

## President's Message

John Hennessy

I hope everybody had an enjoyable summer. It was good to see everybody at the State Board meeting at Auburn. I want to thank President Robert Fedigan and Division 1 for hosting the State Board meeting and the mixed bowling tournament. Msgr. John J. Lee Div.1 in Elmira will host the next mixed bowling tournament in October 2006.

At the board meeting we donated \$1000.00 to the Katrina Relief Fund and \$1000.00 to the FFAI Christmas Appeal Fund. Our State Vice President Matt Nelligan and State Organizer Jim Burke are going to establish a program for recruiting new members and retaining members that have drifted, more details will be forthcoming.

We are now having our local nominations and election of officers for the coming year. Again I want to stress the importance of sending in your Form 9 this is the only way you can get information on what's going on. These forms are available on our website [www.NYAOH.COM](http://www.NYAOH.COM).

It's with great sadness that we note the passing of our Brother

Dan Daly. Dan was a great Hibernian and a good friend. He was a hard worker for the State Board, especially the James Hayes Golf Tournament. Lets remember him in our prayers.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Very Merry Christmas and healthy New Year. God Bless.

## Hibernian

### Calendars

The calendars for 2006 are ready. Immediate Past President Peter P. Durkee is the Calendar Chairman for 2006. He will be sending out calendars to division presidents.

Here is an update of the calendar program for 2005. As of 10/31/05 we have given out \$5400.00 in prizes.

I want to thank you for your support while I served as chairman.

Remember if you don't get a calendar see your president or contact Brother Durkee.

## Vice-President

Matt Nelligan

Before I get into my usual discussion of my goals for the next two years and the events, which

I've attended, I want to begin by offering my thoughts on Brother Dan Daly who was recently taken from us. Dan was a great Hibernian and a loyal friend. He was never given a job to do that he did not accomplish, and he never refused a favor to a friend. His attendance record at events in Albany took him to our hall more often than some of our own members. He will truly be missed.

In October I was able to attend the National LAOH Testimonial dinner for Mary Leatham and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of our division in Schenectady. President Leatham's testimonial shed a light on her many years of hard work and accomplishment. Mary is truly a credit to the LAOH and to our shared motto of Friendship, unity and Christian Charity. The Schenectady anniversary dinner was very well attended and chronicled the Division's 125 years of service to the community, including more than one million dollars in charitable contributions. President Dave Peeney and Vice-President Bob Harrison are to be congratulated for their excellent work on this event. I would also be remiss if I did not recognize the achievements of Tom Quinn who was awarded National life membership and

Bill Dollar who was given special recognition for his years of service to the AOH and to his country. Last but certainly not least I attended the annual Orange County AOH Division #1 Communion breakfast. Many Division members turned out for a beautiful service and an excellent breakfast prepared by District Director Dennis Browne. It was great to see all of my friends in Orange county and impressive to see the division's particular commitment to the defense of the unborn. I was able to pick up bumper stickers, pins and other materials to distribute at my own division functions. It would be great if all divisions could make these materials available for their members.

I would like to report that planning has already begun for our 2007 convention at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Albany. The dates are July 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank President Hennessy for appointing me as the State's Chairman for this important effort. As more information becomes available I will certainly share it with you.

Finally, I am chairing a special benefit concert for the New York State AOH and the District one AOH council. All profits up to \$5000 will be split between the state and district one and all monies over and above \$5,000 will go directly to the State AOH. The Concert will feature the East Coast's most exciting Irish band Hair of the Dog, as well as the Michael Farrell school of Irish dance.

The benefit will be held Friday January 27th at the Capital District Irish-American Center at 375 Ontario St Albany NY. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased by contacting me at 518-729-4563 or i2000@hibernians.com . A full table has ten seats. If you cannot attend but your division would like to support the event, donations are encouraged and welcomed. All donations of \$100 or more, will be recognized on the night of the event, as well as in the State Newsletter and Web site. Donations or payment for tickets can be sent to me at 42 East Parkwood St, Albany NY 12203.

#### Treasurer

Michael J. McNabb

Brothers, I would like to thank all those who attended the State Board Meeting in Auburn on November 5. I would also like to thank all those who participated in the Mixed Doubles Bowling Tournament. I hope everyone had a nice weekend. A reminder the next Mixed Doubles Bowling tournament will be held in Elmira. The NYS/AOH Golf Tournament, The Jack Burns Memorial, will be held in Auburn on August 19, 2006. Please save that weekend. Details will follow at a later date.

Now that the end of the year is here, Installations are in order. Please make sure you send an updated form 9 with the new Officers to our National Secre-

tary and our State Secretary. Also all Divisions MUST file a Financial, Spiritual Membership Report with both by February 15, 2006.

In closing from my family to yours have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

#### District 1

Chris Kelly

District#1's Fall season was highlighted by two very important events.

In October we honored the Schenectady Division with a gala evening celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a division. Many local dignitaries including our local Bishop, Father Howard Hubbard and Schenectady's mayor Brian Stratton celebrated the night. We also had too many state, national and division dignitaries to mention. The highlight of the evening was a presentation, musical and visual, from the brotherhood of Irish history and song. We appreciate all of the support from the state Hibernian community; many came to recognize the great accomplishment of 125 years as a division. Congratulations also to Bob Harrison and his committee for putting on a great night. Finally, a thanks to all of the past presidents and division officers who came to make this occasion special. Their participation will never be forgotten.

Secondly, and not least, the Albany Division held their annual FFAI evening and chose Bren-

dan Moore as their honoree for the evening (National Director, National FFAI Chairman and past NYS FFAI). Brendan and his family were all present as well as too many National, State and Divisional officers to mention. Mr. Moore has fought long and hard for decades to support the AOH charities that go into N. Ireland to support all of the FFAI efforts. The night's benefits went to the Christmas Appeal and I'm sure that Brendan's presence contributed to the strong draw of the night. The one thing that we have left to do is defeat the U.S. – U.K. Extradition Treaty. In accordance with Brendan's appeals, please contact our Senator's Offices and get this off the floor of the Senate. We must defeat his treaty. Thank you Brendan for your passion and years of contributing to the concerns of all of your constituents.

## District 2

Tom O'Donnell

At the October Niagara County Board meeting the members voted to make a donation to the Hibernian Disaster Relief. I am also aware that Niagara County Division 1 also made a donation. I hope that all the Divisions and County Boards in the District will be able to make donations.

Four members from the District (2 from Rochester and 2 from Niagara Falls) recently traveled to Utica to receive the Major Degree from the Schenectady Degree Team. Many thanks to the Utica Division for sponsor-

ing this event. Hopefully, in the near future we will be able to have a Major Degree in the District for the first time since the 1997 State Convention.

At this time all the Divisions are in the midst of electing officers for the coming year. Please submit your Form 9 as soon as possible after your elections.

I hope everyone has a happy, holy and safe holiday season.

## District 3

Robert Jennings

### DISTRICT THREE REPORT

I am honored to be chosen to represent the third New York District of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and will discharge my duties to the best of my abilities. Since assuming the District Three Directorship, I have not yet been able to visit or contact all of the divisions in the district, but rest assured if I haven't gotten to yours, your turn is coming.

On October 1st, I attended a division meeting of the Syracuse Division, presided over by President Dan Case. Highlight of the meeting was a Shamrock Degree ceremony in which two new members of the division were inducted. I was impressed with the high degree of ceremony and respect with which the Syracuse Division performed this ritual. The division also has already donated \$1,000 to the Hibernian Disaster Relief Effort from monies gained at the Syracuse Irish Festival held in late September. In addition,

the division has also donated \$1,276 to Catholic Charities.

My own home division, the Rev. Harold J. Flynn Division in Fulton, while still deciding exactly what percentage to use, has decided to donate a percentage of the monies realized from our annual "Trip to Ireland" raffle to the Hibernian Disaster Relief Effort. The division is also in the process of changing investment strategies for the division's general funds. It is with great sadness that I must also report the passing of one of the division's founding and charter members, Thomas Larkin, on October 18. Tom was a fine gentleman and a great Hibernian, holding every office at the division level and also serving as Oswego County President. Even in his later years, Tom would insist on attending every division meeting and function that his failing health would allow. He will be greatly missed. The Fulton Division held their annual Mass for Deceased Members on November 6 at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Hannibal as well as their annual Thanksgiving dinner for all Hibernian members and their guests at the Fulton Polish Home on November 17.

I visited the Auburn Division in late October, to meet with State Treasurer Mike McNabb and again on November 5 to attend the NY State Board Meeting. Mike McNabb has been a great help to me in explaining some of my duties as Director and it was a distinct pleasure to meet

the newly elected State Board and some of the rest of NY State and National Officers, finally being able to place faces with names.

On November 13, I attended an Oswego County Board Meeting at the Dean Michael Barry Division club rooms in Oswego where a new slate of officers was elected for the Oswego County Board, effective Jan 1, 2006. Outgoing President Doug Malone presided over this meeting. The new President effective Jan.1 is James Goodall, of the Oswego Division while the new Vice President is Daniel Mahaney of the Fulton Division. While at the Oswego meeting, the possibility of a major degree in Oswego was discussed to be held sometime late in the 1st quarter of next year. I will keep everyone posted.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all my brother and sister Hibernians a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2006.

NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT!

#### District 4

**JIM MCGINTY**

The three counties of New York, the Bronx and Westchester have gotten right back into action following our outstanding State Convention on Long Island.

#### New York County

President A.J. Smith presided over the County Board meeting on October 20, 2005 in Cathedral High School. The County is

busy planning its Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, November 18, 2005. All Divisions were asked to work on bringing in ads for the Journal. On October 13, 2005 the County hosted our National President Ned McGinley and State President John Hennessy at a Hurricane Katrina Fund raiser in O'Neill's on Third Avenue. It was a most enjoyable and successful evening.

Division 9 President Bill Reilly reported that His Division has begun to support several parishes in Louisiana damaged in the hurricane. They are sending funds through his Pastor to several of his seminary classmates. Division 7 will combine their annual dinner with a cruise aboard the Spirit of New Jersey on Friday, November 4, 2005 for a three-hour moonlight cruise in New York Harbor. Proceeds will benefit the Frank T. Carvill Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Fighting 69th Children's Trusts and The New York Fallen Heroes Foundation.

#### Bronx County

President Mike Flynn reported that the Bronx County Board would hold a yearlong celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The Board was founded September 15, 1905. Dan Dennehy the County Vice President has been appointed Chairman of the Centennial Committee. Their first event of the Celebration was the Bronx County Centennial Mass on Saturday, October 1, 2005 in St. Barnabas Church with a well-attended reception following in the High School.

During the reception, graced by the Consul General Tim O'Connor, former Congressman Mario Biaggi, NYC Parade Chairman John Dunleavy and National Director Brendan Moore, State Senator Jeff Klein presented the County Board with a Proclamation.

The next Event in the Centennial Celebration will be Annual County Dance on Sunday, November 13 in Rory Dolan's from 3 to 7pm. In honor of this Centennial, The Bronx County Board has been invited to march in the Honor Division on March 17th in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

#### Westchester County

President Tom Kennedy presided over his first County Board meeting on September 29, 2005. He announced that the Annual County Dance would be held on December 10, 2005 in Morley's at the Dunwoodie Golf Club. The honoree will be Past County President Tom Maguire.

Division 1, Yonkers reported a very successful Hibernian Day Celebration with music, food and drink in Coyne Park on McLean Avenue. The day was dedicated to the memory of FDNY Member Sean Patrick Tallon who was with us on Sept. 9, 2001 at our celebration and gave his life trying to rescue people 2 days later. A donation was made to the Sean Tallon Memorial scholarship Fund at St. Barnabas Elementary School.

Division 11, Tarrytown had a great Field Day in Pierson Park right on the Hudson River on July 24, 2005. Plenty of music, food, drink and games for the kids.

Division 18, Peekskill is planning a Division Dance November 19, 2005 in the Cortlandt Colonial.

## District 6

Jeff Nisler

I am really sorry I could not make it to the November meeting in Auburn. I was really looking forward to it. But, on top of my own personal issues that prevented me from being with you that day, my dad was recovering in the hospital after knee replacement surgery, I had also just learned that my mom, Eileen, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. When it rains it pours.

As we are in the division election cycle, it appears that many Divisions are in favor of two-year terms for division officers. Some will begin the two-year cycle now, and some will forego elections this year and start their two-year cycle next year. This will make it easier on the County Boards installation teams. If your division has not brought this topic to the floor yet, you should consider it.

I must also remind the divisions that: IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE FORM 9 ELECTION REPORTS ARE FILED WITH NATIONAL, STATE, AND COUNTY

BOARDS!!! Last year 6 divisions in the district failed to do so - I want to see all divisions tend to this PROMPTLY. Even if there is no change in the officers, you are still required to submit an election report.

On October 1, Division 17, Long Beach held their annual Parade and Irish Festival. They had beautiful weather and a record turnout.

On October 30th, Division 15, Massapequa held their Communion Breakfast and Mass.

Congratulation to Harry Degan of Nassau and James Glynn of Suffolk on their selection as their counties Aid to the Grand Marshall of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

On November 12, Division 5 held their annual dance at the K of C Hall in Mastic honoring Brother James Mannix. The event was a success as about 90 people attended and had a good time.

Congratulations to our National Historian Mike McCormack of Division 8, Selden on the honor of receiving his National Life Membership. He was also the honored guest at the Siol na hEireann Pipers Ball on November 10th.

Another event at Division 8 which will have passed by the time you read this is the concert to benefit Sean Murphy on Sunday, November 27th 2-10pm at the hall. I'm sure that donations will still be much appreciated; send them to: AOH

Division 8, Middle Country Hibernians, P.O. Box 308 Selden, NY 11784. Make checks payable to "Sean Murphy Trust"

On September 13, Division 11, Hampton Bays held their 4th annual Golf Outing.

On October 23, Suffolk Co. held both a Shamrock Degree, conferred by Division 2, Babylon, and a Major Degree, conferred by the Tara Court Major Degree Team. About 55 members received their degrees, which went off very well, and was followed by an impressive meal hosted by the brothers from Babylon. Great work guys! Thank You.

Congratulations to Brendan Moore, National Director and Freedom For All Ireland Chairman, and long time member of Division 2, Babylon. The Father Tansey Division, Albany County's Division 5, presented Brendan with the Father Murphy Award at their annual FFAI Christmas Appeal Concert on November 12th.

Suffolk Co. is organizing a Hurling Club. Please pass the word that anyone who has interest should contact Pat Philbin or Jim Jensen of Division 7, East Islip.

There will be a benefit concert at The Church of The Good Shepherd in NYC on January 14th for Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in Covington, LA. Father Sean Duggan, OSB will be performing.

Attendance at State and County Board meetings is a duty of ALL Division Officers. I strongly urge all the officers to make more of an effort to attend these meetings. This is truly for the good and welfare of the order.

I ask again that each division on Long Island add me to your mailing list for newsletters, meeting notices, and any other correspondences. My address is: 33 Corlett Place, Huntington Station, NY 11746.

It makes me cry to even report this... We had some very sad news on Sunday, November 13th. As the Tara Court Major Degree Team was about to leave to perform the Degree in Rockland County, Joe O'Reilly was informed of the tragic loss of his daughter. The Degree Team sadly went on without Joe that day and said The Rosary on the bus ride up.

In closing, please remember the O'Reilly family, Mike McCormack, and my Mom and Dad in your prayers.

District 7

Richard Morris

Broome Co. Pres. Tom Boslet  
On September 20th my Aide de Camp, Dick Dalton and I attended the first meeting, post summer, at the Binghamton, Broome County Division. I met with President Tom Boslet and his officers. It was a well attended and well run informative meeting with a host of agenda

items discussed about events over the summer. At this meeting the membership voted to donate \$1000.00 to the victims of the Katrina hurricane through HDRE. The Division has been gearing up for an Advanced Degree in Utica October 15<sup>th</sup>. Officer nominations were named at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting elections follow in November. The Division has its own website very well run by Webmaster Pat Harding, WWW.BCAOH.com

Chemung Co.

Pres. Justin McInerny

This being my home Division I have attended/worked many benefit functions over the summer. The Elmira Division is always busy with some fund raising effort and is most proficient at it. They have held the Fifth Annual Half Way to Saint Patrick's Day Festival and donated, we are proud to say, all proceeds after previous commitments, to the Katrina Disaster Relief Effort (HDRE), the sum of \$3000.00. Brother Tony Fitzpatrick has been the Chairman of this most successful event from the onset. CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY "FITZ" HIS VOLUNTEER'S, and to the LAOH for their corn beef dinner.

It was the best year ever for the Josh Palmer Cancer Fund Golf Tournament, raising over \$6000.00 dollars through the efforts of the Elmira Division AOH sponsorship. The Elmira Division is far and away the leader in this local community fund raiser and spends a lot of

time and volunteer effort on this event. Josh Palmer and his Dad are both Hibernian members. Josh is a lymphoma cancer survivor. Jim has served as Vice President. All proceeds from the golf tournament and the Coaches VS Cancer Tournament in November go to help distressed victims and their families who live in the local area. The idea for the golf tournament came from Division members Lynn "Chico" Rice, Tom Corcoran and others, Tony Murray, Joe Kozmicki and volunteers from the ladies division all helped out to make it a reality. I am happy to report Jim Palmer of the Josh Palmer Fund has committed to donate all proceeds from the sale of t-shirts and caps to HDRE.

The Dan McCarthy Junior Boys Division is alive and kicking and growing. The boys have took in three new members at their September meeting and recently made a trip to Syracuse to watch the Orangemen play. They are setting their agenda for the rest of this year and next with plans to visit Ellis Island and Jim Thorpe, Penn.(Molly McGuires). These are great trips for fathers and sons and grandfathers, sons and grandsons to create fond memories, work together and mold some spirit. A fund raising spaghetti supper is in the plan and the boys are going to adopt a family for Thanksgiving/Christmas. We thank Kevin McCarthy (Dan's son) for getting involved and for his good work and Dick Dalton and all the others who

worked to keep the boys division going.

I nearly forgot, November 4th the Men's Division will hold its annual 'Beef Raffle' at Saint Mary's, Marion Center. All proceeds from this event go to fund local sponsorships of area Small-Fry football/basketball Little Leagues and various other events for kids.

I served as Chairman of Nominating Committee with Lynn "Chico" Rice and Tom Corcoran. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

Cortland Co. Div. 1:

Led by Ron Barrows

I have been in contact with Ron Barrows and Ron Walsh and regret to report interest in this Division is on the decline. President Hennessy and others are aware of the situation, they have offered me their support to help in any way possible and I assure you I will keep plugging away to get matters in hand. I understand the Cortland Division has been a matter of concern for some time. I have been awaiting some response from Ron Barrows and/or Ron Walsh about a meeting to discuss and resolve prevailing issues. I can state, I will be in contact with someone from the Cortland Division before the month of November is over and will dedicate efforts to keep the Charter in Cortland and perhaps increase their division membership. There are many members in the division with leadership skills and I'm certain someone

will come forward to save the day!

Tioga County:

It is with deep regret I inform you of the death of David "Dusty" Shaw, President of the Tioga Division. I never met with David, only talked to him on the phone to set up a division meeting date. He hadn't set up a meeting date but was going to invite me to attend when he did. It seems two or three days after I talked to him, he died. Dave lived in Sayre, Pa., and I was unaware of his death. I have been unable to contact anyone in the area of Waverly, N.Y. or Sayre, Pa., who has any knowledge of David's AOH activities. No one answers David's phone when I call. I have had discussions about the Tioga Division with Past Director of District #7 Leo Kane, who informed me he had been having difficulty with this division when he was Director; he had met with David at a "meeting" when David was the only member present. I need guidance and someone to contact who is a member of this division.

For what it's worth, I apologize for the negative news. I assure you I will strive to correct any inequities I can.

District 8

Dennis P. Browne

Worthy President, Brother Hibernians, since my election to the position of Director for District Eight, New York State Board, I have been in contact with eleven of the twelve Divi-

sion Presidents and two County Presidents in the District. In the coming months I will install the newly elected division boards, and remind them of the obligations relative to Form 9s and financial reports.

Congratulations to the Rockland County Hibernians on the dedication of their Great Hunger Memorial and their fundraiser for hurricane Katrina relief.

Likewise in Orange County the Hibernian brothers have been busy with many relief missions particularly their 4th annual 'Adopt a Platoon' program in which they send many items to our service personnel deployed in the Middle East. They have also contributed to the relief of the victims of the hurricanes in Louisiana and Florida.

It is with deep regret I report the passing of Brother Dan Daly, Division 1, Greene County. Please remember him and all our brother Hibernians who have passed to their eternal reward.

23-343-37

Lest we forget.

Catholic Action

Edward M. Carley

By now you have all received notification from National President Ned McGinley about the establishment of the Hibernian Charity and the initial donations being directed towards the Hibernian Disaster Relief Effort earmarked to assist over three hundred families in the

New Orleans area. This charity is important to us because it means that our contributions will reach AOH members whose lives and homes have been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Charity begins at home as we all know, please be as generous as possible. Remember that Christ has mentioned many times in the scriptures that we are to help our less fortunate and that our ticket to heaven will be measured accordingly.

It seems that we are always being solicited for money. This is the only way organizations have to do their good works. The Hibernian Charity can help us be our conduit to heaven, use it wisely. Remember what Christ said: "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

I have been in touch with Mary Hogan, New York State Ladies AOH Catholic Action Chairwoman, in regard to a joint prayer effort for world peace and hope to present a program to the membership in the months to come. In the meantime please pray for peace at your monthly meetings.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Thomas Conway

First, I would like to say how pleased I am to be given the opportunity to serve New York State in the capacity of Scholarship Chairman. I thank Presi-

dent Hennessy for bestowing this honor and I look forward to serving our Order in this role.

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 19th.

The scholarship is funded by the James F. Hayes Memorial Golf Tournament, which will be held this spring in East Durham on May 5th. Plan now for the golf outing to help support this endeavor and enjoy a day on the links. What a great combination!

Full details on the scholarship will be in the next (March) issue of the Empire Hibernian.

This year, with the help of Division 7 East Islip and their President Pat Philbin, we are offering a raffle to augment the Jim Hayes Golf Tournament. "A Day At The Ballpark" will entitle the winner to 4 tickets to Yankee Stadium or Mets Shea Stadium for a game and date of their choice during the 2006 Season (Some restrictions may apply). The chances are priced at \$5 each, 3 for \$10, or 5 for \$15. The drawing will take place the weekend of the NYS board meeting in East Durham on May 6, 2006.

## FFAI

Brian J. Nelligan

Brothers much has happened over in the North since the last newsletter. The IRA has decommissioned all of its arms, finalizing one of the last issues preventing the government from forming again. Unfortunately, instead of moving forward to a peaceful and eventual united Ireland, the stand the unionists have decided to take is to say that this is not enough - they have created more conditions, even though 2 clergy, one a Protestant Minister, the other a Catholic Priest, witnessed the decommissioning of the arms and General DeChastelain has stated he is completely satisfied. Now is an instrumental time to contact your local Congressman/Congresswoman and Senators Schumer and Clinton to

encourage them to help the peace go forward.

I will soon be sending out a petition that I will ask all to sign and send to their representatives in Washington. At this time I also want to congratulate Brendan Moore who was honored by Albany Division 5, Fr. Henry Tansey Division, with the Fr. John Murphy award. Brendan is truly worthy of this and many awards for his work in helping the people of the North realize their dreams.

Lastly I know we have a lot of requests for donations but please remember the Christmas Appeal and the especially the \$10 Club. New York has always lead in donations and I want us to continue being in the forefront of all donations.

## Commodore Barry Mike Kearney

Some progress has been made with the Commodore Barry Resolutions in the United States House of Representatives and in the United States Senate, but we still have a lot of work to do in getting cosponsors for the resolutions.

Congressman Peter King (NY) re-introduced a House Joint Resolution in the United States House of Representatives on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005, recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy. Bill #: H.J.RES.38. The resolution now

has 44 cosponsors. Please request the following US Representatives from NY State to cosponsor House Resolution H.J.RES.38:

Gregory Meeks (St. Albans) (202) 225-3461, Jerrold Nadler (New York) (202) 225-5635, Edolphus Towns (Brooklyn) (202) 225-5936, Major Owens (Brooklyn) (202) 225-6231, Nydia Velazquez (Brooklyn) (202) 225-2361, Charles Rangel (New York) (202) 225 4365, Jose Serrano (Bronx) (202) 225-4361, Sherwood Boehlert (Utica) (202) 225-3665, Thomas Reynolds (Williamsville) (202) 225-5265, Brian Higgins (Buffalo) (202) 225-3306, Louise McIntosh Slaughter (Rochester) (202) 225-3615, Randy Kuhl (Bath) (202) 225-3161

Senator Arlen Specter [PA] re-introduced a Senate Joint Resolution in the United States Senate on July 26, 2005, recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy. Bill #: S.J.RES.21. The resolution currently has 6 cosponsors: Sen Snowe [ME], Sen Collins [ME], Sen Corzine [NJ], Sen Lautenberg [NJ], Sen Lieberman [CT], Sen Schumer [NY]. Please call Senator Clinton (202) 224-4451 and other US Senators and ask them to cosponsor Senate Resolution S.J.RES.21, recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

Here are a few more reasons why these Resolutions should be passed without further delay.

A Jewish chapel and center was built with nearly 2 million dollars of federal funds at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. From September 16-18 2005, several events took place at the Naval Academy celebrating the opening of the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. Formal dedication took place on the last day.

Another interesting development: The Washington Times devoted a page on Oct. 13, 2005 to the fact that Navy Historians are joining with a Mr. Reaveley, who was born in England, "to try to find Revolutionary War Hero John Paul Jones' ship, the Bonhomme Richard, which sank in the North Sea in 1779." They are hoping to retrieve one of the 42 guns from the ship that could be placed alongside Jones' Memorial at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. This expedition is scheduled to get underway next summer. Also collaborating in the search are researchers from the University of New Hampshire and English Heritage, the organization responsible for historic preservation projects in the United Kingdom. To my knowledge, there is no memorial to Commodore John Barry at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. It is long past time that Irish Americans secure Commodore John Barry's rightful place in American history. For too long his contributions to the founding of the Navy have been ignored by current historians and academia.

That is why it is so important that we succeed in getting these

Barry Resolutions passed in the next few months. This is a test of the ability of Irish Americans to get the job done. Failure is not an option. Your help is urgently needed.

## Sports

Joe O'Reilly

Brothers, I am proud to be your sports chairman. It is important for us to support each other in the sports that we enjoy so much. I will be working with our Webmaster to post advance notice of events so that you may plan your travels accordingly.

EXAMPLE;

Annual James P. Hayes Golf Classic and Raymond J. Meehan Memorial Trophy at Sunny Hill Resort and Golf Course, East Durham. May 5, 2006. This event funds our scholarship program.

Jack Burns Golf, Saturday, August 19, 2006 at the Dutch Hollow Golf Course in Syracuse.

Please let me know ASAP of any event you want posted in the sports section of our website.

## Immigration

Edward Rice

I would first like to express my appreciation to President Hennessy for having appointed me as his Chairman of Immigration. I am more than pleased and flattered to be service to Pres. Hennessy's administration. I'm proud to say that this is not the first time I served as New York State Chairman of Immi-

gration. However, much has changed since the last time I filled that position. Nevertheless, the challenges facing the New Irish when they arrived in this country remain ever constant. When I was first Immigration Chairman, the undocumented Irish were being counseled to take advantage of the Morrison Visa bill. We now live in a post 9-11 world where all diversity immigration bills may be a thing of the past, as the country, in more of an anti-terrorist frame of mind, would narrow legal immigration possibilities to those with family and employment connections, coupled with stringent penalties on those who overstay their visits to the U.S. We are placing a lot of hope in the passage of a new immigration bill for the 2000's, the proposed Kennedy-McLain bill of which the Irish government is fully supportive.

In the short time since I assumed my position as Chairman of Immigration, I was able to represent the State Board at the annual Emerald Isle Immigration Service Dinner Dance. I applaud everything they have done for recent Irish immigrants. Currently, they are helping applicants in the current round of visa lottery, DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY (DV-2007), in which applications for a visa must be submitted electronically online with an attached digital or scanned photograph at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). They have only until December 4, 2005 to apply. Winners will be announced in the summer of

2006 and called to interview in 2007. On the other hand, I can decry the recent preying-upon of Irish immigrants with the issuance of phony Green cards. I think we all as Hibernians should be alarmed and disgusted by this kind of fraud. On that score, I would recommend that any applicant in this round of visa lottery should be suspicious of any site that charges money for visa application services as government forms and instructions for filling them out are free of charge.

Finally, I'd like to say that I've continued in the footsteps of my predecessor, Billy Reilly, who was very involved in the plight of Malachy McAllister and his family. I want to thank Bill for his composing of the letters to our congressmen seeking an end to the deportation proceedings against Malachy who is a Hibernian brother from New Jersey. We're hoping that through the intercession of our congressman that the Department of Homeland Security will stop its deportation proceedings against him. We are still waiting for the decision to come down from the Federal courts. I will continue to work with Malachy, and I will monitor his situation.

## Historian

Mike McCormack

In 1982, archeologist Robert Pyle examined a rock carving in West Virginia, which he estimated, was made between 500 and 600 AD. He gave the story to a local magazine, and a reader sent a copy of the maga-

zine to Ida Jane Gallagher, a native Virginian working as a historian in Connecticut. She contacted the editor, seeking more information, and was invited to visit the carving.

In November 1982, Dr. Pyle led her to a rock ledge, where she had her first look at a 10-foot inscription carved on a recessed cliff face beneath a natural rock overhang. Convinced that it was a major find, she contacted Harvard Professor Barry Fell, an expert on ancient inscriptions, who immediately recognized it as the Celtic script, Ogham. He translated the Ogham into Old Irish, from Old Irish into modern Irish, and then into English. The message thus deciphered read, "A ray will graze the notch on the left side, at the time of sunrise on Christmas Day, the first season of the year, the season of the blessed advent of the savior Lord Christ, behold he is born of Mary, a woman." Many scoffed at the translation, but Dr Fell noted the accuracy of the translation could be easily verified.

Knowing that the ancient Celts were remarkable astronomers who often used the winter solstice as a calendar mark, and since the Christmas season was nearing, a small group met at the cliff on the night of December 21, 1982. As the dawn sun broke and climbed behind them, it spilled its rays over the mountains toward the cliff face before them. They watched in amazement as the first shaft of sunlight funneled through a previously unnoticed notch in

the cliff overhang, and like a flashlight beam, struck the dead center of a sun symbol on the left side of the panel. Since the sun rises in a different spot each morning, its rays hit that symbol only at that time of the year – it is the winter solstice. Transfixed, they watched as the rising sun pushed the shadow from left to right, bathing the entire message in sunlight, like a prehistoric neon sign announcing yet another Christmas as it had done for centuries. They had just received a Christmas message across the ages.

Dr. Pyle soon learned of a larger carving nearby which Dr Fell called, "a sensational find". He believed it to be the world's longest Ogham message. He dates it between the 6th and 8th century, and it translated to read, "A happy season is Christmas, a time of joy and goodwill to all people. A virgin was with child; God ordained her to conceive and be fruitful. Behold a miracle. She gave birth to a son in a cave. The name of the cave was the Cave of Bethlehem. His foster father gave him the name Jesus, the Christ, Alpha and Omega. Festive season of prayer." By 1995, 14 more petroglyphs, both large and small, had been discovered between West Virginia and the Ohio River on either side of a natural ancient trail called Indian Ridge. All have been identified as Ogham, and are now under investigation. Celtic scholars who have visited the sites have declared the West Virginia petroglyphs are as im-

portant to Celtic history as the Dead Sea Scrolls.

We may never know who carved these messages, but their existence provides important proof of an old claim. It was long believed that in the sixth century, Irish monks sailed to distant lands to spread the gospel, and a monk named Brendan wrote of his travels to North America in a book entitled 'Navagatio Brendini'. But the lack of hard evidence allowed skeptics to call his story legend. In 1977, author Timothy Severin duplicated St Brendan's voyage in a leather-covered curragh built to Brendan's own specifications just to prove that it could be done. Yet, skeptics still argued that possibility and probability are not proof.

Today, the West Virginia petroglyphs stand as irrefutable evidence for all to see - religious messages, left on America's shores between 500 and 800 AD. The dates coincide with the dates that Irish missionary monks traveled the world spreading the Christian message, the messages match those which were spread through the zeal of those missionaries, and the Irish were the only ones using Ogham at that time. The inescapable conclusion is that the messages were left by Irish Christian missionaries. And each year, on the winter solstice, the rising sun places a fresh stamp of authenticity on America's first Christmas Cards.

Happy Christmas to all and until next time, remember: History is not just a thing of the past; together we can Keep the Tradition Alive!

## Deputy Chaplain

Henry W. Reid

By the time this newsletter reaches you, I may already be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate. The date for this milestone in my life is December 8th, and I hope that if you read this beforehand, that I will have your prayers on that day.

As we, that is my class, have been preparing for our Ordination we have been discussing the various cultural aspects of music and liturgy for the day. Out of the five of us that began the seminary together, and the three of us that will be ordained, I am the only one that is American born. Over the years as I have experienced the faith of my fellow seminarians, I have realized how deeply their Catholicism is rooted in their cultures; how deeply it speaks of who they are as a people. Having been brought up as an American, but also exposed to Irish culture, I sometimes regret that our Catholic faith is not as deeply rooted in our American culture. This is one of the reasons I am so proud to be a Hibernian. Not only do I have that connection with Irish culture, but with my Catholic faith. In fact, I have to say that Irish culture is a Catholic culture. Even at the current time, when Ireland is experiencing long awaited and long deserved eco-

nomie prosperity, the question must be raised "At what price?" The secularism that has taken over in Europe? I have had a number of friends in Ireland, both in the Free State and the Six Counties, speak of how the border is not at issue as "We are all Europeans now." Listening to this type of secular rubbish makes me physically ill. That the Irish would give up their culture and faith, which literally millions of their ancestors died to preserve, for the opportunity to participate in a European Union that does not even recognize the Christianity upon which Europe was founded is obscene.

This is another reason for the need for the AOH and LAOH to continue, to preserve the culture and faith upon which it was founded, and to bring it back to Ireland. But first, we have to make ensure that the Catholic faith is promoted here in America. We made a commitment when we joined the Hibernians; our initiatory preamble states that one of the reasons we take members is "To strengthen them in their faith, make them practical in their duties and loyally observant of the precepts of the Catholic Church." I would encourage all members of the AOH and LAOH to actively participate in their local churches, and to proudly display any AOH/LAOH memorabilia at such times. Show pride in your Faith, your heritage and in your organization, by doing so you not only strengthen your Church and culture, but the AOH and LAOH.

God bless you all, please pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you.

## Right To Life

Michael Murphy

In the last issue of "The Empire State Hibernian", I requested all County Board Presidents to submit the names of their Right To Life Chairmen. To date I have not heard from anybody in this area. At our recent State Board meeting I re emphasized this request, still no results.

Since our County Board Presidents have failed to answer this request I am asking all County Board Right To Life Chairmen to contact me at 1 Stone Commons, Yaphank NY 11980 or by telephone at 631-924-4853 or Fax 631-205-9425. This is rather important as I would like to know who I am addressing and as we all know, these are very important issues.

Early in January, the US Senate will be voting on the appointment of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. In view of his past history, Judge Alito may be the person we need on the Court.

I urge all our County Presidents, Right To Life Chairmen and members to contact our U.S. Senators to support Judge Alito. Have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Next issue: March 2006 Deadline: Feb. 15, 2006
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## SECRETARY

Charles McLean

We are rapidly approaching the season for the submission of Form 9's. As each of the Divisions holds their elections and subsequent installations you are reminded to submit the Form 9/Certificate of Election in a timely fashion. One of the best ideas I have heard of is when the installing officer is preparing for the installation he simply has the officers fill in their names and addresses on the form. This can serve two purposes, the first is to give the installing officer the list he needs of the officers to be installed for the ceremony and second it gives the Division a hard copy in hand of a Form 9. I would strongly urge the Divisions to then submit that Form 9 promptly, even if it is marked interim, until the Division can meet to select all of the Committee Chairmen and the final Form 9 is prepared and submitted. This would allow us to keep our mailing list as up to date as possible. A copy of the Form 9 is now available on the N.Y. State Website.

The Membership/Financial Report is also currently available for download on the N.Y. State Website. The deadline for the filing of this form is February 15, 2005. It seems like a daunting task to some, especially new officers but if you begin with last years form and work forward, and with just a little help from the Treasurer you can make easy work of this task and can be current without great dif-

ficulty. As you notice we list on the State Secretary's report the dates that both the Form 9 & the Per Capita are submitted, many of the jurisdictions throughout the State have a friendly competition for the earliest submission of both. Why not get your Division in there and surprise some of the Divisions that are out front by themselves each and every year?

At the Spring Semi-Annual State Board Meeting in E. Durham we will be presenting a certificate to the first 12 Divisions in N.Y. State who submit both there Form 9 and the Membership/Financial Report(with per capita) for the year 2006.

It is particularly important for all of our Divisions to be up to date with their paper work and per capita assessments as early as possible as 2006 is a National Convention year and N.Y. State has three candidates at this point running for National Office. We must be able to go to Boston with as many delegates as possible.

Congrat's go out...

- To our Brothers and Sisters in Auburn who hosted the AOH Semi-Annual Bd. Mtg. as well as our Mixed Bowling Outing. What another great visit to Auburn!
- Bronx Cnty. Bd. Pres. Mike Flynn who along with his County hosted their annual Dinner & Dance which I enjoyed very much being at.
- Kings Cnty. Bd. Pres. John O'Leary & Barney Cassidy on a

very successful Dinner & Dance where we honored a most worthy Al O'Hagan with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

- Division 5, Albany Cnty. on a very entertaining concert to benefit the F.F.A.I. Christmas Appeal. I wasn't able to be at this one but our very qualified candidate for Nat. Treas. Brendan Moore was honored for his many years of dedication to the Christmas Appeal.

As always I extend sincere thanks to those members who have shown great Hibernian hospitality to me during my travels throughout our great State. I look forward to continuing to visit as many jurisdictions as possible and ask that all of you continue to advise me of your events. May God Bless each of you and your families and on behalf of myself as well as my family I wish you a very Blessed & Holy Christmas with all great joy and happiness in the New Year.

Please Note & Mark Your Calendars:

- Concert to benefit the N.Y.S. Board at the Albany Hall on Fri., 1/27/06
- Spring Semi-Annual Board Mtg. & Pilgrimage to our Lady of Knock Shrine in E. Durham will begin with the Jim Hayes Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Austin V. Carew Scholarship Fund on Fri. 5/5/06, Board Mtg. 5/6/06 & Pilgrimage on 5/7/06.

State AOH Benefit Concert  
Featuring  
"Hair of the Dog"

Join us on Friday January 27th for an evening of Irish Song and Dance to benefit the Capital District and New York State AOH.

The evening will begin at 8:30 with performances by the Farrell school of Irish Dance and local pipe and drum performers, and continue at 9pm with the region's most popular Irish band "Hair of the Dog". Table seating is available and reservations are suggested.

Date: Fri. 1/27/05 at The Albany Irish-American Center,  
375 Ontario St Albany NY

Contact Matt Nelligan for reservations and tickets.  
518-729-4563 or i2000@hibernians.com

Ticket Price: \$20

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____	<p>NEW YORK STATE BOARD  <b>ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS</b>  <b>AUSTIN V. CAREW SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b></p> <p>RAFFLE FOR  <b>"A DAY AT THE BALLPARK"</b></p> <p>4 TICKETS TO Yankee Stadium OR Mets Shea Stadium          Winner's choice of stadium and game date during 2006 Season          (Some restrictions may apply)</p> <p><b>DRAWING AT NYS STATE BOARD MEETING –</b>  <b>MAY 6, 2006 - E. DURHAM</b></p> <p>\$5 each 3 for \$10 5 for \$15 <span style="float: right;">WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT</span></p>
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Please **PRINT**, legibly, all requested information. Send stub with a check payable to NYS AOH Board to: Thomas Conway NYS AOH Scholarship Chairman 107 St. Marks Lane, Islip, NY 11751. For additional tickets contact the State Board or photocopy the above.



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All executive board members, directors and committee chairmen are asked to submit their reports to the editor as listed above by the deadlines indicated for the respective issues. Email is preferred either as the message body or a MS Word, Works, WordPerfect or Notepad attachment. Clean, typewritten copy may also be mailed. Remember Brothers; we need your input if there is to be effective communication throughout our state organization.