



# Empire State Hibernian

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## President's Message John Hennessy

Brothers

I want to thank those that attended our last State Board meeting. Attendance could have been better not too often do we get to hold a State Board meeting downstate. On the other hand I want to thank our newly elected National President Jack Meehan, from Massachusetts, National Secretary Tom McNabb, National Director Brendan Moore, and National Director Frank Kearney from Connecticut for their presence.

Our Vice President Matt Nelligan gave a fine report on the progress of the Recruitment and Retention committee.

Our National President Jack Meehan spoke on the US- UK Treaty as well as other items.

Now that new elections of Division Officers is upon us, it is important to submit a updated FORM 9, copies are to be sent to the National, State and County Secretaries. A form should be submitted even if there is no change in officers.

Again I want to congratulate Mike Kearney the recipient of the Burns-Hayes award. It was my honor to present him with the award.

I had the honor of attending the 25th anniversary of the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe band from AOH Division 7 East Islip NY and the 60th Anniversary of AOH Division 2 Babylon NY.

I want to thank everyone who attended my testimonial dinner it was quite an honor. I especially want to thank my executive board Matt Nelligan, Charles "Chip" McLean, Mike McNabb and Peter Durkee for the beautiful Hibernian ring. I also want to thank the NYS LAOH for their gift, the Suffolk County Board, the Tara Court Major Degree Team, Mike McCormack the MC for the evening and the man who sponsored me into the Hibernians. I want to thank the pipers. And last but not least my wonderful wife Margaret who with my own division President Walter Butler arranged the entire evening.

Remember use our WEB site NYSAOH.COM or this newsletter to get your information out. Have a Very

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless.

## Vice-President Matt Nelligan

As we look forward to the busy Christmas/Installation season, I have only a few thoughts to share with you. First, I would like to encourage all jurisdictions to take advantage of our AOH State Grant program; Applications were sent to all of you and are also available through State Organizer Jim Burke. This program offers you the opportunity to do some advertising for your division, during the holiday season, with the potential to attract new members. Second, I want to make you all aware that you will be receiving a full itinerary of information on the 2007 State Convention in Albany around the middle of January. This State convention promises to be a great time for all, and will include a unique free night (featuring a free concert by Cherish The Ladies and Hair of the Dog), a golf tournament and an excursion to the Racino and shopping outlets. The convention is being held for the

first time in Downtown Albany, which has seen millions of dollars in investment over the last 10 years. Restaurants, cafes, and Pubs are all conveniently located within walking distance. Suffice it to say in Albany we do not roll up the sidewalk at 5 o'clock. There is a vibrant and active nightlife and many tourist attractions which you can take advantage of. The Crowne plaza hotel has also been totally revamped over the last several years and offers countless amenities. We look forward to welcoming you to our city.

I also want to let you know that our new recruitment and retention guidelines were received enthusiastically at our last State meeting. Brothers offered suggestions for changes, which were all greatly appreciated. A final draft of this document is set to be approved at our May meeting.

As always with the election season upon us, I would be remiss if I did not mention the need to get your financial forms and form 9's in to our State Secretary Chip McLean. This information is vital to keeping you informed of events around the State. Lastly, I would like to thank our Brothers in Elmira for an excellent State mixed bowling tournament. The event had great local support and was a tremendous success. Let me close by wishing each of you a Happy and Holy Christmas season and I hope to visit more of you in the New Year.

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## District 2

Thomas M. O'Donnell

On October 24th, I was pleased to be able to attend and participate in the inauguration of a new division in District 2. Seventeen new members were initiated into Steuben County Division 1 in Hornell! In addition to the new members there are also nine members who transferred from Elmira. NYS Secretary Chip McLean installed Division President Matt McAneney and the other officers. I want to extend special thanks to District 7 Director, Richard "Merc" Morris and the officers and members from Chemung County Division 1 in Elmira who attended and helped conduct the initiation. The new division is the culmination of a lot of work by many people over the last few years. Congratulations to all!

As the holiday season approaches, Divisions will be electing officers for the coming year. Please file your Form 9's as soon as possible so your new officers will receive the information they need from the National and State Boards.

I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

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## District 4

Jim McGinty

Congratulations to President Mike Flynn and the Bronx

County Hibernians on their 100th Anniversary. They celebrated with a Dinner Dance at Rory Dolan's and a 100th Anniversary Commemorative Journal. At the Dinner they honored Kevin O'Connor as "Man of the Year," Joe Cunningham as a National Life Member and all Past County Presidents. National Director Martin Kelly represented the AOH National Board and NY State President John Hennessy was present to bring congratulations from the NY State Board.

President Tom Kennedy reported that Westchester County has kept active after the summer. Division One, Yonkers held their successful Hibernian Day Celebration with Mass, Music, Food and Drink at Coyne Park in Yonkers. President Dana Hickey of Division 16, Mt. Kisco told us that his Division, under the Chairmanship of Jim McHugh just completed its church door raffle for Rosary Hill Cancer Hospital and Hospice of Westchester. They raised around \$13,500. Division 17, White Plains had a very successful trip to Shea Stadium for Irish Night with the Mets. On a sad note, Division 11, Tarrytown lost its President, Barry Clarke to a tragic death. There was a large turnout of Hibernians from throughout the County and beyond at the wake and Funeral Mass. Barry will be missed by all of us, but even more by his brother, County Vice-President, Paul Clarke and

most importantly, his wife and two young children. The Division is planning a fund raiser for the family in the near future.

President E. J. Smith and the New York County Board are busy helping the Divisions get their slates of officers in order and their elections run off in a typically efficient and orderly fashion.

As we get ready for this holy season, the brothers from New York, Bronx and Westchester send our best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas to our brethren throughout the state. NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT.

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## District 7

### Richard "Merc" Morris

Much has happened in District 7 since my last report. The Elmira Division had its most successful Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival to date. This marked its sixth year having it in the parking lot adjacent to the club. The headliners were The Town Pants. All proceeds after expenses go to charity. It was great to see the membership working so hard to put this event together. Thanks also to Charles "Chip" McLean, State Secretary for the visit and the sausage and burger flipping. He worked some long and tedious hours at the food tent. The Dan McCarthy Jr. Boys Division also worked the festival and did

quite well selling popcorn, sodas and caps. The LAOH had another successful corned beef and cabbage dinner as well.

The Elmira Division has lost nine of it members to the newly formed Hornell Division. Several members from Elmira attended and took part in the ceremonies led by NYS Secretary Charles "Chip" McLean. Chip did a splendid job guiding the new membership, as did all participants from Elmira and District 2 Director Tom O'Donnell. I was pleased to see this happen; it was my suggestion that a division be formed in Hornell. Congratulations to Matt McNaney, President and his Officer's. The Hornell Division has yet to be officially named but will be at their first formal meeting. Elmira continues to strive to meet its goal of 400 members for the year and still may make it. They held an initiation for four new member's Friday, November 10th.

October 1 was another banner year for the Elmira Division sponsorship of the Josh Palmer Coaches versus Cancer Fund Golf Tournament held at Elmira Mark Twain Golf Course. This was the best year in the history of the event. All monies go to local Cancer victims. \$10,000 was the reported amount collected!! All with volunteer Hibernian help! Take a bow!

The NYS Mixed Bowling Tournament was held October

28th in Elmira. Thank you to NYS Officers: VP Matt Nelligan; Secretary Chip McLean and Sports Chair Joe O'Reilly and all who came to this event. It was great fun.

November 3rd marked the 32nd Hibernian Beef Raffle held at St Mary's gym on Elmira's Southside. This also was the events best year ever with proceeds of over \$4000.00. All goes to fund local youth sports activities.

The Binghamton/Broome County Division held a very successful Hooley September 15th, attended by NYS Officer's Secretary Chip McLean and Treasurer Mike McNabb. All proceeds went to help Hibernian members ravaged by the recent flooding. Binghamton/Broome Division continues to remain busy. It is my intention to attend the November meeting. I attended the September meeting at which time the Division initiated five new members. The Binghamton membership continues to grow and recognition in the community is apparent. President Stu Fralick and his slate of officers are doing a good job. I expect to report more extensively about the Binghamton Division in my next report.

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## Deputy Chaplain

### Fr. Henry W. F. Reid

Dear Brothers,  
It was great to see so many of you at the State Board Meeting

and Testimonial Dinner for our worthy President John Hennessey. One of the things that was mentioned at the board meeting was the establishment of an all seminarian division in Massachusetts, which I think is brilliant. While comments were made about the lack of dues that this would result in, I still believe that this is a great beginning for future recruitment. As many of you know the life of a priest is a busy one, between parish duties and the little extras that get thrown in your way. This could often become the excuse of certain priests to hesitate to commit to the extras of joining the AOH. However, the more priests that do become involved in the Order, the more of a public presence the Order has in the Church, and also the more inclined is your parish priest and pastor to include Hibernian events in the parish bulletin or even actively encourage parishioners to join the Order. Now while there are a number of great priests who have served the Order well in the past (We would not be the organization that we are without these great men), the younger clergy may not know of the existence of this great Brotherhood. These Seminarians are now members of our organization, and once ordained as priests will be in positions to influence other people to join, especially younger men. This is one of the ways we can continue the Tradition long into the future.

On a similar note; recently I met

a seventh grader who asked if I went to school with someone, which I did. I asked him how he knew them and it turned out to be his father. After I finished feeling old, and thinking a few choice phrases, I sent my regards home with him. The fact is that we have men in their thirties and forties who have children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education classes, not to mention CYO, we need a presence in these places not just to encourage the next generation to embrace the faith, but also to connect with parents who we may be able to recruit. Yes it sounds mercenary, especially coming from a priest. But I am convinced that the growth of the AOH is one of the bedrocks of Catholicism in this Nation, and any recruitment within our Church's structures will only benefit the Church as a whole.

Before I make this too long, I do want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. And while I am on the subject of Christmas, a friend forwarded me an idea that is making its way around the internet. Christmas Cards to the ACLU. These cards should say "Merry Christmas" preferably with a religious theme, nothing abusive in them, as we are Catholic Gentlemen. The idea is that our message will be sent to those heathen secularists, as well as clogging up their offices with correspondence that will have to be opened (thereby taking employees away from

their regular jobs of attacking Christianity). The address is ACLU 125 Broad St. 18th floor NY, NY 10004.

May God's Blessings be upon you this Christmas and always.

## Sports

Joe O'Reilly

Msg. John J. Lee Division 1, AOH/LAOH Elmira, NY had their bowling tournament. Justin T. McInerny is the division president; his committee did a very good job. They made the days bowling and reception go over well. We had brothers from Niagara, Albany, Staten Island, Queens and myself from Long Island.

Warren Scullen from Queens will host the 2007 bowling tournament, more information will follow when we meet in Durham.

Yes we all had a good year bowling and playing golf throughout the state showing friendship, it is important.

Have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year in 2007.

## Hibernian Calendars

Past State President

Peter Durkee

By the time you receive your newsletter you should already have your calendars for 2007. Last year we only sold 505

between the ladies and men. Let's try to do better this year, remember these make great Christmas gifts that give all year long. I already have one of our state officers who sold all of his calendars in one week. I think the rest of us can do the same thing by the end of the year. This is a much needed fund raiser for both the Ladies and the Men's State Boards to carry on the work of the Order.

My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Historian

Mike McCormack

### IS IT HISTORY OR NEWS?

It is often said that those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. If that be true, the questions raised by Sinn Fein regarding their acceptance of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) show they know their history. The questions follow the recent published results of an international investigation which uncovered considerable and credible evidence of British Army and police collusion in 74 sectarian murders during the 1970s. The murders are history, but Republicans today are concerned that history could repeat itself, especially if there remain senior officers in the PSNI who were involved in the collusion reported. They argue

that these officers need to be identified and removed from the PSNI if there is to be a new beginning to policing in the North.

The investigation was done by a panel of human-rights experts from around the world, headed by University of Notre Dame human rights law Professor Douglass Cassel who registered shock at the extent of collusion uncovered. They found that senior officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (now renamed the PSNI) were aware of, and approved of, collusion with Loyalist paramilitaries while officials in London had enough information to intervene, but didn't. The panel's report called on the British Government to appoint an independent inquiry to examine how high up the chain of command collusion went. Professor Cassel said, "Personally I was shocked. The British Government has a reputation around the world as one of the leading democracies and one of the longest histories of the rule of law. To find this extent of collusion in murders we investigated was shocking." Among the incidents investigated were the May 1974 Dublin Monaghan bombings which claimed 33 lives and the Miami Showband massacre in July 1975.

While Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams told Irish-American supporters in New York on Nov 9 there was still more work to be done on the policing issue,

DUP leader Ian Paisley insisted Sinn Fein's attitude is a "major stumbling block". "I have conveyed to the prime minister", he said, "the view that there will have to be delivery from Sinn Fein on supporting the Police Service of Northern Ireland, courts and the rule of law. Until this happens there will be no progress made." Apparently the reverend wouldn't object to repeating the history of Loyalist violence! So you see, knowing your history is important. Check the Washington-based Irish American Information Service at [www.iaais.org](http://www.iaais.org) for more information.

In a classic example of history getting its due, Britain pardoned 26 Irishmen executed during World War I. According to the Irish Shot At Dawn campaign which sought this pardon, the men were "brutally gunned down by British military authorities, not in the name of justice, but as a stupid, spiteful and shameful example to others; most were clearly suffering from shell shock. Treatment of enlisted men tended to be harsher and more punitive and were seldom used on officers whose treatment consisted of rest and encouragement usually accompanied by withdrawal from the war zone for a period of rest and rehabilitation." Many were stubbornly refused the mercy of a pardon by the British Government until Mr. Justice Anthony Babington, an acclaimed expert and the first to gain access to official records in

the early eighties, observed that the military courts hadn't the foggiest idea how to sentence, and that their decisions were arbitrary, inconsistent and irregular. On November 30th 2000 he publicly urged the British Government to look again at some 300 of these cases. In June 2002 the Shot at Dawn Campaign (Irl) was founded in Dublin to lobby the Irish Government and to invite Irish communities at home and abroad to pressure the British Government to grant pardons to these soldiers who were executed for minor military offences which ceased to be punishable by death in 1929. Some were only guilty of disobedience but were executed as an example to enforce discipline. The pressure worked. As a result, relatives of the 26 Irish of the 300 pardoned gathered for a wreath-laying ceremony in the War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge, Dublin on November 12. They praised the work done by The Shot at Dawn campaign, led by Peter Mulvaney. Foreign Affairs Minister Dermot Ahern welcomed the pardon saying it showed the men met a fate they did not deserve. The names of the 26 Irish volunteers will be added to the Irish National War Memorial Records. See [www.shotatdawncampaignirl.org](http://www.shotatdawncampaignirl.org) for more information.

Congratulations to Bill Kreamer of AOH Div 7, E. Islip, Suffolk who was presented with the Legion of Honor Award by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains,

named for four chaplains – one Jewish, two Protestant, and one Irish Catholic – whose selfless courage saved four sailors when they gave their life jackets away on a sinking ship torpedoed by a Nazi sub in 1943. See [www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org) for the full story. The Legion of Honor Award publicly recognizes persons who exhibit the selfless service to community, nation, and neighbor so dramatically exemplified by the Four Chaplains. Some notable recipients have been Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Carter, and Reagan as well as Bob Hope, John Glenn, Martha Raye, James Michener, Marian Anderson, C. Everett Koop, Tommy Lasorda and Shirley Chisolm. And now, Bill Kreamer. Walk proud, Bill, walk proud!

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## Commodore Barry Mike Kearney

My sincere thanks to President John Hennessey and the State Board for selecting me for the Burns/Hayes award. It was a great honor and pleasure for me to receive this prestigious award at President Hennessey's Testimonial Dinner on October 7, 2006 at the Marriott Melville.

I am in contact with the Massachusetts State Board to rectify the situation at the USS CONSTITUTION Navy ship and Museum at the US Naval Station in Charlestown, just north of Boston. During the

National Convention in Boston this past July, I visited the USS CONSTITUTION Navy ship and Museum. It was Commodore John Barry who built and commanded that first United States Navy, one of whose ships, "Old Ironsides", the USS CONSTITUTION, is still in commission, and may be visited at this US Naval Station in Charlestown.

Despite Barry's integral role in the USS CONSTITUTION, the museum personnel had no knowledge of Commodore Barry. After I expressed my disappointment, I proceeded to the book area and picked up a booklet titled USS CONSTITUTION and there in the first chapter "Birth of the U.S. Navy" was a picture of President Washington and Commodore John Barry. I returned to the information counter with the booklet and now there were three museum personnel discussing the issue. I expressed to them that a resolution was passed in the US Congress recognizing Commodore Barry as the First Flag Officer of the United States Navy and signed by President Bush on December 22, 2005, **Public Law 109-142 of the United States**, and that it was to Commodore John Barry that George Washington turned to build and command the USS CONSTITUTION. They were very interested and thanked me for my information - It would be very appropriate that the AOH do its best to have a Memorial to Commodore John

Barry at this US Naval Station, where an enormous amount of people visit every year. Monuments live on for hundreds of years to inform future generations.

In addition, other tasks ahead for the AOH include getting the book **Gallant John Barry back into print**, and distributed to schools and libraries. This would include a major marketing effort through the AOH to get individuals and divisions to subscribe to buy copies of the re-printed book, which should include a copy of **Public Law 109-142**. Other organizations might want to assist in this. Also the book should include copies of songs and/or poems written about John Barry. We should also contact state legislators and/or local Boards of Education and encourage inclusion of the contributions of Commodore John Barry to the founding of the U.S. Navy in school curricula.

The passage of Public Law 109-142 was a monumental step forward in the recognition of Commodore John Barry, but we still have more that must be done.

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### Catholic Action Edward M. Carley

As we approach the holiday season it is imperative, that we volunteer at our local Parish or Community Center. Often both the Parish and the local

organizations are called upon to do even more. They need assistance in the preparation of holiday dinners, home visits to the elderly that should include spiritual celebrations; in addition there are organizations that are preparing packages for our men and women in the Armed Forces. Of course, we will not forget our own members who may have special needs and look to us for assistance.

As members of the AOH we are dedicated to performing Corporal works of mercy and should be active in our community. Either individually or as a group I encourage you to do a little more this year and help those who are not as well off as the majority of us.

Do not forget to keep Christ in Christmas.

I would like you to forward any of your Catholic Action activity to me, so that I can report this to the membership.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who reached out to me during my recent surgery recuperation.

I extend Happy, Holy Holiday greetings to you and your families as well as wish you all a Very Happy New Year. Pray for Peace.

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## Charities and Missions Arnold J. Nagelhout

As we approach the conclusion of another AOH fiscal year, and the change of some division officers, it is time to take a few moments to file a Charities and Missions Report to the State Board. Important information needed by the State and National Boards will be lost if you don't file a report now. If you have the information for July thru Dec. 2005 and didn't file that information please try to include those figures also. Along with monetary donations your division or county board made any man hours performed for charitable organizations should be included. Not sure what MAN HOURS are! Any time spent by AOH members to help others. i.e. visiting the elderly in nursing homes, veterans in the hospital and helping at Red Cross blood drives; food or clothing collections for the needy; assisting at a food pantry or kitchen; assisting in maintenance at your church or school; working bingo or coordinating and assisting at field days or BBQ's. The list is endless. It's time we started reporting the good works our ORDER and its members' are doing.

It came to my attention following the last National Convention, in Boston, that some divisions had submitted a Charities and Missions report to their County Board and assumed their information was

being forwarded to the State and National Board chairmen. Unfortunately in some cases only total figures were submitted to the National Board which could not ascertain if you were eligible for one of the awards presented. While I am both the New York State chairman and the National Charities and Missions chairman you should only send one report to me and I will compile the information for both the State and National records.

I have received 3 additional division reports. Rev. James J. Browne Div. 1, Niagara Falls reporting 400#'s of food collected for the Heart and Soul Soup Kitchen and donations totaling \$2,875 went to St. Theresa Church; Sacred Heart Church; Freedom for All Ireland; Hibernian Charity; Niagara Catholic H S Scholarship; St. Vincent de Paul; Rev. Joseph Hubbard; Catholic Charities; United Irish American Assoc. and McCarthy School of Dance.

Division 8, Suffolk Co. reports \$28,015 in donations going to Project St. Patrick; Sean Murphy Benefit Trust; Holiday Food baskets; Freedom for All Ireland; Long Island Coalition for Life; Hibernian Charity; Assumption RC Church; Good Sheppard Hospice and AV Carew Scholarship Fund.

Joseph Duelk Jr. Div. 1, Orange Co. reports 135 man hours and donations of \$2,059 going to St.

Mary's Food Bank; Thomas Fleming Scholarship; Fr. Carl Johnson; Irish Heritage Festival; Lou Allen Fund; St. Brendan's GFC; Tuxedo Teachers Assoc. and AV Carew Scholarship Fund.

Congratulations for the good work these divisions have done. Remember the Charities and Missions Report form is available on the New York State and AOH National web sites. In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!  
NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT.

## Immigration

Edward Rice

As I prepare this immigration report, the issue of immigration is still a hot-button issue, in fact, too hot maybe for any comprehensive immigration bill to be passed during this session of Congress. Any possible immigration bill is being stalled by the debate over enforcement, a concern so dear to our homeland security. So, the question of building or not building a fence between us and Mexico could postpone any passage of an immigration bill until after the elections in November. Senators Kennedy and McCain have been meeting with religious leaders to reassure them of the need for humanitarian concerns at the heart of a comprehensive immigration bill. Unfortunately, this is where it stands at the

moment. We, as Hibernians, can help break this dead-lock by contacting our Congressional representatives, through their switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and to ask them to speed the passage of the immigration bill.

In the meantime, the Irish Lobby for Immigration, known as the I.L.I.R, has maintained its activist fervor for a more favorable immigration bill. Meetings and hearings were held throughout the Northeast during the summer. Its representatives attended Irish festivals everywhere. The highpoint of their activities culminated in the Lobby Day in Washington D.C on September 7. The turnout could have been better, but the Irish contingent, well-organized by the ILIR, joined in with other immigrant groups and were well received and recognized, especially, with their Legalize the Irish t-shirts. The ILIR is keeping up the momentum for immigration reform. Their cause is one the AOH should get behind and fully support. Visit their website [www.legalizetheirish.com](http://www.legalizetheirish.com) to find out what we can do.

One bit of good news can be seen in the recent news story of how New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer is winning refunds for those 60 some odd Irish persons who were victimized by an immigration scam artist.

Also, regarding Malachy McAllister's fight to stay in this country, the Department of

Homeland Security has quietly given him and his family a reprieve so that he can exhaust all the legal options he has left to lodge appeals against the rulings of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. I want to thank all who helped out Malachy when he needed our help the most.

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## Scholarship

### Thomas Conway

Congratulations go out to Kristen Armstrong of Suffolk County, the 2006 winner of the Austin V. Carew Scholarship. Kristen is now attending Iona College. Kristen hails from West Babylon, NY where she was active in the Juniors, has been a member of the Saffron United Pipe Band, is presently a major degree holder in LAOH Division 2 and is a dancer too! Additional students currently receiving the scholarship are Kacey O'Herron of Chemung County, Jennifer O'Rourke of Suffolk Co, and Janet Miller of Richmond County. I would also like to thank all those fine candidates who participated in the scholarship program and wish them well in furthering their education.

The James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament, which is held the same weekend as the New York State Board meeting in East Durham funds the scholarship. I heartily encourage all our members to support our golf outing. Thank

you to all of our members who generously donated their time, talent and money to ensure that this scholarship can be offered.

If you have a High School Senior in your family, he or she is probably now looking at college possibilities. It is advisable to plan now to apply for the New York State Board's Austin V. Carew State Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving student whose parent/guardian is an active member and who has taken the Major Degree. In late spring, the student must sit for our scholarship exam which tests knowledge of Irish History. In addition the student's SAT scores are also considered in determining the recipient of the scholarship.

It would be helpful if all Division Presidents bring the following information to the attention of their members regarding the scholarship:

- 1) Parents or Guardians of the student must have taken the Major Degree.
- 2) Student must take our Irish History exam.
- 3) Student SAT scores must be provided.
- 4) The application must be completed and returned by Friday, May 18th.

Full details on the scholarship will be in the March issue of the Empire Hibernian

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## FFAI Christmas Appeal

Dear Brother and Sister Hibernians:

This joint letter begins our annual Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal; a collaboration of men and ladies Hibernians which has proven immensely successful in the past. We ask again for your support in giving new hope, new skills and new strength to many in the Nationalist community who bore the brunt of this struggle for nearly forty years.

Even as we recognize the positive developments since the 1998 Belfast Agreement, it is our duty to report that attacks on Catholics and their churches continue. There is still disproportionate joblessness in Nationalist areas. The British government continues to evade responsibility for the many deaths inflicted throughout the conflict by British Crown forces and Loyalist paramilitaries. There are too many to list but the more notorious of these are the assassinations of Rosemary Nelson, Patrick Finucane, the killing of Robert Hamill, and the Bloody Sunday and Dublin/Monaghan murders. Finally, the scars of the mental and physical pain of violence, deprivation and imprisonment still greatly affect Nationalist families as can be seen in rising suicide rates and increased substance abuse.

The good news is that we are there to help as an integral part of the world-wide Irish Republican family. Our funds have been used to supplement vital services suffering cutbacks and target those needs ignored by the British government. Your donations last year helped groups like Relatives for Justice, Doors of Hope/Conway Mill, Derry Legal Advice Center, Coiste na n-larchimi, Tar Anall and the Bloody Sunday Trust.

The generosity of our Christmas Appeal has shown that despite the many competing demands for help, our Order places a priority on the problems, challenges, and hopes of the Nationalist community. Our deep sense of concern goes to the very heart of our being. Hibernians not only talk the talk of an Ireland free of British rule but walk the walk of assisting those beset by persecution and injustice.

Please make this campaign the priority activity of every State, County, and Division. We urge you to follow the progress of the Appeal in the National Hibernian Digest. You are also welcome to join your brother and sister Hibernians who regularly attend the presentation of the proceeds of their generosity and also participate in the Annual Bloody Sunday Commemorative march in Derry on January 28, 2007. For information on this march call 518-482-0349. If you can't join us in person, please join us in

spirit by contributing to help those of our people who cannot help themselves. Send all AOH Donations to: Sean Pender, 13 Scullin Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08620. Send all LAOH Donations to Theresa O'Connell, 19 Elmwood Place, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

Thank you sincerely,

Jack Meehan, AOH National President

Dorothy Weldon, LAOH National President

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### Project Saint Patrick Edward J. Wallace

Project Saint Patrick is a joint Catholic Action program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and friends, created to support Priests, Seminarians and Religious, spiritually, emotionally and financially. Contributions to this project will go into an endowment fund. Interest from the endowment will be given to seminarians, priests and religious in the form of scholarships and grants for continuing education and retreats.

A contribution in memory of your Loved One enables the vision of St. Patrick to continue: to bring the Gospel and the Eucharist to all people.

Memorial cards may be obtained from:  
Thomas J. McNabb  
AOH National Secretary  
31 Logan Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

Please visit the NY AOH website for the most recent updates on news and events at [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com). You can also download copies of the forms and reports that must be filed by the Divisions.

Many Divisions will be holding elections in the upcoming months. Please remember, a form 9, Certificate of Election, should be filed each year ***–even if there have been no changes.*** A blank form 9 has been included with this issue for your convenience.

The officers of the New York State Board would like to wish all of our Brother and Sister Hibernians and families a joyous and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. Let us each take some time in this busy season to reflect on the true reason we celebrate.

The deadline for the March 2007 issue of "The Empire State Hibernian" is February 15, 2007. All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are encouraged to contribute.



**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION  
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA**

**FORM 9**  
( ) Regular Election  
( ) Fill Vacancy

The following have been appointed or elected to office. Their, or his term of office will begin: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert date, or the word "immediately")

(Type or print all names and addresses. Mail copy to each Superior Board.)

Title	Name	Address	Phone #
President			
Vice President			
Recording Secretary			
Financial Secretary			
Treasurer			
Chairman of Standing Committee			
Marshall			
Sentinel			
Chaplain			
Historian			
Organizer			
Chairman Charities & Mission Fund			
Chairman Catholic Action			
Freedom For All Ireland Committee			
Pro-Life Chairman			
P.E.C. Chairman			
Jr. Past President			

Division No. \_\_\_\_\_ County Board: \_\_\_\_\_ State Board: New York  
The above officers were elected or appointed to the office designated on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
President Secretary

**Mail To: Chip McLean 75 Silver Lake Rd Staten Island NY 10301**