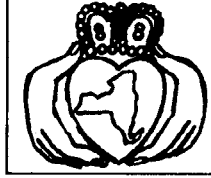




*Empire State*  
**Hibernian**

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## President's Message

Michael J. McNabb

I start by thanking all of the Delegates for their support at our AOH/NYS Convention. I look forward to traveling our great state and meeting with as many of you as I can.

I would like to thank Charles "Chip" McLean for his leadership the past two years.

I congratulate the new Ladies State President, my cousin, Denise Sobus. I look forward to working with her and her Board the next two years.

I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed Officers of both the LAOH and AOH New York State Boards.

I must also thank Pearl River for hosting an outstanding Convention.

There is much work ahead for the new Board. We will have a wrap up meeting in Pearl River as soon as all the reports are completed.

We will also be going to Saratoga to go over the contract for the 2013 AOH/NYS Conven-

tion on November 5, 2011.

I am pleased to announce that Steve Curran will be the 2013 AOH/NYS Convention Chairman. The local Chairman will be Chris Burgman.

The new AOH/NYS Web Site is up and running. I thank Web Master Joe McDonald for all the time he dedicated to completing this endeavor.

Our next AOH/NYS Board Meeting will be held in Schenectady, NY on Saturday October 22, 2011. The day will start at 9:00am with a Pro-Life Mass. The Board Meeting will start at 10:30am SHARP. At 2:00pm the AOH/NYS Mixed Doubles Bowling will be held followed by a dinner at the Schenectady Hall. I hope you are able to participate in all three events.

## Vice President's Message

James Burke

Brothers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the confidence that you have placed in me by electing me your Vice President. It is an honor and privilege to serve you. I pledge to give you my best effort and to support you in any way I can. My door is al-

ways open to you. I look forward to seeing many of you at our fall State Board meeting which will be held in Schenectady on Oct. 22nd. Please keep me posted on your various events so that I may have the opportunity to visit with you.

## State Chaplain

Fr. Henry W. Reid

First of all, let me begin by congratulating all of the new State Officers on their respective elections to office; as well as thank our new State President, Brother Mike McNabb, on re-appointing me as State Chaplain. I also want to say a word to our brothers who ran for office, but did not get elected: Even though you did not get the position that you ran for, I know that you will continue to dedicate yourselves to the AOH, since it was in the spirit of self-sacrifice, with a desire to serve, that you approached these offices in the first place.

That being said, it is in a spirit of service that we all approach our roles as Hibernians; service to our Church, our Country, our Heritage, our Order and to our brothers and sisters who have no one else to speak or act for them. As we are a Catholic or-

ganization, the oldest existing one in America, may I encourage all of you to fulfill your Sunday obligations and remind our brothers to do the same. While this may seem like I am preaching to the choir, not everyone is singing. When we became Hibernians, we were asked "Have you complied with your religious duties within the past twelve (12) months?", how many of us would answer in the positive now? May I suggest that while you are fulfilling your religious obligations, and all of the various volunteer activities that you are involved in, that you make it a point to wear AOH apparel. On a day to day basis I wear a clerical shirt, with certain exceptions, and the public witness is effective; clothing with the AOH logo is effective in letting other Catholics know that there is an organization they can join that promotes Catholic values.

While I am on that subject, under President Nelligan, I was in contact with all of the NY State Bishops, seeking permission to contact priests and parishes throughout New York State. While certain action was taken on that initiative, the opportunity was not taken full advantage of over the past two years, so I am encouraging each member in the State to contact their pastor, or the administrator of their parish, and request time to set up an information booth after Mass. Not only would this increase the membership of our Order, but it would also provide an opportunity to recruit the pa-

rish priests into the AOH. Remember, membership in the AOH is open to any Catholic priest, whether they can claim Irish birth or descent, or not.

That brings me to my final point. Please get up to date information on all the priests that belong to your divisions, especially the Chaplains, including emails, and send them into the State Secretary. We need to be able to contact and update these brothers, just as we need to update all other officers.

Please continue to participate in your Divisions, and have your Divisions participate in Catholic, Pro-Life, American and Irish Cultural activities.

God Bless,

Treasurer

Vic Vogel

I would like to thank the membership for the trust and support I have received. It is an honor to serve the New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians as Treasurer. I will give the office the respect it deserves and I will perform to the best of my ability.

The Executive Board met on July 17th, immediately following the convention, to begin the transition process. I met again on August 3rd with Vice President Jim Burke and Secretary Tim McSweeney at which time I took possession of the records and files pertaining to the office of Treasurer. I was shown the system for documenting and

depositing incoming funds and the method for recording vouchers and making payments. The assistance I have had from my fellow officers during the learning process has been generous and greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.  
See you in Schenectady.

District One

Peter P. Durkee

Brothers, as director of District One I oversee all the Divisions in the district which are, Albany Co. with Two divisions Albany Div. 5 and Watervliet Div. 1, Saratoga Div 1, Schenectady Div. 1 and Rensselaer (Troy Div. 8). It will be my job to visit these Divisions throughout the year.

To serve as a surrogate for the State President and members of the Executive Board I also have to coordinate scheduling of various fund raising events as well as other activities.

I have called a Capitol Council Meeting of all the Divisions in District One for September 14th. One of the things on the agenda will be ways to help Saratoga in putting on the convention in 2013.

Our President has also named me Catholic Action Chairman, which will mean coordinating our annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock Shrine in East Durham in May. This is the first news letter and report of my term; I am sure I will have

much more news when the summer is over.

To my brothers in the district and throughout the state, remember to pass this on to your fellow members in your division who don't get the newsletter or have a computer. Until then have a safe and enjoyable summer, and don't forget the Hibernian Charities, especially Project St Patrick.

## District 2

Thomas A. Lambert

Greetings to all of our New York State Hibernian Brothers from western New York! Congratulations to our newly elected State President Michael McNabb and to all newly elected and appointed NYS AOH Officers. I am honored to have been elected to the position of District 2 Director. I look forward to working with all my fellow officers.

I am proud to report that the Divisions within District 2 committed \$1,000 at our recent state convention towards our AOH National goal of raising \$250,000 towards the "Barry Gate" at Annapolis. This project has been in the making for a long time and it will be a fitting tribute to Commodore John Barry. The \$1,000 check was sent while at the convention and, as announced at the state convention, it will be matched dollar for dollar by another donor. There will also be a fundraiser scheduled in November or December for further fund-

raising to make sure that we make the "Barry Gate" a reality. More details will follow.

Speaking of Commodore Barry, Erie County Division 1 will be hosting the annual John Barry Commemoration on September 10, 2011 at 11 AM at the Buffalo Naval Park. All are welcome. Please call me at 716-796-7687 if you will be attending.

I have begun the process of reaching out to the Divisions within District 2. Please feel free to contact me by email, (Tomlambert12@aol.com) or by telephone (716) 796-7687).

If your division will add me to your email or mailing list for division newsletters, I will be better able to know what is happening within our district. As you become aware of dates for division charitable fundraisers please let me know. Also, please be sure to let me know when your division meets, as I plan on attending as many meetings as possible. It is my goal to keep communication flowing between the NYS AOH and all divisions within District 2.

## District 4

Brian P. Kelly

My name is Brian P. Kelly and I would like to introduce myself to you as your new State District 4 Director, as well as the NY State "Buy Irish" Chairman. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Biennial Convention in Pearl River last month.

Congratulations to the NYS Convention Committee, Rockland County Convention Committee and our State President and Executive Board for producing an excellent Convention. I was very pleased to be in attendance and found my nomination for this office to be an awesome experience. Thank you to all the delegates that supported my nomination, visited my hospitality room and took the time to share their best wishes with me. I look forward to working with the many brothers in my district, seeing old friends and making many more in the counties of New York, Bronx and my home County of Westchester.

I will take some time to understand my new roles and then I will look for opportunities to work with you and to share information with you.

Please contact me at: 175 Tate Ave Buchanan N Y 10511-1121 Home: 914-736-7531; Cell: 914-384-1343; email: briandcolkel426@optonline.net

Furthermore, I would like to invite you all to attend The Hudson Valley Irish Festival to be held September 24, 2011 on the Riverfront Green in Peekskill, N Y from 11 AM-7 PM. (It's a stop on the Metro North Hudson Line.)

## District 6

John C. O'Connell

I am honored to have been elected director of the Nassau and Suffolk Hibernians at the

State Convention in July.

For those who don't know me, I'd like to use this, my first column in the Empire State Hibernian, to introduce myself.

I joined the Mike Moran Division 8 in Glen Cove, Nassau County, in 1997 and made my Major Degree the same year. In 2004, I was elected Division 8 President and served three consecutive terms. I served as Nassau County Recording Secretary from 2005 to 2007 under the leadership of then County President Ray McCann. I was elected County President in 2007, serving until 2009.

I have helped with the journal of the Nassau County Feis, and perform one of the roles on our county Shamrock Degree Team.

In 2009, I was designated by the county board to be the Aide to Grand Marshal Michael Gibbons in the 248th marching of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. What a glorious day that was! I'll remember it as one of the best of all my days.

Appointed by State President Chip McLean as State Publicity Chairman in 2009, I have been reappointed to that position by our new worthy State President Mike McNabb, in addition to my director's duties.

As though being elected to the high office of District 6 Director in New York and also being renamed State Publicity Chairman were not humbling enough,

another event happened at the 2011 State Convention that I did not anticipate and would never have dreamed of. Our worthy National President Seamus Boyle asked me if I would become the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest. What a shock! I accepted. Until Brendan Moore, our worthy National Vice President, announced the appointment at our State Convention, I wasn't sure it was really true.

When I joined our Order 14 years ago — at the suggestion of Glen Cove Hibernian Paul Long — and especially when I participated in my Major Degree ceremony, I had then and there become what I was perfectly proud of becoming, a brother of my fellow Hibernians. I had become what my father before me had become in Flushing, Queens County: a member in good standing of the AOH. My loved ones were proud of me. I knew my Limerick-born father and Leitrim-born mother were smiling down from Heaven.

I certainly never thought that I would be so fortunate as to have been asked to serve this great Order in these ever-higher leadership roles. I thank all my fellow Hibernians in Division 8, on the Nassau County Board, and now the Suffolk Board as well, for their encouragement.

Deadline for the December 2011 <u>Empire State Hibernian</u> is November 15 <sup>th</sup> .
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District 8

Vince Tyer

Many thanks to all those who supported my candidacy for District 8 Director. Congratulations to the Rockland County Convention Committee and particularly our inspirational Brother Ed Moane for putting on a great convention! Another thank you to the outgoing State officers for their steadfast support of Rockland County in particular to Warren Scullin (the State Convention Chair) who worked closely with Rockland over the last 2 years on the Convention.

I know many brothers are on vacation and a number of divisions have suspended meetings during the summer. I am looking forward to meeting the District 8 Divisions and County Boards as everyone gets back to work come September. In the mean time I would ask everyone to include me on their mailing/email lists and feel free to contact me any time.

In closing, great job to Kevin Cummings on his last 2 years as District 8 Supervisor – I have some big shoes to fill!

Organizer

Thomas A. Lambert

Greetings to all of our New York State Hibernian Brothers: Congratulations to our newly elected State President, Michael McNabb and to all newly elected and appointed NYS

AOH Officers. My name is Tom Lambert, I am honored to have been appointed by our State President to the position of State Organizer. I look forward to working with all my fellow officers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the immediate Past State Organizer, Edward Rice, for all of his hard work, time and effort over the past two years. I will be reaching out to Ed and to all of our State Directors as we continue our organizing goals of recruitment of new members and retention of existing members. I will also be in contact with AOH National Director Daniel O'Connell, who is also the National Organizer.

Our NYS AOH Website has a treasure trove of valuable information concerning the history of our Order. Information about the AOH is vital for any recruitment. Please use the Website to increase your knowledge of our Order. The Website also has forms available for new members.

If not already in place, each Division should have an "Organizing Committee". Our Divisions perform a lot of charitable work. Please make sure that this work is recognized locally. Positive exposure of our charitable endeavors can be a major recruitment tool. Please feel free to contact me.

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## Charities and Missions

Arnie Nagelhout

I'm sure everyone that attended the Convention in Pearl River will join me in saying we had a great time and our business sessions accomplished a lot of work for the good of the Order. Congratulations to all the officers elected to serve this state for the next 2 years.

I would like to thank, newly elected, President Mike McNabb for appointing me to continue as the State Charities and Missions Chairman. As we get back to work after the summer break let me remind you of the obligation of each jurisdiction to report your donations and work done for Charities and the Missions to the State and National Boards. In my final report at the State Convention covering the last 2 years 28 of our divisions donated \$431,220.50 and performed 15,917 man hours of service equal to \$119,377.50. A total of 10,592 pounds of food was collected or donated directly by the divisions with a cash value of \$7,434 concluded my report. Congratulations to these 28 divisions for their work over the last 2 years. District 1: Fr. Henry Tansey Division 4, Albany County; John F. Kennedy Division 1, Schenectady County. District 2: Thomas Carroll Division 1, Erie County; Rev. James J. Browne Division 1, Niagara County; Olean Division 2, Cattaraugus County; Colonel Patrick O'Rorke Division 7, Monroe County. District 3:

John C. Deveraux Division 1, Oneida County; Commodore John Barry Division 2, Onondaga County. District 4: Frank H. Fox Division 16, Westchester County; Myles Scully Division 1, Division 2, New York County. District 5: Patrick J. Curran Division 9, Queens County; Division 14, Queens County; Staten Island Division 4, Richmond County. District 6: Padraic Pierce Division 3, Nassau County; Mike Moran Division 8, Nassau County; Commodore John Barry Division 11, Nassau County; Division 3, Suffolk County; John F. Kennedy Division 4, Suffolk County; Our Lady of Knock Division 7, Suffolk County; Fr. Francis Fitzgerald Division 8, Suffolk County; Michael Collins Division 11, Suffolk County. District 7: Msgr. Lawrence E. Giblen Division 1, Broome County; Sons of Ireland Division 1, Steuben County; Msgr. John J. Lee Division 1, Chemung County. District 8: Mass Rock Division 2, Greene County; Fr. Donald Whelan Division 2, Orange County; John Cardinal D'Alton Division 3, Rockland County.

During the next 2 years I ask you to support the National Hibernian Charity programs which include Project St. Patrick; Hibernian Hunger; Irish Way Scholarship and John Barry Gate. The National Board will also be continuing the Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal and \$10 Club which should be promoted by all divisions.

John Hennessey has been re-appointed the NY State Calendar Chairman and will be making them available this fall. Each County Board and division should buy at least one calendar. The funds raised by this program are used to make money available to the State Board for charitable donations.

President McNabb has authorized a "2011 - 2013 New York State Charities and Missions Award that will be presented to all jurisdictions that submit reports to this committee, at the next State Convention in Saratoga Springs. Forms are available on the State Web site. Feel free to contact me at: a41nag@verizon.net or by snail mail at 8422 Munson Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-3441.

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### State Legal

Thomas O'Donnell

I would like to thank State President Michael McNabb for giving me the opportunity to serve as State Legal Counsel. I look forward to working with the members of the State Board during the next two years.

If County or Division Presidents have issues they would like to discuss, please contact me.

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### State Fund Raiser Calendar Chairman

John Hennessey

The summer is almost over and it was a hot one at times. The state convention went well. I

would like to congratulate the newly elected officers, and I want to thank our Worthy President for allowing me to chair the calendar program for 2012. I want to congratulate the convention committee for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank brother Mike McCormack for the design of the calendars all these years, all I do is distribute them, collect the money and send out the winning checks.

The calendars for 2012 will be available at the State Board meeting in October if not sooner. I will keep the directors updated. Enjoy the rest of the summer. God bless our serviceman, remember 9-11

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### Pro Life

Matt Nelligan

I would like to begin by thanking President McNabb for asking me to serve in this position. The right to life is a central precept of our religion and our nation. One need only look at the fact that in the Declaration of Independence, where Life is featured prominently as one of the unalienable rights bestowed on all people from God.

As Hibernians, we have a solemn obligation to stand up for the innocent unborn and defend our Church and its values. When I served as National Pro-Life chair, I had the privilege to meet many AOH members across the country that were do-

ing their part to take a public stand for life. Sadly, there were and are those among us who not only refuse to take a stand on this important issue, but frankly don't share our belief in this sacred principle. We had members that were more concerned about supporting Notre Dame because they like the football team, than they were taking a stand in regard to our Order's scholarship when they invited the most pro-abortion President in history to speak at the school. This is unacceptable, and together we need to do better.

Frankly, I think we have some members of the AOH who would like this issue to go away so we can focus only on supporting Sinn Fein or solving the Immigration issue. Well, if that is your way of thinking than, I very much hope to disappoint you. As Pro-Life Chair, I will focus on revitalizing our support for Camp Esther, the Pro-life youth boot camp in Utica. I will also help to organize a first class Mass for the Unborn at our State Board Meeting this October. In addition, I will keep you apprised of pro and anti life measures pending in the legislature and urge you to take action and reach out to your elected officials. I will work with the State Board to ensure that all jurisdictions are aware of the State Board's standing order that no jurisdiction publically honors any politician who is Pro-Abortion. Lastly, I will continue to highlight the issue if life in this column and ensure that it is always included on a

co-equal basis with the other major issues of the AOH. President McNabb selected me for this position to do the job correctly, and not to sit by silently when our values come under attack. We have heard not a peep for the last two years at the State or National level on this issue, and as Chair, I can promise you that I aim to change that.

Remember, no immigrant could ever board a ship and no freedom fighter could ever battle oppression if at first a mother didn't chose life.

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## Veterans Affairs John M. Ryan

Upcoming Changes in the Post9/11 G.I. Bill  
Upcoming changes to the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill effective August 1, 2011 include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees, rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state; capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year; and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans' entitlement for future academic semesters. Also, certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

Beginning October 1, 2011, eligible individuals will be able to use Post 9/11 G.I. Bill programs such as non-college degrees,

on-the-job training and correspondence courses, and they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when enrolled in distance learning courses.

The VA is implementing the latest round of changes to the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill and has already begun processing fall 2011 enrollment certifications. Outreach by the VA has helped to increase participation by colleges and universities in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which helps students avoid out-of-pocket costs that may exceed the benefit. Today more than 2000 schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon program.

Complete information on the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill is available at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). VA's education information phone number is 1 800 GIBILL-1 or you can log in to the VA eBenefit Website: [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov).

## Female Veterans Health Care

Medical Professionals in the VA have gone years without having to treat female patients. Many, in fact, have never treated a female patient. That is all changing now that so many women are serving in the military. The Veterans Affairs Department is now conducting seminars related to treating female patients.

In the past there was limited availability at some VA clinics

for gender specific health appointments. Female veterans had to travel hours to another facility, or the VA had to pick up the bill for them to go to private doctors, if they opted to go at all. So far the VA has achieved its goal of having a trained designated women's provider in its 150 medical centers and in at least 60 to 65 percent of its 900 community based clinics. Doctors and nurse practitioners by the hundreds are coming to mini residency programs to focus on women's health issues.

Please keep all our Veterans in your prayers. God Bless America.

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## Webmaster Joe McDonald

For those who don't know me, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joe McDonald and I am the new State Webmaster for New York.

Over the past few years, I have designed a number of site for the AOH, including the Hibernian Digest site and Nassau Counties site and its divisions and when President Mike McNabb came to me asking me to take over the state site, I welcomed it with open arms.

If you go to [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com), you will find a new site which came live at the end of July. It is a modern interface with some interesting features.

- 1) A Hibernian Hall Loca-

tor – where you can put your address in and it will tell you the closest Halls to you and also get directions.

2) The Calendar Contest has a page, where you can find the daily evening number to check if you won.

3) Easily find this publication to read and download.

4) Easily find and print Mike McCormack's Historical Happenings for your Division's history lesson.

Yet, that's just the tip of the iceberg and we will be adding more features in the future. Currently I am working with the New York State Secretary on compiling the names and emails of all the officers and will be setting up a member management system on the site. Each officer will have a log in on the system and when logged in, you will be able to see information pertaining to your said office. For example, Organizers will be able to see recruiting materials on the membership page and webmasters will get some helpful tools for their websites. You will also be able to download the contact list of Presidents and Officers throughout the state.

We are also working on a definitive list of Division websites to put on the site over the next few months and will be adding the upcoming events and news.

In short, it is our hope this website will be the one stop shop for everything you will need to run your division effectively.

Over the next two years, I will be using this space in a similar manner to what I write in the Hibernian Digest. I will be offering "online advice" to brothers on how to run a site effectively, while also helping out with some computer problems.

That doesn't mean you have to wait for the Empire State Hibernian to come out every quarter for information. If you need anything, when it comes to setting up a site, I will be more than glad to answer any question you may have. You can email me at [jmcdonald@nyaoh.com](mailto:jmcdonald@nyaoh.com) or call me at 516-522-0741.

God bless and good luck.

## Immigration

Dan Dennehy

A groundbreaking meeting of immigration advocates representing select European and Mediterranean countries was held recently in the West Wing of the White House. At the invitation of the White House and former Rep. Bruce Morrison of Morrison Visa fame, Past National President and current National Political Education Chairman Ned McGinley and I joined Ciaran Staunton Of ILIR and Stella O'Leary of Irish American Democrats at two high level meetings. The first meeting addressed the broad issues of the represented countries. The need for focus on the issues of Irish immigrants, future flow and that of our un-

documented was presented by our delegation with White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley in attendance.

The case for Irish E3 Visas and other Irish specific immigration issues was discussed in detail at the second Irish issue focused meeting. The need for the E3 visa to create future flow of over 10,500 visas annually and methods to resolve the plight of the Irish undocumented, were discussed with representatives of the White House and Homeland Security. Bruce Morrison described how compliance to immigration laws by those who desire to live and work in the US coupled with a fair, renewable quota of visas for a participating nations, is the way forward. An amended E3 would provide a legal channel with indefinite renewal for Irish applicants and their spouses.

I reiterated Ireland's many contributions to US Homeland Security. The innovations in Customs and Immigration at Shannon and Dublin Airports, as well as the Shannon Stopover for our US military entering and exiting the theatre of the war against terror are examples of how Ireland has benefitted the US. It's not hard to imagine that the last friendly face a US soldier sees before entering a hostile war environment is an Irish one in Shannon Airport. Ireland's hospitality to the troops and willingness to aid the US in these advancements should be reciprocated by allowing Irish people to live and work in the

US safely and securely, armed with a working visa that has proven so elusive for so many years. The opportunity to present our views at this level is a credit to the working relationship that we in the AOH have created with Bruce Morrison nearly 25 years ago and more recently with advocates like Stella O'Leary, the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform and the US and Irish Government.

The summer at State Conventions much attention focused on the issues of Northern Ireland and immigration. I was invited to speak at the Ohio, NJ and NY Conventions to discuss our immigration initiatives. At the NY convention, Matt Morrison of Thar Saile addressed the Convention and the overflowing and overlapping Immigration and FFAI meetings with a passionate speech on the long fight of he and his colleagues to attain Green Cards and the right to travel freely. Their role in the Good Friday Agreement is acknowledged by all involved and yet it seems that Homeland Security has prevented any real momentum in the resolution of their immigration status. We continue to staunchly support Thar Saile and will do what is needed to help end their long fight successfully. I also joined Malachy McAllister, NJ State President and National FFAI Sean Pender, National Director Jere Cole and past National Immigration Chair Michael Glass in a meeting at US Senator Menendez' office to rein-

force US Senate support for Malachy, his family and that of the other detainees.

I would like to thank over 50 members of the AOH from NY, OH, NJ, MA, CT and elsewhere who volunteered to become their State, County and Division Immigration Officers since the beginning of the year. I am heartened by their inquiries and communication regarding immigration. The LAOH immigration and legislation Chairs in several states and Linda Hart, in particular have been tremendous in keeping members and those they meet with informed of our immigration issues. The AOH Preamble states that the purpose of the AOH is "to encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland, and cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration Policy. I would ask that you consider becoming your Division's Immigration Chairman and contact me with any questions or concerns: Dan Dennehy, 22 Andre Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567, by email: dandennehy@hotmail.com or phone (914)588-2710.

In closing, I would like to thank Alan Farrelly, Vice Consul of New York Consulate General of Ireland for his assistance to our Irish American community, it's Irish immigration centers in New York, and members of AOH, like NYS Secretary Tim McSweeney, in their aid of distressed Irish immigrants across the US, as he departs for a new assignment in Ireland at the

Foreign Affairs Department. Up to his last days in his NY post Alan remains dedicated to his work and his love for this country shown by the many miles he traveled both on and off the job. Slán agus beannacht, Alan!

Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers  
[www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)  
Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
[www.eiic.org](http://www.eiic.org)  
Cross Care  
[www.migrantproject.ie/emigrating\\_from\\_ireland\\_usa.htm](http://www.migrantproject.ie/emigrating_from_ireland_usa.htm)  
Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform [www.irishlobbyusa.org](http://www.irishlobbyusa.org)  
Thar Saile  
[www.tharsaile.org](http://www.tharsaile.org)

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Freedom for All Ireland  
Dan Dennehy

Allow me to start my first report as your NYS Freedom for All Ireland Chair by thanking Worthy NYS President Mike McNabb and his Executive Board for this appointment. I am fortunate to have the support of many great friends and Hibernians across NY including my excellent predecessors Tim Myles and Frank Corcoran and Albany County FFAI Ciaran Geraghty as well as legendary FFAI Chair and current National Vice President Brendan Moore and further afield NJ State President & National FFAI Chair Sean Pender. I believe that working and cooperating with all of you will help NY stay at the forefront of the issues surrounding Freedom for All Ireland.

Examples of NY's determination are father and son, Bud & Chris Thompson of Suffolk Co AOH, who I befriended on the now historic 2011 Christmas Appeal / Bloody Sunday Tour. Early on that tour, we met the Ballymurphy Massacre families and pledged that AOH members would attend the 40th Anniversary Commemorations in Belfast. That promise was kept by the Thompson's and they have our gratitude. Another great example is our Immediate Past President, Chip McLean, in one of his last acts as outgoing NYS President, has made sure that every legislator in NY's delegation to Congress will receive a personalized copy of Fr. Sean McManus autobiographical My American Struggle for Justice in Northern Ireland. This tome is extremely readable and offers a vivid description of events in Ireland and America from the Border Campaign to the present.

This years MacBride Award winner is Clara Reilly from Relatives for Justice. Clara will

be honored at the AOH National President's Dinner in Philadelphia on Saturday, October 8. We were fortunate to have met Clara during the Christmas Appeal tour and her compelling story and the work of the Relatives for Justice prove that she is a worthy recipient. Currently the planning for this year's Christmas Appeal and tour is under way and I encourage each and every County, Division and member in NY to improve on our support for this important cause. Thursday, October 13 is the target date for the NYS FFAI Christmas in New York City, more information to follow. Check the excellent newly revised NYS website at [www.nysaoh.org](http://www.nysaoh.org) for updates on this event and other FFAI news and events. Albany County and Division 5's Ciaran Geraghty will have their hugely successful FFAI Christmas Appeal Fundraiser at the AOH Hall on Saturday November 5 with great music and craic, all for a \$20 donation.

The travesty of having the world watch as a stricken Brendan Lillis lay dying in Maghaberry Prison was narrowly averted recently. After weeks of pressure on Prisons Commissioner Ford, the seriousness of Lillis' illness forced his transfer to a hospital.

I joined our National President Seamus Boyle in writing to Ford demanding action on the ill man's behalf and thank all AOH members for their opposition to the potential death sentence without trial of Lillis. Our National President stated in the most recent Hibernian Digest that the AOH is in full support of the Good Friday Agreement. We are opposed to those who would use violence to destroy the mandate of the people of Ireland, which they voted for overwhelmingly. I am willing to discuss and explore opportunities to improve and increase the good work of this Order, and will remain vigilant of injustice in any form.



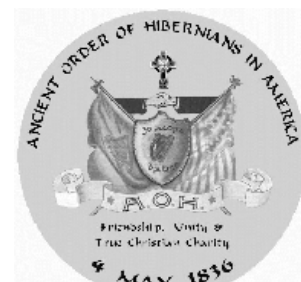
Please send \_\_\_ copies of the AOH Anniversary Medallion to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Division \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

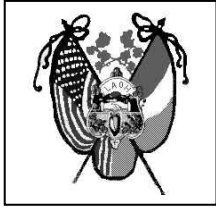


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Cast In Bronze, Numbered And In A Secure Case With A Certificate Of Authenticity Explaining The Iconic Symbols, For The Introductory Price Of Only \$30: Enclose a check made out to **AOH MEDALLION** and send to MEDALLION c/o Jere E. Cole PO Box 1309 West Caldwell, NJ 07007



Ancient Order of Hibernians  
New York State  
Mixed Doubles Bowling Tournament



Hosted by AOH / JFK Div. #1 & LAOH / JFK Div. #1 Schenectady, New York

Date: October 22, 2011      Bowling Registration Starts @ 1:30 / Boulevard Bowl

Price \$35.00 includes bowling and banquet following at Schenectady Hall.

Music for the evening will be provided by "Who's Your Paddy"

If you would like to attend the banquet only the price is \$20.00.

Rooms are available at the following:

Holiday Inn 100 Nott Terrace \$109.95 plus tax (518) 393-4141

Quality Inn 2788 Hamburg Street \$72.90 plus tax (518) 355-1111

This room rate is good only until **September 21, 2011.**

When reserving a room you must mention AOH.

Teams will be assigned by blind draw at the conclusion of the bowling.

Prizes will be awarded to First, Second and Last Place Teams.

Individual awards for both female and male bowlers will be as follows: High Game Scratch, High Series Scratch, High Game Handicap, High Series Handicap.

AOH NYS Mixed Doubles Entry Form

Female Bowler: \_\_\_\_\_ Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Male Bowler: \_\_\_\_\_ Average: \_\_\_\_\_

I / We would like to attend the banquet only.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed forms and remittance to: AOH NYS Mixed Doubles Bowling  
1748 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12304

Please make checks made payable to: **Schenectady AOH**

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