans

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

FYI Verizon Discounts

This is not advertised, but Verizon is offering a 15% discount to veterans. There are two ways to get this discount. The easiest is to take copy of your DD 214 to one of the Verizon stores and apply for the discount. The other is to go on line at

www.verizonwireless.com/gtdiscounts.

Student Veterans of America

Student Veterans of America is a site dedicated to military veterans preparing to or who are already enrolled in higher education and needs advice on how to prepare for or navigate the necessary processing requirements. See www.studentveterans.org.

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

Newsletter Deadlines

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

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
December 2010	11/15/10
March 2011	02/15/11
June 2011	05/15/11
September 2011	08/15/11

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
NEW YORK STATE BOARD
FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS APPEAL
BENEFIT SOCIAL

THURSDAY, OCT, 28 6:30 PM

O'REILLY'S PUB
31st and BROADWAY, NYC

ENTERTAINMENT BY

TOM CASEY

THE AOH CHRISTMAS APPEAL BENEFITS VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND. THEY INCLUDE RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE, BLOODY SUNDAY FAMILIES, PAT FINUCANE CENTRE, COISTE, CAIDRE AND CROSS-COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED IN THIS CONTINUING EFFORT FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE.

\$20.00 SUGGESTED DONATION

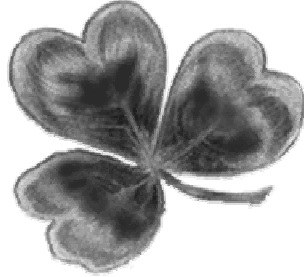
CASH BAR LIGHT BUFFET

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NYS AOH FFAI CHAIR TIM MYLES
TIMTAM614@AOL.COM, 516-660-7456 OR WWW.AOH.COM

CAN NOT ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION
CHECKS PAYABLE TO NYS AOH
MAIL TO TIM MYLES, NYS AOH, 19 HOWARD PL. LYNBROOK, NY 11563

IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE

A.O.H. N.Y. State Board
sponsors
Raffle To Benefit Project St. Patrick



LUCKY OCTOBER

Entire Month of October
Pick Your Own Daily Number
(N.Y. State Evening 3-digit Number)

Just \$5 for 31 Days

\$50 Daily Prize Winner
\$100 on Traditional Columbus Day (10/12) and
Samhain (Celtic New Year's Eve 10/31)