



Empire State Hibernian

*Published Quarterly by the New York State
Board Ancient Order of Hibernians In America*

Organized in New York City – May 4, 1836



December 2019

State Chaplain Fr. Henry W. Reid

We are quickly approaching our celebration of Christmas, that season when we recognize the coming in the flesh of the second Person of the Holy Trinity. Of course, we first observe the season of Advent, the four Sundays of preparation and accompanying weeks.

All too often people in our society rush through Advent, believing that Christmas begins some time after Thanksgiving, or Halloween as seems to be the new time. But the Church has given us this time of preparation, to reflect on the Mystery that is the Incarnation. For centuries, the Jewish people waited for the coming of the messiah, anticipating the coming of an earthly king; what they received was beyond their understanding. As God came in the flesh, many of those who waited, as their ancestors had, would reject Him as a heretic.

For us, who are followers of Christ, this time of anticipation is a time to also focus on His second coming. We meditate on Jesus, to be born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, and the Resurrected Christ, who is to return in all His glory. We look to Christ, who came in the flesh to reveal the face of the Father, and we recognize Christ who raised up human dignity by revealing that God has chosen to share our human nature.

After Christmas comes to an end, January 12th, with the Baptism of the Lord, we have an opportunity and obligation to stand up for the dignity of human life. On Friday, January 24th, hundreds of thousands will march through Washington DC, standing up for those who have no voice of their own. This will be the 47th March for Life. Forty seven years, we have been a nation that slaughters the innocent, over sixty million babies have been killed since Roe vs. Wade.

If you have never been to the March for Life, please come. If you have a child at home, or a grandchild, niece or nephew, bring them down. A day away from work or school will not create a crisis, but it can help to end the crisis that has been affecting our culture for forty seven years.

On a sad note, one of the greatest champions of Irish issues in Congress has announced he is not seeking reelection next year. Peter King has been a great ally of Irish Peace and many issues. After the announcement, Senator Schumer praised Rep. King, and referenced their friendship, something we need more of in our government.

Many of you know I have been struggling with back issues, and I thank you for your prayers and best wishes. I was told that once you turn fifty everything starts going, but no one told me it would be the same year. Looking forward to seeing you all in DC and East Durham.

In Christ and our motto,
Fr. Henry

President

Thomas A. Lambert

When I last spoke with most of our Brother Hibernians at the NYS AOH Convention in July, I promised to focus energy on FFAI efforts. To this end, District 2 Director Craig Speers and I met with Congressman Brian Higgins in Buffalo. The meeting was very productive! The Congressman signed onto a Resolution sponsored by another NYS Congressman, Tom Suozzi just before our meeting. The Resolution, also supported by Congressman Peter King, called for the UK and the EU to insure that Brexit does not threaten peace on the Island of Ireland; opposed a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and the North of Ireland; Insisted that any trade agreement between the US and the UK be contingent on maintaining the terms of the Good Friday Agreement; and expressed support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in order to fulfill the McGuinness Principles of Equality, Truth, Respect and Self-Determination. Congressman Higgins also called for the ultimate backstop for Brexit: Irish Unity! I urge all to reach out to their local Representatives and Senators to let them know that we expect nothing less and appreciate their efforts.

Thank you to NY and National AOH FFAI Chair Martin Galvin for organizing this year's FFAI speaking tour featuring Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice as the primary speaker. Information on upcoming dates and locations will be listed on the NY AOH website.

Speaking of the NYS AOH Website, we need to make better use of the Website and our Calendar to publicize upcoming events throughout the State and to promote recruitment. Please contact our Webmaster, Lee Patterson and let's make others aware of our AOH happenings!

Recruitment and retention of members MUST be a focus of our efforts in the coming year. Every single Division and County Board throughout the State MUST increase efforts to grow the membership of our Order! I am asking all District Directors to work with the Divisions and County Boards within their Districts to make this happen. Growth of 5 to 10 percent is possible. Please reach out to me, or to our State Organizer, Tim McSweeney with any questions. We need growth to insure our future as the preeminent Irish Catholic Organization in our great state and country!

Our AOH National Treasurer, Sean Pender, has been doing a thankless job of following up on compliance issues with our Divisions throughout New York. If the EIN numbers for each division do not correlate with the IRS records, or if the appropriate filings are not current after three years, the Division's 501 (C-8) tax exempt status will be revoked by the IRS! This revocation will cause the Divisions affected to be liable for tax consequences not only with the IRS, but also on the state level. Brothers, please make sure that your Divisions are compliant with the IRS requirements! If a NYS State Officer calls you to remind you of this, please remember this is not an AOH requirement, it is an IRS requirement. We are just the messengers!

As you are no doubt aware, we are coming up to the time where Divisions will be filing both National and New York State Per Capita forms. **Please be advised that the National AOH Board has changed the Per Capita requirements. There will be a \$16 Per Capita starting in 2020, but if the filing is post marked by 2/15/20, the Per Capita charge will remain at the current \$12. Post Mark requirements will be strictly observed! NYS Per Capita requirements are unchanged. NYS Per Capita is \$6, but if post marked by 1/31/20, the Per Capita will be \$5.50. Filings postmarked after 3/31/20 will be \$6.50 Per Capita.** Again, Post Mark requirements will be strictly observed! Any County Board who hasn't filed an updated Form 9 with all current Officers listed should do so ASAP.

If any NYS AOH Officer has not received their medallion, please message me.

Vice President John J. Manning

It was a pleasure to have seen many of our Brother Hibernians at the recent NYS AOH Semi-Annual Board Meeting that was held on Saturday November 2, 2019, in Saratoga, NY.

We currently have 3 “Junior AOH Divisions”, (Suffolk County) Babylon Division 2, (Chemung County) Elmira Division 1, and (Orange County) Monroe Division 1. If any of our Brother Hibernians are interested in forming a “New Junior Division” please contact me. As per our National AOH Constitution Article V, Section 1, all you need is 5 New Applicants to form a new Junior Division. We all know it’s our youth that will continue the traditions of our order as we grow. Without our youth, the AOH has no future.

There were 5 Major Degree’s Ceremonies held throughout New York State since our States Convention this past July. A total of 94 of our Fellow Brother Hibernians took and passed their Major Degree’s, Congratulations Brothers!!!

If you’re County or Division is interested in hosting a Major Degree of our Order, please contact any of the Major Degree Teams that are here in New York State.

“Cu Chulainn Celtic Warriors” Major Degree Team (Richmond County)
Point of Contact: Brother Hibernian Jack King
636 Rockaway Street
Staten Island, NY 10307
(718) 948-2555
E-Mail: jkcuchulainn@yahoo.com

2) Schenectady Major Degree Team (Schenectady County)
Point of Contact: Brother Hibernian Owen Cole
738 Swaggertown Road
Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 399-1269
E-Mail: omcole54@gmail.com

3) Tara Court Major Degree Team (Suffolk County)
Point of Contact: Brother Hibernian Jeff Nisler
33 Corlett Place
Huntington Station, NY 11746
(631) 385-2425
E-Mail: jeff.aoh@nisler.com

Please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time if there is anything you need or I can be of assistance. I can be reached at john@breezymanning.com call or text (917) 589-0047.

At this time I would like to wish all of my fellow Brother Hibernians and their Families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2020. God Bless

Secretary

Thomas M. O'Donnell

It was a pleasure to have seen many of our Brother Hibernians at the recent NYS AOH Semi-Annual Board Meeting in Saratoga Springs. I have been continuing to update the list of officers for our order. Please check the NYS AOH Website for the current list of NYS Officers, County and Division Officers with addresses, phone numbers, and E-Mail addresses. If there are any errors, please contact me.

2019 is coming to an end very shortly, and it will be time for all divisions to file new Form 9's, Form 11's, and NYS Charities and Missions Reports. I am sending a package to all NYS AOH Division Presidents that includes the NYS Division Financial Membership Report (Form 11), NYS Certificate of Election Report (Form 9), and the NYS AOH Charities and Mission Report Form.

NYS AOH per capita charges are discounted by 50 cents per Brother Hibernian for Divisions whose filings are post marked by January 31, 2020. Please send me completed NYS AOH Form 9, NYS AOH Form 11, and NYS AOH Charities and Missions Report. An updated form 9 of your elected and appointed officers is important for keeping our contact information current. Please file an updated Form 9 even if the names of the officers have not changed.

At this time I would like to wish all of my Brother Hibernians and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless.

Treasurer

Thomas Beirne

Brothers, as you read this issue of The Empire State Hibernian, you are probably somewhere between the Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays. Hopefully you have a chance to see relatives and friends that are living in other regions or welcome home children that are away at School. This time of year tends to be chaotic, but hopefully we can make an effort to spend quality time with extended families, to go to Mass more often, reflect and give Thanks to God for all of the Blessings and freedoms that we all enjoy as Americans. The secular celebrations with snowmen, candy canes, and Rudolph cannot overtake the real reason for the Christmas season and the joy we share. Chances are that after a short while no one will remember a specific gift you gave them or the decorations that you put up at Christmas; but they will remember time spent together with friends and family and kindness showed to others.

I was not able to attend the November NY State Board Meeting in Saratoga, due to a family funeral in Washington State. Thank you to all of the Brothers that expressed their condolences on the passing of my Brother in Law. Thank You also to the other NY State Officers that stepped in to cover the Treasurer's responsibilities, mainly Tom O'Donnell and John Manning.

This time of year, many Divisions are conducting their Elections and Installation of Officers. Please make sure to update the Form 9's and forward them onto the NY State and National Secretaries. Accurate contact information and communication are vital for our Order at all levels. Please make appointments to fill the various Appointed Offices; and include their information on the Form 9 in addition to the elected Officers.

I enjoyed meeting Brother and Sister Hibernians from all across the Country at National President James McKay's Testimonial weekend in Washington DC in October. It is always inspiring to exchange ideas with Hibernians from other states. All NY Hibernians are encouraged to attend the National Convention coming up in Orlando, Florida from July 22 through July 26, 2020. We need to support our NY candidates and make sure NY is well represented at the Convention and in the committee meetings. It will be a very enjoyable and productive Convention

In closing I wish all NY Hibernians and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Joyous Christmas, and a Happy, peaceful, and Healthy 2020. May Saint Patrick Bless and Protect You!

Immediate Past President Victor J. Vogel

I would once again like to thank the Convention Committee of Albany for their excellent work in organizing and executing the 2019 AOH NYS Convention. Thank you! I would also like to thank the Elected and Appointed Officers who served during my term as President. Together we accomplished many goals and I am extremely grateful for your Good Work in preserving and exhibiting our Irish Culture. And thank you to the County and Division Officers and the Brothers of New York State for your assistance and your hospitality. It was a pleasure to serve and an honor to work with all of you!

Since the Convention in July, I have attended and participated in numerous Hibernian events. On August 17th, I attended an event in Schenectady for Brother Jim Scott who is recovering from his injuries. We all wish Jim Godspeed and good health. On September 7, I attended an Irish Language Mass at St. Barnabas Church in the Bronx sponsored by the Bronx County Board. The Mass was celebrated in The Irish by Father Fitzgerald and accompanied by a choir that sang Hymns in The Irish. After Mass, I participated in Installing the Bronx County Board which included Martin Galvin as President. On September 15, I attended the Nassau County Feis which featured the celebration of a Mass, Irish Dance Competitions and Bagpipe Competitions. Andy Healey was recognized as the 2019 Honoree.

On October 19, I attended the National AOH Meeting in Washington D. C. The Officers Reports were important and informative. One of the most interesting items brought to attention was the fact that we now have Hibernians in every state of the country. Congratulations Tim Mc Sweeney! I attended the Testimonial Dinner for Judge McKay in the evening. Numerous speakers honored the Judge with well-deserved praise for his accomplishments.

District 2 Craig E. Speers

In my last report I attempted to outline my personal history in the AOH, and my core beliefs as a Hibernian and as a Catholic Irish American. I hope I was able to communicate my deep faith in our movement and causes we hold dear - the Sanctity of Life, and Freedom for All Ireland from crown forces and rule (now denied to the Irish citizens trapped in the six county occupied zone of Ireland).

It was my pleasure along with my wife Theresa Gillooly to attend the reception at the residence of the Irish Ambassador in Washington, D.C. on October 18th, and the honorable Judge James McKay's presidential dinner the next day (also in Washington, D.C.). We were addressed by the Ambassador and the Minister of State for the Diaspora on the issue of Brexit. It was made clear to all who attended that the Irish and British governments had reached a mutual agreement on the Brexit customs duties issue (much to the consternation of the loyalists DUP in the occupied counties). Now the issue shifts to approval in the British parliament in London where its fate is anything but clear. In all likelihood this issue will not be settled until after the British general parliamentary election on December 12th.

I also attended the NYS AOH State Board meetings on November 2nd in beautiful Saratoga Springs, where our esteemed NYS AOH President Tom Lambert and our state officers and directors presented reports to the division, state and national AOH officers present.

I would emphasize to all divisions in my district (Buffalo #1, Buffalo Emeralds #4, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Lockport, Geneva, Wellsville, and Olean) that divisional dues paid to the National AOH will be on a tier basis. Dues paid on time will be \$12 per year per member, due paid late will be \$16 per year per member. For NYS

AOH dues - early payment will be \$5.50 per year per member, and \$6 per member per year on a regular basis.

NYS AOH 2020 Calendars are an important fundraising source from our state organization. So far I have commitments from Lockport, Niagara Falls, Buffalo #1, and Geneva divisions to purchase calendars. Calendars are \$25 each and entitle each holder to entry in our daily numbers draw. Please contact me ASAP with your divisional commitment. My contact information is: email - irishrebel3@aol.com or phone 716-832-7344.

Our state and national officers are emphasizing the need for the recruitment of new members - in order that we can begin the process of membership renewal that is always multi generational. We need dedicated Irish Catholic men to join our outstanding order. I might add that new AOH divisions have been chartered in Seattle, Spokane, Wasilla/Alaska, and Hawaii.

Within the last week I was honored to visit my brothers in the Lockport and Niagara Falls divisions where I received a very warm welcome and a great shared meal. Thank you to all those officers and members I met and spoke with - continue your fine work. My visit to my ancestral home town of Geneva was regrettably postponed due to inclement weather.

In closing let me give a key emphasis from our NYS AOH Right to Life Chairman Jack O'Brien - the right to life for unborn human babies is a civil right - not an option.

District 3

Phil O'Neil

The John C. Devereux Div. 1, Utica, Oneida County

Utica hosted the Major Degree on September 7, 2019, thirty Brothers received their Major Degrees. The event was held at the Irish Cultural Center, the new John C. Devereux Division Headquarters. The Major Degree Team from Schenectady, NY conducted the event. There were a number of National and State Officers and District 3 Division Officers in attendance. A very nice lunch was sponsored by the John C. Devereux Division. Outstanding event, congratulations to all involved.

The John C Devereux Division will present a concert and dinner event featuring nationally renowned Irish singer Andy Cooney and his band on Sunday Dec. 1st at The Irish Cultural Center. Mr. Cooney performs at Carnegie Hall on Dec.9th.

Syracuse – Commodore John Barry Division 2, Onondaga County

Planning and organizational committees have been formed in preparation for The 2021 AOH State Convention. All District 3 Divisions are being contacted and encouraged to be part of convention planning and ideas. The Commodore Barry Division will again be participating in a major community fund raiser, “The Old Newsboys” for the Central New York Christmas Bureau. All the major community groups and many large companies have teams that hawk a special edition of the Syracuse newspaper at sites all around the county. The Syracuse Hibernians historically lead the way year in and year out, generating over half of all funds raised. In 2018 the Division raised \$16,000 for the cause. The AOH team is annually recognized in Syracuse media sources for the effort.

Auburn – John F. Kennedy Division, Cayuga County

Continues to be a leader in community events and activities .

9/14 – Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party, Irish band, food, drinks. Blocked off road to repaint shamrock in road in front of Hall.

10/27 – Halloween – Hayride 30 kids and 20 adults to pumpkin patch, returned to Hall for Halloween party.
11/9 –Holiday Meat Raffle- Open to public, free food, 25 raffles for all types of meat. Generates \$1600 for the Division; A popular event that attracts potential new members.
12/6 – ARC of Auburn (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) benefit event. Santa for the kids. Food, drink and holiday cheer for all.
12/18 – Membership Appreciation Holiday Party. Food, drink specials, free Jim Beam mulled cider. Mighty Craic all day.

Oswego – Dean Michael Barry Division, Oswego County

A well attended “Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day” party was held on September 14. The Member Recognition Dinner was held on Saturday October 12th at the Division hall. The event was held in conjunction with the LAOH. A very well presented dinner preceded the awards. Hibernians were acknowledged and honored for from 25 – 60 years of membership. The LAOH led the longevity list with two women with over 60 years of commitment and active membership. The AOH acknowledged Past National President Ed Wallace and his brother for their 50 years as Hibernians

I will be attending as many new officer installations as possible. Syracuse, Auburn and Oswego are currently on the calendar.

District 4

Bob Nolan

As District Director, I attended monthly meetings of Westchester, The Bronx and New York Counties; The Bronx Irish Mass at St. Barnabas; the Major Degree ceremony in New Rochelle performed by Tara Court of Suffolk County; the Hudson Valley Fest sponsored by the Hibernians of Division 18; and Division 4 Bronx monthly meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

Bronx County Dinner

The annual dinner has been scheduled for Sunday, November 24 from 3-7 p.m. at Rory Dolan's on McLean Ave. The Kitty Kelly Band will perform. Honorees include 2019 Parade Grand Marshal Brian O'Dwyer and Chairman Emeritus of Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Tom Lambert, NYS President AOH, Sean Ruane and Bob Nolan, District #4 Director and Past Bronx County President for 6 years. Cost \$85 per person and a journal will be printed. If interested, contact Bob at 347.880.1403.

Division 18 Peekskill Annual Dinner-Dance

According to President, Clive Cronin, the dinner has been scheduled from 7-12 P.M. on Saturday night November 23 at Z on the lake, 489 East Main St. Jefferson Valley. Tickets \$85, also a journal. Honorees are Bob Bollbach, as the Hibernian of the year and Public Service awardee Maureen Hegarty.

Wreaths Across America

New York County President Dennis Grogan reports that on December 14 at 12 Noon, the New York County Board will co-sponsor (with Morris County Friendly Sons of St. Patrick) Wreaths Across America at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral on Mott St. to remember and honor our Veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our countries fallen heroes and by saying the names of each and every veteran aloud. Please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org to learn more and possibly donate to this worthy cause.

Westchester County AOH Dinner

The Westchester County AOH dinner has been scheduled for April 25, 2020 at the Double Tree in Tarrytown. Mark your calendars.

Events/Meetings Already Held

- Congratulations to Bronx County President Martin Galvin on the success of the 2nd Annual Bronx Irish Mass in September. More than 150 parishioners, including 40 Hibernians from throughout The Bronx attended Mass at St. Barnabas Church officiated by the Pastor, Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald. Notably present were Past NYS President Vic Vogel, who proposed the Irish Mass initiative, National Director Dan Dennehy, NYS Treasurer Tommy Beirne and past National Presidents Brendan Moore and Mary Hogan.
- Successful organizing efforts resulted in 28 brothers taking their Major Degree in New Rochelle and Old St. Patrick's Basilica in New York. Congrats to former District Director Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch and Dennis Grogan for the success of each event.
- Kudos to Joe McManus and the men of Bronx Division 3-East Bronx on their successful BBQ basket of "great" cheer fundraiser at the Redwood Club in Throgs Neck.
- Congrats to the AOH/LAOH of Division 18 Westchester on the great turnout at the Hudson Valley Festival in late September. Once again, our National Director Dan Dennehy and his able committee organized outstanding music, dancing, pipers, readings, food, drink and tables of Irish merchandise to purchase.

- **Sean Tallon Tournament**

The 11th annual Sean Tallon tournament held on November 3 was, once again, a success.

District 5

Steve Kiernan

First I'd like to thank my Hibernian Brothers for allowing me the opportunity to represent them in District 5. I would also like to say it is an honor to work alongside my fellow New York State Officers. New York is represented by the best of the best.

KINGS COUNTY REPORT; President Mark Reilly of Division 12 reports they had an excellent Boat Ride on the Pink Lady by the Division this past summer. It was a gorgeous day, great crowd and a great time; Looking forward to next year.

President Joseph Glynn of Division 19 advertises their annual Sean Ryan Irish Fest 2019 on November 30th, 2019. It will be held at Knights of Columbus #126, \$25 per person, with the McLean Avenue Band, all proceeds go to two scholarships, one for Iona College and one for Xaverian High School in Brooklyn.

President Steve Kiernan of Division 35 reports their annual dance was a huge success, acknowledging their Hibernian of the Year James O'Leary on October 26th, 2019. Thank you for all that came.

County President Eddie Velinskie and Ladies Kings County LAOH President Judy Rose are working on the Counties Communion Breakfast and a long overdue County Dinner dates TBD. Kings County Board meeting will have their Christmas meeting with a nice dinner at their December 17th meeting, open invitation to all Hibernian members.

Queens County Report; President Mark Edwards of Division 21 reports yet another successful Rockaway Irish Fair, with proceeds totaling over \$25,000.00 going to many charities. Job well done to Brothers of Division 21 and their volunteers. The work of the Order is much respected by all; Looking forward to next year. Division 21 hosted an outing that included the New York Irish Hurling event at Citifield on November 16th. Division 14 reports they raised over \$30,000.00 in 2 BBQ's they had with proceeds going to Holy Child of Jesus food pantry and for

their school tech fund. Great job Brothers.

The Queens County Annual Ball was another successful event ran by Walter Cooper and County President Kieran Mahoney and the LAOH of Queens County.

Richmond County Report; President Mike Buckley of Division 1 and President Kevin Reilly of Division 4 report they had a fairly successful golf outing this past summer.

County President Tommy Gray reports progress as things are starting to build up.

District 6

Sean O'Rourke

Greetings from Long Island: Brothers, I would like to wish all Hibernians and their families a happy and safe Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. The brothers in Nassau and Suffolk continue to be very active in worthwhile causes. Divisions in both counties are busy having nominations and are getting ready to vote on their slate of incoming Division officers.

Nassau County – The Nassau County AOH just held its 46th Annual Feis honoring a great man and Hibernian Andy Healy. As usual the Feis was a huge success. A big thanks to Feis chairman Mike Byrne and his committee on another great day. Div. 20 President Joseph McDonald is chairing the upcoming 1st Annual Irish Music Fest which will be held on Sat. Aug. 8 2020 at Plattdeutsch NHP NY to benefit the NC Feis. Brother Andy Healy along with Nassau County President Jack O'Brien just held a memorial at the Mariners Memorial grave site. The ceremony was attended by a good number of Hibernians. The Memorial in the Rockville Cemetery is resting place for 139 souls (mostly Irish immigrants) who perished off the coast of long Island in 2 shipwrecks (the Mexico and the Bristol) in 1836 and 1837. This tragedy was all but forgotten until Brother Healy and his committee was able to have the site listed on the National Registry of Historical Places back in 2016.

Congratulations to Deacon Tom Costello as he was named Aide to the Grand Marshal for the 2020 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade; A well-deserved honor. President Richard Breen organized the Div. 3's 1st Blue Mass that was attended by first responders from the 5 Towns area. A lunch was held at Cedarhurst Park after the Mass.

Div. 11 is currently busy organizing their 1st Marine Toys for Tots Campaign this year. The Division is also getting ready to make and distribute Thanksgiving Baskets for the needy this Thanksgiving.

Div. 14 hosted a Pro-Life Rosary on Sat. Nov. 9, 11am @ the Det. Steven McDonald Garden of Forgiveness Westwood LIRR Malvern NY.

Div. 15 held their annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at Klestinec Park located at Broadway and Michigan Ave Massapequa NY on Monday Nov. 11 @11am. Div. 15 is also holding their annual food drive for Thanksgiving, non-perishable food and/or toiletries can be brought down to Hibernian Hall on the Friday night before Thanksgiving.

Div. 15 arranged a bus go to the Hurling Tournament at Citi Field on 11/16/19.

Div. 17 just recently held their 30th Annual Long Beach Irish Day Parade in Long Beach NY. The parade was a huge success as usual. Past Div. 17 President Joe Moran was an Aide to the Grand Marshal - Boxer "Irish" Seanie Monaghan

Div. 20 hosted a "Aifreann Gaeilge/Irish Language Mass" on Sat. Nov. 2, 2019 12:00PM 297 Willis Ave Mineola NY.

Suffolk County – County President Christopher Thompson has recently started a recruitment challenge in Suffolk County in an effort to increase and retain membership in the county. The County also held a Major Degree at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Sept. 29th. Preparations for the Suffolk County Ball are underway, and it is scheduled for April 24th, 2020.

NYS Sports Chairman Mike Byrne will be hosting the Annual Bowling Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 3PM Farmingdale Lanes. Suffolk County won the Trophy last year.

Div. 2 recently held a Food Drive for Our Lady of Lourdes Church and held a successful Fundraiser for Breast Cancer.

Div. 3 recently held their 26th Annual golf outing. Proceeds from this outing totaling close to \$10,000 was just donated to Angels Without Faces and the Hope House. Great job men!

Div. 4 will hold its 3rd Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser for Special Education on Thursday, November 21, 2019 @6PM \$40 Per person American Legion Post 360 Huntington NY. Go to Huntingtonhibernians.com for more information.

Div. 8 held their Annual Mass for deceased Brothers on Nov. 3rd. Fr. Frank Pizzarelli celebrated Mass. Div. 8 held a very successful food drive at St. Margret of Scotland. Till next time, stay well.

District 7

Timothy J. Tobin

Greetings all. The arrival of fall has found a flurry of activity in the divisions of the district. May we all keep those who protect us and our nation, as well as those who face struggles in life, and those who have gone before us, in our prayers. May we live our daily lives in the motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

The Broome County Chapter of the AOH, Monsignor Lawrence E. Giblin Division 1 is located in Binghamton, NY. President: John Walker.

Here is what has been going on at the AOH Monsignor Lawrence Giblin Division One Broome County. We held our annual golf tournament in August. The rain held off and the tournament was very successful. In September we resumed our regular monthly meetings after having the summer months off. October brings on change; our nominating committee has been hard at work putting together a list of officers for 2020. Election of those officers will be held in November with induction of the new officers to be held the first Sunday of 2020. We also held our annual Turkey party on October 18th, our second largest fund raiser next to the golf tournament, again, very successful. October also brings on thoughts of St. Patrick's Day, yes; we held our first Hibernian Parade Committee meeting in October. Please have everyone mark their calendars for March 7th 2020. We encourage all of our AOH brothers from around the state to join us for the Celebration. We celebrate St. Patrick and our deceased members with a Mass prior to the Parade. Live music at our hall in the evening finishes off a great weekend.

Chemung County Chapter of the AOH, Monsignor John J. Lee Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is located in Elmira, New York. President, Mike Duffy. Division Meetings are the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Hibernian Center, 701 Kinyon St., Elmira, New York.

Our annual Irish Festival was on Saturday, September 14, and was dedicated to the men and women of our law enforcement community. The festival was dedicated to "Those Who Protect and Serve." Father John DeSocio led the

introduction of law enforcement with a special prayer for the men and women who serve. We were honored with the presence of law enforcement representatives from the New York State Police, the Chemung County Sheriff's Department, and the Elmira, Horseheads, and Elmira Heights police departments. We held a flag raising ceremony as part of the festivities.

In October, the annual Josh Palmer Fund Golf Tournament was held at Mark Twain Country Club. We are the organizer and lead sponsor of this event which supports the Josh Palmer Fund. All profits are used to help with the medical and other expenses of local cancer patients. The 2019 tournament raised approximately thirteen thousand dollars.

On November 1st the Annual Beef raffle was held to support youth sports teams and other charitable organizations. On November 13th, we hosted our fourth annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner for the priests and deacons.

In December, we will support the Toys for Tots Campaign to collect toys to support the annual Marine Corps League campaign. In late December, we serve as major supporter and sponsor for the Josh Palmer Holiday Classic basketball tournament. Members volunteer by supporting several events before and during the four days of this prestigious high school tournament. The event raises more than sixty thousand dollars annually and is entering its 20th year.

January: The Installation of officers will be held on January 4, 2020. We will be holding our annual Corporate Communion in March 2020. We invite all Hibernians to stop in and visit us at our Kinyon Street home

The Steuben County Chapter of the AOH, Sons of Ireland, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is located in Hornell, New York. President: Larry Vetter. Division Meetings are the First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. American Legion, 72 Seneca St. Hornell, NY
October 2019

The Division had a successful Irish Road Bowling on Saturday October 5th. Approximately 20 members took part in or observed the event on a cool, but sunny fall afternoon. Van Campen Rd., a country Lane overlooking the Canisteo Valley, provided ups and downs and a few lost cannon balls in the ditches. A borrowed metal detector soon came to the rescue. The Road contest was followed by a gathering at the Donlon farm hosted Brother Joe P. Donlon. Brick oven pizza, from the outdoor oven, was enjoyed with anticipated Irish libations. The event capped the years' events.

The next event being planned is our Holiday party in January. The Division has made it a practice to hold the event In January as is our Presidents Dinner which is held every two years.

The months of November and December will include work on the upcoming budget year and discussions of community service work and our Cultural Heritage Week planned for the week of St. Patrick's Day.

District 8

Jim Russell

District 8 encompasses the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties.

Dutchess County:

Dutchess County, Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1 will be meeting at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Division 1 Dinner Dance was held on October 19th. The honoree was Emmett Woods, a local business own-

er. It was an extremely successful event!

The division will be providing meals for over 100 homeless people in the city of Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, November 13th. The division Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 19th.

Orange County:

The Orange County board is proud to announce that James O'Malley, a member of Division 4 in Middletown, will be Orange County's Aide to the Grand Marshal for the 2020 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. Jim has been active in his division for many years. He is currently Division 4's Treasurer. He is also the treasurer of the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Division 1, Orange County held its 50th anniversary Sunday, November 17th at the Otterkill Country Club in Campbell Hall, N.Y. Music was by the Chris Turpin Band.

Division 2, Orange County has a full Irish breakfast every second Sunday of the month at their hall from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. In addition, the Saturday before Thanksgiving they will be distributing 50 full turkey dinners to deserving families in the area. Division 2's own Kevin Cummings has been nominated to be the Grand Marshall of the 2020 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade. The formal vote will take place on November 19th, 2019.

Division 4, Orange County would like to congratulate their own James O'Malley who is Orange County Aide to the Grand Marshal for the 2020 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Rockland County:

The next county board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 at Hibernian House beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be a joint meeting following the county board meeting to elect the Grand Marshall of the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

Division 1, North Rockland held its annual scholarship dinner dance on Saturday, October 26th, 2019 at Lynch's Restaurant in Stony Point, N.Y. Music was by the Kitty Kelly Band. The honoree was your humbled District 8 Director, Jim Russell. All had a great time.

In addition, the division held recruitment events at Boulder Stadium in Pomona; Many thanks to the State which allowed Division 1 to use the recruitment tent.

Division 3, Pearl River will be hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon for Senior Citizens on Saturday, November 23, 2019. In addition, the division will be hosting a Christmas party for special needs children on Sunday, December 15th, 2019.

Ulster County:

The 18th Annual Hooley on the Hudson, a day celebrating Irish culture was held on the Kingston waterfront on Sunday, September 1st. It was one of the most successful to date!

Ulster County Division 1 has a very active Pipe, Drum and Honor Guard band which just completed its 17th year. They are gearing up and recruiting for the upcoming 2020 season.

Planning is underway for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade with the recent announcement of Grand Marshal, Harry Woltman and 2020 Mayor of the Day, Pat Schiskie. The 2020 parade will be the 33rd annual and will be held on March 15, 2020.

The junior division remains active participating in the Pipe Band along with other activities that are held in the county.

Through their affiliation with the Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley they continue to sponsor Traditional lessons, Gaelic Language lessons, and will be starting a genealogy class next month.

Finally, the division is moving forward with their Irish Cultural Center in Kingston. Groundbreaking should be in 2 months. Donations are being accepted and are appreciated.

Freedom for All Ireland Martin Galvin

The AOH must be the "voice of the Irish in America" and there is no issue where Ireland needs America's voice more than freedom for all Ireland. This month we will begin our fourth groundbreaking speaking tour in 18 months. These tours made news in Ireland in the *Belfast Telegraph* and *Irish News*, as well as the *IRISH ECHO* and *IRISH VOICE*. Congressional letters on legacy issues put British officials on notice they were under Congressional scrutiny. New York State celebrated the centenaries of Ireland's Declaration of Independence and 1918 vote for freedom and will be welcomed back next year. FFAI works with our Immigration Committee to support Malachy McAllister, the Irish political deportees and other FFAI related immigration issues. We are also represented on Brexit Committees. New York led the way on one of the most successful Christmas Appeals in years.

NATIONAL SPEAKING TOURS

Boris Johnson and the Tories are shutting down prosecutions of British troopers for murdering the Irish, and hollowing out agreed legacy mechanisms once and for all. To fight Johnson's Britain's legacy cover-up the AOH are bringing back Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice. His schedule includes three New York events along with Chicago, Ohio, New Jersey, Hartford, Philadelphia, Washington DC. **Albany-Friday-22nd-Fr. Murphy Awards Nigt,Peekskill-23rd-Division 18--Bronx at Rory Dolan's Sunday 24th-(Tom Lambert honored)**

Brothers living in Congressional districts across the state are a key part of this effort. Tom Lambert's work with Brian Higgins and Vic Vogel's work with Peter King are great examples. *FFAI is calling upon AOH members across the state to contact your local Senators and Congressmen, and ask will they make time to hear Mark Thompson in Washington D.C. on November 19th or 20th.*

Last June Professor Mark McGovern, joined by Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, conducted a seven state American launch of *COUNTERINSURGENCY and COLLUSION in NORTHERN IRELAND* organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The importance to people in Ireland was underlined by a special appeal by Tyrone victims' families to relatives and friends in America to attend.

The tour included New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Rutherford New Jersey, Boston, Newport, Rhode Island, Fairfield, Connecticut, Virginia and Albany. The *IRISH ECHO* ran a full page story headed "McGovern book tour draws the crowds". Highlights included Congressional meetings, a reception at the National Press Club and briefings at the Irish Embassy.

STATE HONORS IRISH DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Ireland's Declaration of Independence took center stage in Albany in January, as Hibernians led by State Presidents Vic Vogel and Jacqueline Clute, watched state resolutions voted in the Assembly and introduced for Senate passage, before celebrating Governor Cuomo's Proclamation of "Ireland's Declaration of Independence Day" at the Hibernian Hall. Both the Governor's Proclamation and legislative resolutions compared America's Declaration of Independence to Ireland's, and memorialized the historic part played within New York State to make Irish independence possible.

Next year is the centenary of Terence MacSwiney's death on hunger strike, among many other events that were critical to Irish independence. Like Bobby Sands MP, MacSwiney the Mayor of Cork was an elected Irish representative who gave his life in a British prison rather than be treated as a criminal by the crown. We will be circulating a sample resolution on this.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This week the AOH will begin the 2019-20 Christmas Appeal. It is one of the only national fundraising appeals made by our national officers annually. **New York always leads the way on the Christmas Appeal.** Boris Johnson and the British government are stepping up efforts to deny truth to the families of victims murdered by the crown while starting new prosecutions against Irish Republicans. Brexit threatens catastrophe and the Stormont Assembly cannot function because of unionist bigotry. Instead of opening the door to Irish national freedom, Britain and the DUP want to nail that door shut. Our donations to carefully chosen charities through monies raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

The 2018-9 Christmas Appeal was a great success led by New York. All donations were presented during the February tour which meant that a number of AOH members handed out checks. The reception we received is a credit to each member of the AOH-LAOH who works on FFAI or contributed to the Christmas Appeal.

The recipients and amounts were based on written applications and recommendations from the National FFAI Committee, which includes Brendan Moore, Gerry McHale, Malachy McAllister, Jim McLaughlin and Sean O'Dowd. Final determinations were made by our National officers.

Every designated donation to approved groups was honored and groups named for designated donations got additional monies because we wanted contributions to reflect your feelings.

Recipients included -Relatives for Justice, Pat Finucane Centre, Holy Cross Ardoyne, EALU-(means Escape in Irish) is a center for Republican ex-political prisoners, New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Tyrone AOH, Cairde Strabane, St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick, Duchas Oiriall-South Armagh, Bridges beyond Boxing, Belfast, Down Patriot Graves, Green Cross, Belfast National Graves, Omagh Basketball and Omagh Choir.

Mail contributions to our new PO Box:

**AOH-FFAI
PO BOX 904
JEFFERSON VALLEY, NY 10535**

AWARDS

We have received the specially made gifts honoring \$1000 donors to the Christmas Appeal. This year the premium is a mounted bodhran, made for AOH or LAOH donors by Tyrone ex-prisoners. We are trying to arrange presentations of these awards at public events that suitably honor these contributors.

MALACHY McALLISTER AND DEPORTEES

Malachy McAllister and other Irish political deportee cases involve FFAI and Immigration issues, I have worked on these cases jointly with Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy. Malachy is a Belfast born Hibernian and key member of the AOH National FFAI Committee. Malachy McAllister had to report to DHS late October.

Other Irish Political Deportees including AOH members whose cases were settled in 1997, meet delays in work

permits, travel permission etc. Ex-prisoners say their children and grandchildren have been denied visa waivers or visas to visit the United States.

EASTER LILLIES AND ENGLAND GET OUT OF IRELAND BANNERS

Unionists this year again attacked "England out of Ireland" banners in St. Patrick's Day and other parades. The banner always gets a great response alongside organization banners. I encourage everyone to wear Easter Lilly pins or carry banners which remind everyone that the AOH always remembers those still denied freedom in Ireland.

FFAI MONTHLY BULLETINS

In response to requests for information we established a monthly FFAI Bulletin. All issues are now part of the monthly email blast. They are now carried on the National AOH site. (Thanks to Brothers O'Connell, Nisler and Cosgrove and the New York State web site.) The aim is to give you monthly updates on a few key events in the north with short analysis and explanations. Slan

Editor

Tom McKenna

Deadlines for The Empire State Hibernian are:

February 15 for the March 2020 issue

May 15 for the June 2020 issue.

Please submit all information through the appropriate officer, chairman or director.

Pro Life

Jack O'Brien

Since I last reported, there has been no improvement on Respect Life Issues in New York State. Take a moment and ask Why? ... Why do you think things have not gotten better? What are we doing wrong? Is it something we are not doing? -Or perhaps there is something we should be doing?

The Pro Life stance is never an easy struggle, but every Hibernian needs to fully support it, not avoid it. On Respect Life Sunday I stood with over 370 others. This vigil is a great way to introduce many more people to Respect Life Issues. Each person can actually change a heart and mind. It presents a chance to deepen someone's understanding of what abortion is - the taking of an innocent human life.

Every person learned something new, about what it means to be Pro Life. For new visitors just knowing they were not alone gave them courage enough to interrupt their day and join. Yes, just seeing PRO LIFE exhibited, and knowing they would not be alone is a big factor! In contrast with the old mentality of being quiet or, influencing people to stay away and even hide pro life principles. This Public Witness is an education in values. It invigorates and fosters Positive Pro-Life ideals. It reveals that thinking a baby will be a burden or that one life is worth more than another's is wrong on so many levels.

Public witness is the future of the Pro Life Movement. It works! Life must not be denied by antiquated ideas of hiding abortion, and its side effects, in the dark. Abortion must be brought into the Light and revealed for what it is the taking of a life, and no one is too young to see a pro life message.

Again in October, I walked in a torrent of rain and wind at Jones Beach with more than 3,300 others; all who know someone who has taken their own life. These issues do not belong hidden in the dark, and the theme of this walk titled "***Out of the Darkness***" was telling of what needs to be done to support Life issues. You all must show your support by promoting PRO LIFE always. Do it everywhere, in private, in the public square, even among friends.

Abortion and Suicide are everywhere in our community, possibly your own family. Whether it was an unplanned pregnancy, a mother, a former relationship, a troubled teen, policeman, veteran, or a sick or elderly relative, these issues touch & affect us all. With one wrong decision the guilt may be with us the rest of our lives. Like PTSD it affects our decisions and how we look at, deal with, and think about, various Respect Life issues.

This is why, I ask all Hibernians to look hard at their Pro Life efforts. It is your duty, you may not feel equipped to preach about it, but you do have to live it, show it, and promote Pro-Life every day.

I need to note the following observations, some methods that work to assist in you spreading the message properly. Here are a few things to remember:

DO NOT Argue... Discuss Pro Life issues calmly and one aspect at a time in a logical fashion and be able to back up your point of view. Keep in mind the person you are speaking with may have been hurt by abortion. Remember to never condemn them; it is not your job to judge anyone.

DO NOT Let someone make it a religious vs. a secular issue. Nor is it a Republican vs. Democratic issue, Conservative vs. Liberal issue. Remember this is a Civil Right!

DO NOT Let someone deter you by saying "this is not a place to exhibit pro life" or "not the place talk about pro life issues". I cannot think of a place where Respect for Life should not be practiced, exhibited, or taught.

I was recently asked not to use some fetal models in a public place where children and their parents were present. The models show the stages of Life's development before birth. I was told that there are places pro life issues should not be demonstrated. While I agree that children may be too young to learn about abortion, you must realize children are never too young to learn about how life develops inside their mother. What mother would not let a child put their ear to her belly to listen to the heartbeat of a sibling, feel the infant move, or just speak to the little brother or sister inside her? Yet, I was asked to hide these materials because someone might see them. Brothers, this type of thinking does **NOT work**. This attitude helped cause such a loss of life for more than 40 years. We all need to promote how sacred life is, in our thoughts, words and deeds. This needs to be evident in our hearts, our homes, and in public, because in the past 3 generations this indifference has cost over 60 million lives. Every tool must be used to demonstrate Life from Conception to Natural Death. This is the job of everyone, especially every one calling themselves a Hibernian.

It is imperative you don't wait for someone else to do this job! Schedule a pro life event in your area. Make sure your County and Division do assign a Pro Life Chairman and support their effort with your full participation. It is not a popular task, pro lifers meet with resistance at every turn, they need your backing at every stage. If you notice a member not on board with Respect Life Issues, please take the time to find out why.



Mark your calendar:

[2020 March For Life DC - January 24th](#) : Some Hibernians are already preparing a trip for the March For Life in Washington DC. to join the world's largest annual pro-life event. Each Division should have representation at the March in DC. Have a small fundraiser to offset the cost of the trip to get a Hibernian bus together to the March-for-Life. Or get on the bus with the Parish, Diocese, KofC or other respect Life Group. I can report District 6 has a bus going from each county. The Hibernians Breakfast is at the Irish Channel, 500 H. St. NW, across the street from St. Mary's. The Hibernians will meet at the G.A.R. Memorial (northeast corner of 7th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW) to join the march.

[2020 March For Life NEW YORK - May 18th](#) takes place in **ALBANY**. The Legislature has decided to stop their session early to campaign, the date for "March for Life NY" was adjusted accordingly. All pro-Lifers are welcome. If you are in or near the Capitol District please spend your lunch there. If Hibernians wish to join as a group, please let me know.

Scholarship

Dermot O'Connor Moore

At the NYS Covention in July, amendments to our bylaws were approved to change the \$750 annual award to a lump sum payment of \$3000 and to allow the committee to award two additional awards.

I will have the study material ready by the end of the year. Once again, we will have a one stop shop set up on our website entitled **2020 Scholarship Opportunity**. There the applicant will find everything necessary. The application is a fillable pdf. It is extremely important that the applicant save their application, with their name as the file name, before they email it back to me at dermotmoore@gmail.com . I will confirm receipt within 48 hours. If the applicant does not get my confirmation email, he or she should contact me as soon as possible. The link on the State home page will also contain the study material from which all the multiple choice exam questions will be taken from.

The scholarship is open to **high school seniors** who are the children or grandchildren of NYS AOH members. The test is worth 60%. The application, which will be judged by the committee, is worth 30%. The Major Degree is worth 10%.

Applications will be accepted starting January 3rd and ending on February 22nd. I will then send the exam to the Divison Presidents. The President or a divison officer are asked to please proctor the exam and get it back to me no later than April 17th. We will award the scholarships at the State Board meeting on May 2nd.

We had four applications in 2018 and eighteen in 2019. I believe this increase is due to the direct communications from the state president and webmaster, the participation of our divison and county officers, and the availability of applications and all materials on our website. Hopefully we will have even more applicants in 2020.

Reminder emails will be sent before all of the deadlines. Go raibh mile maith agaibh, Dermot

Catholic Action

James Hamilton

Thanksgiving and Advent are two important annual rituals in calendars which encourage us to pause, reflect and grow in the virtues of gratitude and hope. As Catholics, we pause every Sunday at the supreme expression of thanksgiving, the Eucharist, to express our gratitude to God for the many blessings in our lives. As Irish-Americans, we especially mindful of the blessings of liberty and plentitude as recall the painful chapters of our history *An Gorta Mór* as poverty and oppression forced many of our families to leave our ancestral home. Our faith

and heritage call us to multiply our blessing by serving Christ as we are called to become His eyes, His hands and His feet in the world to bring hope and love to those less fortunate than ourselves.

As Hibernians, we must become beacons of light in a dark and indifferent world. We must ignite the fires of love in our service to our families, our churches and our communities. When we do so, we attract others to join us in living out our faith and culture as an Order. I would like to highlight some of the divisions who organize events to serve those less fortunate during this holiday season. Division 7 of New York County participates in the New York City and Westchester County Basket Brigades providing meals to families throughout the tri-state area. Division 18 in Peekskill participates in the annual Turkey Run to help raise money for the local food pantry. Division 1 in Utica organizes an annual Mass in conjunction with the Great American Irish Festival to raise funds for local food pantries.

As the Catholic Action Chairman, I encourage all Hibernian Divisions to organize a service event during the Thanksgiving/Advent season to remind our brothers that we are called to bring light, hope and the love of Christ to those less fortunate than ourselves in this world. Go méadai Dia thú!

Save the Date

The annual **March for Life in Washington, D.C.** will take place on **Friday, January 24, 2020**. All New York State Hibernians are encouraged to attend. Please start making plans to attend and reserving your buses and hotels!

Webmaster

Lee Patterson & Kevin Ellis

It was great to see all the brothers up in Saratoga for our State board meeting in November. I thank all who came up with support and suggestions for our website. Your input is highly valued and appreciated.

Congratulations to our National and State Organizer Tim McSweeney on receiving NYSAOH endorsement for National Director. I have worked with Tim on the front lines and the work he is doing to advance the Order is outstanding. Best wishes Tim!

Worthy President Lambert has asked the State as a whole to increase the use of our events calendar. Please let us know what is going on in the state. Please submit all news and articles to webmaster@nyaoh.com. As I mentioned in our past report we plan to streamline the submission process, making it faster for us to approve the content and for the content to hit our outlets. When submitting please write a little note on the event, a picture if possible, and caption who is in the picture.

We are still planning an overhaul of our website, if you have some background in WordPress, graphic design, or programming; please email us at webmaster@nyaoh.com. We are going to start in the beginning of the year.

In closing, I would like to wish all of my Hibernian brothers and sisters and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Christmas, may God Bless Us All.

Veterans Affairs

SSgt Patrick Gorman

USMC retired.

I would like to formally introduce myself as the new Veterans representative for the AOH. My name is Patrick F Gorman Jr. from Buffalo, NY. I have served a combined 20 years in the military. I began my career in infantry with the U.S. Marine Corp and concluded my career with 8 years as a Close Quarter Combat instructor for the U.S. Army. I also worked for the US Department of Veterans Affairs before finally retiring from federal service in 2016.

I would like to bring attention to the new Missions Act signed by this administration that replaces the Choice Program. The Choice Program enabled veterans to seek outside care for medical concerns. However, Choice Program prevented veterans from seeking care under an emergent situation unless seen at the VA first, without being responsible for the entire cost of care. The only exception is if the veteran was in a life or death situation would the care be covered. The Missions Act now allows veterans to seek care at the closest emergent care if needed for serious conditions that may not be deemed life threatening.

I have vast knowledge on all services and eligibility's the VA provides in terms of healthcare, education, disability claims, housing and other services. I would like to extend this knowledge to those that need it. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with you all.

Charities & Missions

Matt Buckley

As we go into the "Holiday Season" a lot of us start the Christian Charity part of our order. Although I encourage you to do this throughout the year, now is a great time to start your food drives, clothing collections, fall and snow cleanups for the elderly to name a few. As an Order overall, we have been very successful collecting food at churches and supermarkets to provide for the needy. We've filled with abundance Catholic Outreach Centers and local food pantries.

If you're just starting out, it's as simple as just asking what the pantries need. Have flyers made up with a good list of groceries, stand out front of a food market and hand them out. I suggest also to put your Division information on the top with a short description of who you are and what you're looking to do. This serves double duty, collecting food and getting the word out about Hibernians. This will almost always spark a conversation and could lead to new members as well.

Many times it is not easy for members to raise monetary contributions, but that's not what it's about. Your time and the acts of charity are what's important. Filling food pantry's, working various soup kitchens, volunteering to help someone in need, spending time at your church doing their charitable endeavors all count towards our Motto of Christian Charity. Your time is reportable back at **\$15 / hour / member**. Full grocery bags add up between \$18 and \$25 per bag! It adds up to be quite a bit at the end of the year. All I ask is that when you do this, you let it be known you are members of AOH and do this under the auspices of our AOH motto. Please, if you do not have a C/M Chairman to keep track of these things then designate one. Ultimately it falls on the Presidents shoulders for responsibility.

Which leads me to reminding everyone that submitting a report is not voluntary. Submitting a report is in our bi-laws and is due each calendar year no later than Feb 15th to both the STATE AND NATIONAL Charities and Missions Chairmen. Email me with any questions, I want to help you. **Thank you and God Bless.**

Fund Raiser Calendar

Peter Durkee

By now all of you have received your 2020 Calendars. I'd like to thank Mike Mc Cormack, for a job well done, he keeps getting better and better each year. This year's calendar not only has something that happens in Ireland or the U.S.A. on each date but also has two different New York State Irish Monuments on each month and still gives you 365 days to win at least \$25.00.

As far as the 2019 calendars are concerned we sold 763 much better than 2018. as of October 15th, we had 211 winners and 71 non winners some of these were for \$75.00. Was one of these calendars one you could have sold or even bought.

I'd like to remind you that you don't have to a Hibernian to buy a calendar You can sell one to a friend or a worker and possible make them a new Member, at least show them the contributions the Irish made in New York . I think we can sell at least 850 calendars this year if we all pull together and sell at least one more than last year.

Thanks once again to Mike for doing the calendars and thanks to each of you for selling them. God Bless.

Immigration

Daniel Dennehy

Please pray for Matt Morrison, St Louis AOH and Irish deportee, had two strikes this week. He is in Mercy Hospital in St Louis and needs our prayers.

Hibernians fight for Ireland and future Irish Americans! Right now we are fighting to keep Malachy here in the US with daily action, here and in Washington.

During the AOH National Presidents Testimonial weekend in Washington, we had meetings and communications with USCIS Director Ken Cuccinelli's office, Senator Durbin, Representatives Blunt, Smith, Engle, Pascrell and Peter King. Senator Billy Lawless, Deputy Ireland Ambassador Emer Rock, AOH National president Jim McKay, Sean Pender and Malachy McAllister as well as Mike Forde, AOH Texas State President joined me. They contributed greatly in discussing the consequences to the Peace in Ireland and the GFA of Malachy McAllister's imminent deportation, Matt Morrison and other deportees constant struggles with USCIS and other pressing immigration matters. When not in Washington, we have constant communication between President McKay, fellow Board members Pender, Cosgrove, Galvin, Senator Billy Lawless, Siobhan Dennehy, Legislators and Government Official about Immigration, Deportation, Visas Denial, delays in Work and Driving authorizations.

US Immigration legislation and rules must not hurt the many to help the few!

President McKay, National PEC Chair Neil Cosgrove and I sent a strong message to the Senate about a very bad bill. Senate Bill S. 386, would ruin chances for Irish applicants to H1B visas. How? By allowing unlimited applications from massive countries like India, by removing quotas. India complains that they are on a waiting list, well, so are the Irish! Irish have been on the line the longest, and Irish undocumented are waiting for visas since the 1980's! DV lottery, Morrison Visas, J1 Program, and other methods succeeded with our advocacy. US Senator Durbin has shared our position with fellow Members in Congress from all Parties. We don't want special preferences. We believe that the Irish E3 with 10,500 renewable annual visas is a model for all future legislation. Hibernians possess unique connectivity in towns and cities across the U.S. Please do your part to let your Senator know, S. 386 is a bad bill. Ask your two US Senators to support S.2603 - Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families Act today

Thinking of living in Ireland?

It's straightforward for Irish and U.S. citizens to visit each other's countries for up to 90 days, but what about staying longer? And what about living, studying or working, here or there? The regulations to receive a visa are complicated, anyone considering staying longer than 90 days should learn all they can before they travel. We know Irish people coming to the U.S. can contact the Irish Immigration Centers here. Do you want to learn more about migrating to Ireland, visit Cross Care: Migrant Project here: <https://www.migrantproject.ie>

Who is your Division Immigration Chair? Please introduce him to me!

I ask that each Division and State comply with our Constitution and appoint an Immigration Chair. This chair is a resource on promoting fair and equitable immigration between Ireland and the USA, providing members with background on current Irish and U.S. immigration policies, issues, and concerns. The AOH National Immigration Committee is focused on these issues and is ready to get to work with you, our members when the time is right.

National Director Report

AOH Irish Mass & Installation of Officers in Woodlawn-

In 2018 then-NY State President Vic Vogel requested Counties and Divisions to organize Mass in the Irish language. Bronx County Division 5 Woodlawn held its second annual Irish Mass at St. Barnabas on McLean Avenue. Division Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald, a native Irish speaker from Kerry, said the Mass in Irish, with readings and music by Irish speakers from the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center & the Gaelic League and performers from a local Irish Music school. Father Brendan's homily said Irish Mass was one of many benefits Hibernians deliver to his community. Immediately after Mass, I was joined by Vic Vogel and Tom Beirne in publicly installing the Bronx County Board Officers, and Bronx County President Martin Galvin. A reception followed with all in attendance, as well as legislators and many Irish organization representatives. A Bronx LAOH recruitment drive was also part of the post Installation events.

Brexit and McGuinness Principles actions

Hibernians play a key role in helping others understand Irish Unity, and Peace and Justice for all in N. Ireland. I have participated in many Brexit and GFA related meetings and talks since our State Conventions. Former Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, Irish Tainaste Simon Coveney, Irish President Higgins, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's recent visits to NY and Washington underlined Irish America's vital role. I was fortunate to speak with many of them and other members of their delegations; they appreciate Hibernian leadership on these matters. We can all help people understand by introducing legislation in our community and State to endorse the McGuinness Principles. Here, we are working with local and NY State legislators right now, and the very process is waking up the community to the danger of Brexit and need for Irish Unity. The AOH is leading these efforts, please visit <http://mcguinnessprinciples.com> and start this activity locally.

Good of the Order

The 11th Hudson Valley Irish Fest hosted by AOH LAOH Division 18 Peekskill saw tremendous community support, a significant Irish Consulate Irish Abroad DFA grant, many new applicants at AOH and LAOH tents and great (but fun!) work by many members!

New Divisions

Attended meeting in Warwick, Orange County NY hosted by Brian McCabe (Retired NYPD Detective / Irish Echo columnist), Eddie Boles (FDNY/ EIIC Board member). Gave Q& A for a large group of excellent candidates showed great enthusiasm and interest for their new Division, which will soon be sworn in the newest Division in Orange County! Prospects for new Division in Westchester and would love to see first Putnam Division formed also!

Every Officer should understand and explain our Bylaws and Procedures:

Encourage outgoing and reelected Officers to share the Blue Book and Constitution with all candidates and new Officers. Also, to then explain 990 filing and per capita information with successors and other Division officers. The work being done with Treasurer Sean Pender to restore EIN's may seem difficult and time consuming, but it sure makes proper filing and paperwork look very easy!

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

