



Empire State Hibernian

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June 2020

State Chaplain Fr. Henry W. Reid

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you and your families during this time.

It feels almost silly to write a report about what I have been doing, as I have not been able to publicly minister since the Third Sunday of Lent. As many of you, I was greatly disappointed with the cancelation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan, and the chance to spend time with so many of my Hibernian brothers.

Without sounding like the same broken record everyone has been listening to over the past month and a half, we have to protect the most vulnerable among us, which during this time of Covid-19 is the elderly. We have never been afraid to stand up for those who are vulnerable, and now we take this opportunity to protect our brothers and sisters, our immediate families and those who, as we have done before, have no one to speak on their behalf. It is also our duty and obligation to help our brothers and sisters, our community members and those in our nation, and ancestral homeland, who have hit on difficult economic times because of this virus.

There are those of us who are financially stable, because of pensions, or salaries because we are either essential or government employees; I would ask those who are able, to support our brothers and sisters, whether through charity, or by supporting their businesses, either directly, online, or, as in the case of various bars and restaurants, through the purchasing of gift cards from their establishments, which can be used at a later date. Many of these people and businesses are the same ones we turn to for support for our activities in good times, now is our turn to reach out and assist them in hard times.

We are still waiting to find out when our churches can reopen, as the State government is making decisions based on their criteria about openings for everything in the State, and the bishops are doing their best to conform to those directives. God willing we will be able to come together as Catholic Communities soon; until then, may God bless and protect you and your families.

Unfortunately due to the continued lockdown of NYS, I have had to put the *Inis Fada Fleadh*, originally scheduled for June, on hold until next summer

Pray this time of challenge comes to an end soon.
In Christ and our Motto,
Fr. Henry W. Reid

President

Thomas A. Lambert

We recently conducted our first (and hopefully only) Virtual AOH NYS Board Meeting. In these trying and uncertain times it was good to be in the company of our NYS Brothers! Your State Board Officers worked hard to arrange for this virtual meeting. I would like to express my thanks to our NYS Webmaster, Lee Patterson, for his time and effort in preparation for our meeting. I believe the Meeting was a success and thank you to all who attended! As noted at the Meeting, please keep those affected by this pandemic, both as victims, and those who are working hard on the front lines in fighting this horrible virus, in your prayers!

Until the current governmental restrictions are eased, Division and County Presidents may wish to consider virtual meetings, provided there are enough controls. There are a number of Divisions who have begun virtual meetings. I have not heard of any issues with these meetings. This is a great way of keeping in contact with your AOH Brothers! Also, please try to regularly check in on your AOH Brothers.

I would again like to congratulate the Brothers selected as Grand Marshals, or Aides to Grand Marshals in the now cancelled St. Patrick's Day Parades. We may not have been able to participate in the many parades and events which have always been a part of the St. Patrick's Day season, but our pride in you, as well as in our common Irish heritage is not diminished. Despite the cancellations, your Brothers are very proud of you!

As I have previously indicated, recruitment and retention of members MUST be a focus of our efforts in the coming year, despite the current pandemic. Every single Division and County Board throughout the State MUST increase efforts to grow the membership of our Order! I am again 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! Many Divisions are involved with fundraising for food banks and other worthwhile endeavors to help others in this time of need. What a perfect way to attract future Brothers!

The AOH/LAOH National Convention is still on and is fast approaching. Hope abounds that the current restrictions will be eased by July! The convention is being held in Orlando this summer. Dates for the convention are from July 22nd to July 26th at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Reservations are filling up! Please contact the hotel at 1-800-204-7234. Use Code GRPAOHNATL2020 for convention room rates (\$115 per night plus taxes). Package prices are \$210 if purchased before June 1st and \$230 if purchased after. Please make plans to attend and to support our NYS candidates.

Vice President

John J. Manning

Greetings Brothers... You and your families have been in my thoughts and prayers these past several weeks. I hope with the publishing of this edition of the AOH New York State June 2020 Newsletter, you are staying healthy and safe.

We recently held our AOH New York State Spring 2020 meeting on Saturday May 2, via Zoom Conference, and this meeting brought great pleasure for me to be able to see or hear your voices. Yes, it was not the same as our traditional meeting at the Shamrock House in East Durham, but with the hard work and dedication by our AOH New York State Web Master Brother Lee Patterson, it was a huge success, Thank you Brother Patterson.

Brothers I am asking you all for a special favor. Please pick up the phone and contact your Brother and Sister Hibernians in your communities. One of greatest tools that has been provided to us is communications. Many of our

Brother and Sister Hibernians are home alone or have little communications with the outside world, and we need to check in to make sure everyone is doing okay. We are living in a strange and stunning situation, one that we all will get through together, and we need to remember that we are in this together. All it takes is a few minutes out of your daily lives to pick up the phone and say “Hello”.

In closing Brothers, I pray that you will continue to stay healthy and safe. Please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime if there is anything you need or I can be assistance. I can be reached at jmanninggnysoh@gmail.com, call or text (917) 589-0047. GOD BLESS!!!!

Secretary
Thomas M. O'Donnell

While not as satisfying as our regular physical meetings in East Durham, our virtual meeting allowed us to keep the business of the Order moving forward. Thanks to all who participated!

Unfortunately 8 Divisions have not yet paid their per capita. At this time I still have not received Form 9's from 28 Divisions and 9 Counties within New York State. An updated Form 9 is important for keeping our contact information current and up to date. Please file an updated Form 9, even if the names of your officers have not changed. Attached, in the same email as this newsletter, is the current list of our National, State, County, and Division Officers in NY. Please review the list and if there are any errors, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I can be reached at tmodonnell@roadrunner.com or Cell (716) 622-5185.

I want to wish all our Brother Hibernians and their Families a Safe and Enjoyable Summer

Treasurer
Thomas Beirne

I hope and pray for all of you and your families during these trying times dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is hard to believe that we are (2) months into this crisis and while the end is hopefully close, no one knows the duration.

I also think of and pray for the many great Brother and Sister Hibernians that have passed away and their families. May they Rest in Eternal Peace. We could not give them the send off that they so deserved, no wakes, Funerals, or grave side services. We will suitably honor them when circumstances allow things to return to somewhat normal. Many Hibernians need to be thanked for going above and beyond what seems even humanly possible in fighting the virus. They responded gallantly putting themselves and their families at risk; as first responders, workers in the medical field, transportation, utilities, supply chain, Charities, and other essential industries.

Also it is unimaginable that many of the things that we hold dear as proud Catholic Irish Americans have been canceled. The Saint Patrick's season with all of our Parades, dances, concerts and events was almost entirely cancelled. Thank You to the Hibernian Brothers from NY County and Orange County that met on 5th Ave on St. Patrick's Day and proceeded up the Avenue with the NY County AOH Banner, Irish and American Flags, and bagpipe music; keeping up a proud tradition. We have not been able to attend Mass, the Sacraments, or any of the services during Holy Week. Our economy, educational system and daily lives have almost entirely been put on hold. We will come back as strong as ever.

As Hibernians, we need to be guided by our motto of Friendship Unity and Christian Charity and take care of those impacted by this crisis. Especially now, we need to support our clergy and churches. Hibernians are responding in many ways, volunteering, working at food pantries, preparing meals, providing food and taking care of the elderly and most at risk. Hibernians established and are leading the Irish-American Meitheal to acquire and dis-

tribute much needed supplies and PPE to medical front line workers. Hibernians boosted moral and showed support for Healthcare workers by playing bagpipes, conducting drive by parades at Hospitals and bringing them prepared meals.

Thank you to all of the NY jurisdictions that have sent in their 2019 per capita, initiations, and paperwork. The NY State Board officers are carrying out their responsibilities and continuing the work of the Order. The virtual State Board meeting held on Saturday 5/2/20 via Zoom went very well, although we would all have rather been together in East Durham. Many jurisdictions are holding virtual meetings and officers are encouraged to keep in contact with members.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the National Convention 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.

May Saint Patrick Bless and Protect You and Your Families.

District 1

Kevin O'Reilly

Hibernian's in the Capital District are generally doing well and are adapting to the Corona-19 situation that we are all in. March Madness Irish Style with St. Patrick's Day Parade's and Dinner's, were basically cancelled throughout the District due to the virus. The Albany Division took the financial worst of it as they were the biggest target and had to cancel all of their activities as Big Brother and the Media were watching very closely for their compliance with the Corona-19 guidelines. All of the District's Brother's are making the best of it just like all other AOH Brothers.

On the lighter side, I have asked all of our District President's to have the song "All of The Hard Days Are Gone" to be the first song played/performed (live, jukebox, other) in their Hall's/Meeting Space once the Corona-19 restrictions are lifted. The song is performed by varied artists with the Kingston Trio being the best Nationally known artist, regionally there are the McKrell's, Get up Jack, Hair of the Dog, Mike DeAngelis to name a few.

Albany: President Tim Weklar. The Division was able to have their Communion Breakfast, with Division member Chaplin/Seminarian Jim O'Rourke as speaker, just prior to the virus restrictions. The monthly Hibernian Hunger Project work at the Capital City Rescue Mission soup kitchen will resume once the virus restrictions are relaxed. As of this writing they are working to find a work day at the Regional Food Bank following CD guidelines. Unfortunately, the typical Saint Patrick's Day seasonal activities were cancelled and the Division is working with their partners in the Capital District Irish American Association (CDIAA), owner of their Hall, to work through the financial blow caused by the cancelled events. The Division has made a \$2,500 donation to the CDIAA to help their plight.

Schenectady: President John Humphries. The Division was able to squeeze in the typical March Parade Day activities at their Hall, even without a Parade occurring. They are experiencing the same financial issues all of us are and are being creative in their approach. In April they held a Meat sale to raise funds for their concerns. John has held ZOOM meetings with his Officer's as they work through this crisis.

Troy: President Peter Durkee. Peter is holding Troy steady and keeping Dick Bolen a close 2nd.

Watervliet: President Mark Scully. The Division was fortunate to also hold their March Parade Day activities absent of an actual Parade. Mark is feeling the same pressures at their Hall like all of us and is making the best of it.

Saratoga: President Tim McNulty. Prior to the Virus shut down, The Division hosted a presentation on “Ireland in 1920, On the road to the Republic” given by Elizabeth Stack, Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany. The Division was able to hold their annual Feis with music by Forthlin Road and the Grafton Street Trio. Traditional fine Irish dancing was provided by the Wild Irish Acres Dancers. It was well attended and a fun time was had by all. Tim is also using ZOOM to conduct his monthly meetings and the meetings focus on checking on the health and welfare of the Division members.

East Durham: President – John Gallagher (acting). John has been actively working with National Organizer Tim McSweeney toward rebuilding the Division numbers. National Director Liam McNabb, myself and all of the District’s Division President’s are working in support of the efforts by John and Tim.

On a sad note, the East Durham Irish Festival has been cancelled for 2020 due to Corona-19. I am hearing our members have very, very serious health concerns related to attending the National Convention in Florida this year. The vast majority would prefer a virtual convention. All are watching that situation very closely.

The State Board recently held their Spring meeting virtually on ZOOM, I thought it went very well and I suspect we will be seeing more of this. President Tom Lambert and Webmaster Lee Patterson did a great job.



John McCarthy, a member of Albany Div. 5 and Past Albany County President, shown on CBS 60 Minutes at his day job for the NYS Dept of Labor Unemployment Insurance Benefits Division.

District 2

Craig E. Speers

We are all mourning for the brothers and family members who have been lost in the current pandemic.

Our Catholic faith is really what sustains us in these times of stress and worry. We must never doubt that our Lord and Savior has a plan for all of us as members of the faithful.

As we navigate through this period of crisis, we must remember that the institutions that we so love and support need our continued commitment in order to survive this period of civil and financial uncertainty. I am specifically referring to our Catholic parishes, our parish elementary and high schools, our community and parish centers, our Hibernian divisions, halls and Irish community centers, our Irish heritage groups, and other groups that depend on our financial and volunteer support.

While the Catholic Mass has been suspended in many NYS dioceses, the expenses of maintaining your parish and school have not. Utilities, insurance, salaries, and other expenses still need to be paid on time. If you have not done so already, please send a generous regular donation to your local parish. If you are in a position to donate a few more dollars to assist these worthy parish organizations, please do so. It is vitally important that these places of worship be preserved in order to serve future generations of the faithful.

Lastly, it was my pleasure to participate in what was likely the last Saint Patrick's Day parade commemoration held in New York State this year. The Village of Youngstown, Niagara County, St. Patrick's Day parade is only three blocks long. It's held in this gorgeous village, adjacent to Old Fort Niagara, the scene of many battles in the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812. This village is located on the Niagara River at the junction with Lake Ontario. It is a small, traditional, quaint lakeside community steeped in history.

Participating in this parade were members of the Niagara Falls, Lockport and Buffalo AOH and LAOH divisions along with the Niagara Falls Irish Fife and Drum Corps. AOH NYS President Tom Lambert, AOH NYS Webmaster Lee Patterson and myself. Many other Hibernians took the chilly march to honor our glorious Patron Saint. Two days later the shutdown began and world as we knew it changed. We can only hope that we will get back to some sense of normalcy in the shortest possible time.

Pray the Rosary for those who have passed, and ask for God's blessing on our church, our families and our nation. Every life, born or unborn is important.

District 3

Phil O'Neil

Syracuse – Commodore John Barry Division – Onondaga County

March 14th Mass and Parade cancelled. Syracuse purchased new banner from Saratoga Flag Co.; A great company currently sewing masks.

A Zoom officers meeting was held on April 14th. Syracuse is working with two Irish groups, The Tipp Hill Athletic Club and the St. Patrick's Parade Committee. This effort will be raising funds to purchase meals for first responders and hospital staffs; and volunteering to deliver the meals. The major fund raiser for the Division the Scottish Games on Aug. 14th has been cancelled.

Oswego – Dean Michael Barry Division – Oswego County

3rd Annual St. Patrick's Parade was held on March 7th; Division members and LAOH participation was outstanding. Divisions from Syracuse, Auburn, Fulton and Watertown marched with the Oswego Hibernians. I was privileged to march with all my Brothers. The community lined the Parade route. In the spirit of The Order motto; Syracuse loaned a historically significant Tri Color Regimental Flag. The very large flag was proudly anchored by 20 AOH and LAOH members from all represented Divisions.

The Oswego Hall was closed by current restrictions. Oswego will be holding a fund raiser to mitigate the financial effect of the closing.

Auburn - John F. Kennedy Division, Cayuga County

Auburn had a week of events scheduled leading up to St. Patrick's Day, all were cancelled. The Division Hall has been closed since mid March. President Bob Oliver was very proactive by holding a "fire sale" to deplete all perishable food and beverage inventory. This effort was very well supported by members and the community. Bob's effort was essential in lessening the financial impact on The Hall and Division. Bob led the Auburn AOH and LAOH at the Oswego Parade.

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

The St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th was cancelled as were associated events on the 14th and 17th at the home of the Division, The Irish Cultural Center. The Division did celebrate the Catholic faith by starting St. Patrick's week with a prayer and wrapped up the week with their annual St. Patrick's Mass at St. Joseph /St. Patrick church. Patrick Roche leads a new roster of officers for the John C. Devereux Division.

Watertown - Msgr. James Ruddy Division – Jefferson County

The “North Country Goes Green” festival, March 13 – 17 was cancelled. This event is the major fund raiser, recruitment and cultural education event for the Division.

The Msgr. Ruddy Division celebrated their traditional St. Patrick’s Mass on 3/15. I was privileged to participate in this Mass with my Watertown Brothers. Ed Wallace led the Watertown Brothers and Sisters at the Oswego Parade

Fulton – Harold J. Flynn Division, Oswego County

Fulton AOH and LAOH got in under the mandate wire in putting on their corned beef and Irish stew dinner March 15 at their meeting location The Polish Home in Fulton. Harold J. Flynn Division President Dan Mahaney reported that the sit down dinner participation was down but take out dinner sales were very good. I was able to attend this Division event. Dan led the Fulton AOH and LAOH at the Oswego Parade.

District Event – Leadership and Membership Conference Call and Power Point Presentation; April 25th

The Power Point Presentation was emailed to all participants for the meeting. National Director Liam McNabb led the call and presentation. I was pleased to serve as facilitator. All District 3 Division Presidents and some Division officers participated in the event. The Power Point was informative and helpful in Division organizational strategies. A very beneficial Round Table discussion wrapped up the event. If other Districts have not participated in this exercise I would highly recommend contacting Liam to set one up.

District 4

Bob Nolan

Please keep in your prayers our Brother Hibernians and their families as we battle the covid19 virus which has taken countless lives domestically and abroad. Please stay safe, smart and healthy.

Consider joining with Irish-American organizations and individuals committed to helping frontline health care workers as part of THE MEITHEAL, in which neighbors support neighbors in time of need. Several deliveries of needed gloves, masks and gowns have already been made to hospitals and future plans are to deliver meals from Irish owned restaurants to hospital workers. Contact info: themeitheal@gmail.com or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/THE MEITHEAL](https://www.facebook.com/THE-MEITHEAL); My personal thanks to Dan Dennehy for many details and his own labor.

With Congressional support so critical in domestic and foreign policy issues, I arranged a meeting with Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in late February in The Bronx. AOC was briefed by Dan Dennehy on Immigration issues, Martin Galvin on FFAI and legacy concerns, Shioban Dennehy on maintaining essential services at Emerald Isle Immigration Center and I addressed the history of the AOH and the activities of The Bronx divisions in her district. The meeting was scheduled for 1/2 hour but ended up lasting almost twice the time. We asked AOC to support our requests in each area discussed and believe she will be supportive of Irish Issues. Thank you to Brother John Doyle, Bronx Div. 3, who also helped facilitate and attended the meeting. Because Congress Members’ Nita Lowey of Westchester and Jose Serrano of The Bronx will not run for re-election in November, I will call the offices of their successors and arrange a meeting after January 1.

New York County, Dennis Grogan, President

On March 2, 2020, William B. Burke Division #3, NY County Ancient Order of Hibernians honored Malachy McAllister with the J. Barney Ferguson Hibernian of the Year Award at Coogan’s Irish Pub & Restaurant.

On March 4, 2020, NY County together with Bronx County AOH sponsored the showing of a documentary about Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. Bernadette has lived an amazing life, she was the youngest elected Member of Parliament in 1969, she also survived an assassination attempt in 1981 where she was shot 9 times along with her

husband.

On March 14, 2020 at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, the NY County Board sponsored the annual Irish-language Mass. It was the last public Mass celebrated in the New York Archdiocese honoring St. Patrick before the COVID-19 suspension of Masses.

Just prior to St. Patrick's Day, New York County Board sponsored the distribution of a storybook to Archdiocesan schoolchildren about the life of St. Patrick. The book was distributed in electronic form to all elementary schoolchildren. Also, NY County donated \$500 to Sober St. Patrick's to promote the organization's efforts to reclaim the true spirit of St. Patrick's Day by changing the perception and experience from an occasion for binge drinking and other misuse of alcohol to a celebration of the richness of Irish culture and the legacy of St. Patrick.

Several spring events, such as the Francis P. Beirne Division No. 9 AOH Annual Golf Outing and the Tomas Cardinal O'Fiaich Div. 7 Celtic Cruise, have been postponed until later in 2020.

The Bronx, Martin Galvin, President

For the second year in a row, Bronx County contributed \$1,000 to the Christmas Appeal with these funds designated for Relatives for Justice. Thanks to the Brothers in Divisions 3 and 5 for their support.

The annual Bronx County Mass and breakfast, scheduled for April 19, was postponed. This Mass of remembrance for deceased Brothers will be combined with our 3rd annual Irish Mass tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 5 at St. Barnabas Church in Woodlawn. Thanks to past State president Vic Vogel for originating the idea.

The annual Bronx County dinner has been scheduled for Sunday, November 22 from 3-7 p.m. at Rory Dolan's.

Westchester County, Brian Duffy, President

The annual County dinner, previously scheduled for April 25, has been cancelled and will be held next spring. The Major Degree held in partnership with Bronx County has been canceled until April 2021. The Hudson Valley Irish Festival has scheduled their annual event for Saturday, September 26. Look for further details on their web site or in the next district report in September.

District 5

Steve Kiernan

Prayers to all members, their families, neighbors and friends, to all essential workers, during this trying time.

Saint Patrick's Day season was an unexpected hiccup for all of us. Though, in District 5, we were able to get two parades in. Staten Island led theirs first, followed by Rockaway of Queens County. Both very successful days.

All County Presidents report cancelled or postponed events. Virtual meetings are a new thing to all of us, but some Divisions are reporting this is what they are doing till we get the green light to visit our meeting places once again. And, more than anything else, we hope our churches open up soon.

Kings County President Eddie Velenskie reports that Divisions and the members are an active part of the Call of Action by the Catholic Charities to help feed the families and individuals that need to be fed, by unloading, sorting and handing out donated food items at several churches in Brooklyn. A prayer is asked for Patrick Glynn who recently passed away. Patrick is the brother of Division 19 Past President Joe Glynn, brother of Matt Glynn of Division 21 of Queens and Brother Mary Glynn of LAOH Div 9 of Kings County.

A special heartfelt Thank You goes out to New York County Division #3 member and New York State AOH Catholic Action Chairman James Hamilton. Eddie Velenskie had made an on-line request for a volunteer to drive up to Dutchess County to pick up a donated box freezer for the ongoing Food Distribution at Saint Thomas that Kings County Board and all of the Division in Brooklyn are involved with, both monetary wise and with many continuous donated man hours. Brother James Hamilton and his wife volunteered to make this 200 mile round trip journey to help his Brother Hibernians from Brooklyn. Thank You Jamie and your lovely wife: Keeping it Hibernian Strong, especially during this time.

Queens County President Kieran Mahoney reports that the Rockaway Irish Festival had to be rescheduled for September 12th and 13th at Saint Camilus; also, the 145th AOH/LAOH Queens County Dinner Dance will be at Antuns on Saturday October 17th, 2020. More details to follow.

I also want to highlight that several members of Queens Division 9 and 21 have assisted with Catholic Charities food pantries and delivery, some of which have been stationed at St. Bartholomew's in Elmhurst. Also two brothers have continued their great work at their food pantries that they have ran for decades and continue to assist during these crucial times, Past Queens County President Walter cooper with his food pantry at Holy Child Jesus in Richmond Hill and Divisions 9 historian Tom Friel at St. Vincent DePaul food Pantry in New Hyde Park

Queens County learned of the passing of Brother Tim O'Sullivan, past member of Div 14 and Past President of Queens County did pass away from Covid 19 about a month ago. Tim was a current member of Greene County. Richmond Count President Thomas Gray reports that they are hoping for a County meeting in June. The current virus situation and the mandates for all citizens of our state, has caused all meetings, events and the Richmond County Irish Fair has been cancelled and no new dates are in sight.

Richmond County Board would like to acknowledge and thank Brother Chris Haynes of Division #4, who ran a "Pop up Pantry" food drive to provide food for close to 400 families. The Brothers of Richmond County are very proud of Chris.

Prayers are requested for Richmond County Division #1 member, Peter Lyne, who is in rehab after contacting the Covid-19 virus. Peter is also a Brother of the Society of St. Paul. It is reported he is not doing well at all. Prayers are powerful; please keep Brother Peter in your prayers.

Once again, prayers and good thoughts to Hibernian Brothers; Stay strong and stay involved. We are needed now, more than ever.

District 6

Sean O'Rourke

Greetings from Long Island; First, I would like to extend prayers to the families and loved ones of AOH members we have lost to the scourge of this virus. I have been in touch with Suffolk County president Christopher Thompson and Nassau County president Jack O'Brien. When this virus passes, and it will, we will look to coordinate a memorial service to recognize our members who we lost during this unprecedented time in our country's history. Further information will be available in the coming weeks.

Suffolk County - County President Christopher Thompson Informs me that every division in Suffolk county has donated at least \$100 dollars to a local Food Bank. President Thompson also informs me that the Suffolk county board has matched all donations made by the Divisions in Suffolk.

Suffolk County sent a bus to the March for Life march in Washington DC back in January which was well attended.

Brothers from Suffolk County marched in St. Patrick's Day parades throughout the state.

Due to the continued lockdown of NYS, Fr. Reid has put the Inis Fada Fleadh on hold until next summer. Information will be posted when details are worked out. All tickets purchased online will be refunded

Nassau County – County President Jack O'Brien Informs me that Nassau County has initiated a Food Drive in Mid-March. The food drive is continuing with the support of the divisions. \$500 in goods and \$500 in store cards have been delivered to Religious based Outreach thus far. Over 1300 lbs. of food have been distributed so far. The President would like to thank Divisions 11, 14, 15 and 20 for their support. More Division's from Nassau are continuing to join and help with the food drive. Div. 7 is planning a food drive for the St. George Episcopal Church in Hempstead in the near future.

Nassau County held a Shamrock Degree in February which was a great success. President O'Brien would like to thank the degree team and all the members who attended.

Nassau County sent a bus to the March for Life march in Washington DC back in January which was well attended.

Nassau brothers marched in St. Patrick's Day parades throughout the state. Brothers also attended the Hofstra Irish Festival at Hofstra University back in March.

The 1st Long Island Irish Fest has been rescheduled for Sunday October 18, 2020. Details to follow please check their website for updates. www.longislandirishfest.com

The 48th Nassau County Feis is still scheduled for Sunday September 20, 2020, details to follow. Some division in both Suffolk and Nassau have been having virtual meetings. Some divisions are not able to have these types of meetings for one reason or another. With that being said, I hope the lock-down ends sooner than later so we can get back to our meetings and regular semblance of normalcy. Please stay safe and all the best to you and your families.

District 7

Timothy J. Tobin

My thoughts and prayers are with our fellow Hibernian brothers and sisters and with all who have suffered immeasurable loss in this struggle. I am thankful for all the doctors, nurses, first responders, and countless others who work selflessly for all of us in fighting this pandemic. They are the angels among us. We will get through this together.

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.

Broome County Division 1 of the AOH, Monsignor Lawrence E. Giblin Division 1 is located at 148 Main St., Binghamton, NY. President: John Walker. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Greetings and I hope and pray that everyone is safe throughout this pandemic that we are experiencing. I work in the healthcare field and to say this has been scary is an understatement. I pray each and every day that my members are safe. On March 15th we held our annual Pancake Breakfast, because of the pending health scare our lives were basically placed on hold. I believe that our St. Patrick's Day parade was one of the few that were held this year. I thank God that we were able to hold the parade on March 7th before this all started. I also thank our brothers from Elmira, Tim Tobin our District 7 director and Mike McNabb for again helping us celebrate. We cancelled our St. Patrick's Day celebrations and closed our hall in accordance with the ban on social distancing. I have corresponded with our members through emails and phone calls. Our future endeavors for the coming months are in limbo. We had thought of a chicken barbeque and our annual golf outing in August will be decided in the coming weeks. I have zoomed more than I ever thought I would in the last month. What was Zooming anyway? So, from our AOH family, God bless you all, stay safe, and as the Guinness commercial stated, "We WILL march again". May God hold us all in the palm of his hand!

Chemung County Division 1 of the AOH, Monsignor John J. Lee Division is located in Elmira, New York. President: Patrick "Packy" McFarland. Division Meetings are the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Hibernian Center, 701 Kinyon St., Elmira, New York.

The Msgr. John J. Lee Division of Chemung County has been fairing the COVID-19 storm quite well. To date no members have or are presumed to have contracted COVID-19. Unfortunately, like most other divisions we were forced to cancel or postpone a great many events during this time.

First and foremost was our Corporate Communion March, Mass, breakfast, and after breakfast social gathering at the clubhouse. This is only the second time since our Division's inception that this event has been cancelled or postponed. The first was the Blizzard of 92' when more than a foot of snow fell the night before the event. We decided to postpone 3 days before NY State issued its own order against large gatherings of 50 people or more, so we would have been forced to cancel anyway. We were also forced to cancel the remainder of our Lenten Fish Fries, which are provided by the LAOH Division of the Chemung County. The fish fries serve as integral gathering and socialization events for the Irish Catholic community of Chemung County. They are also highly anticipated by the non-Irish, Catholic community in the Elmira, NY area. And last but most certainly not least we were forced to cancel our St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the clubhouse. St. Patrick's Day is one of only a handful of days each year we open up our clubhouse to the community and share in celebrating our Irish Catholic heritage. These cancellations will no doubt have a serious financial impact to our organizations but moreover have a lasting emotional impact as well.

We have used this time to make some improvements to our clubhouse (abiding by correct social distancing, of course). We have painted our hall, refinished the hall floor, deep cleaned our kitchen and resurfaced our historic bar top. The members who volunteered for these tasks are to be congratulated, Thank you.

On Saturday, May 9th both the AOH and LOAH Divisions of Chemung County held a free lunch for school aged kids at our clubhouse. We served our "famous" mac n' cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit cups and a desert. The event was take out only and was well received in the community. We served 167 meals to the needy and donated an additional 110 meals to local hospitals and police stations. We will continue to serve meals to the community for as long as it takes to return to "normal".

In uncertain times like this is when we need to step up and be our very best. When we need to reach out and help others in need, a phone call, a conversation, a donation, a simple question.... "How are you?" Simple acts such as this can mean the world to our brothers and sisters and sometimes it means the difference between hanging on or giving up. One of our members has stepped up to the challenge in the most dangerous and heroic ways.

Our Hibernian Hero

On April 8th Jim Storch, a member of the Msgr. John J. Lee Division of Chemung County, a Respiratory Therapist for Schuyler County Hospital got on a bus headed to the New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Since

then he has been working in the ICU treating patients diagnosed with COVID-19. Jim *volunteered* for this and his selfless actions in this time of great uncertainty and tragedy can only be described as heroic. All members of the AOH/LOAH should be proud to call men like Jim their brother. He is the living embodiment of our great motto, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. We cannot be prouder of him. Jim, you are a true hero and we thank you.

Steuben County, Division 1 of the AOH, Sons of Ireland Division, 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

The week of March 9th - 14th was celebrated by the Division as Irish Heritage month. Events during the week included Irish Ceili Dancing with Pa Kane, Irish Step Dancing, and an evening of Music on Friday night with the Irish Rovers performing from 7:00 to 10:00.

On Tuesday evening, March 10th, the Division held it monthly meeting. Immediately following our meeting, a joint gathering of the AOH an LAOH heard Brother John Buckley, Mayor of the City of Hornell, read a proclamation from the City declaring the week of March 9th thru March 14th, Irish Cultural Week in Hornell. He then announced the Grand Marshal for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, as LAOH member Carolyn Kelly.

The Division held its Corporate Communion on March 12th at 8:00am at St. Ann's Church in Hornell. Fr. Stan Kacprzak celebrated Mass. We were joined by our sister LAOH as well. Following Mass, the group had breakfast at Paddy's Grill. Fr. John Cullen of our neighboring St. Mary's Parish in Canaseraga, addressed the group and spoke of Ireland's culture, at the time of Patrick, and how it impacted his work to overcome beliefs and myths, in bringing the Catholic Faith to the people of Ireland.

Unfortunately, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held following our breakfast, was cancelled because of the COVID 19 outbreak along with other Activities scheduled for the Day."

Our only activity since the COVID 19 "Stay at Home Order" was on Palm Sunday, when we held a drive-thru in the parish parking lot and distributed Palm to members of the Parish and Community. The drive thru was in 2-hour shifts, the first from 8:00 to 10:00 and the second from 12:00 to 2:00. Approximately 150 to 175 families received Palm.

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, officers were installed on January 18th, 2020. I had the great pleasure of installing the new officers. The meeting was held at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The division will be providing meals for over 150 homeless people in the city of Poughkeepsie in March. They do this twice a year, once in November and the other time in March.

The division was the sponsor of the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade which was held on Saturday, March 7th, 2020 in Wappingers Falls. The division marched in the Parade. The Grand Marshal was division member, Assemblyman Kieran Lalor.

Orange County:

The Orange County board was proud to announce that the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade season kicked off with the Parade fundraiser on Sunday, February 16th in Monroe. The Parade was to be held on Sunday, March 15th, 2020. The Grand Marshal was Kevin Cummings of Division 2, Orange County. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19, the parade was postponed. The new date for the Parade Mass, breakfast and parade will be on Sunday, September 20, 2020. The parade will be held in the Village of Montgomery.

Division 1, Orange County held its 50th anniversary dinner on Sunday, November 17th from 1-5 p.m. at the Otterkill Country Club in Campbell Hall, N.Y., Otherwise, nothing to report.

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. Division 2's own Kevin Cummings was elected to be the Grand Marshall of the 2020 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Division 4, Orange County has a new President. His name is Ron Heppes, Otherwise, nothing to report.

As of Thursday, December 4th, 2019, we have a new division in the order located in Warwick, N.Y. It is called the McGuinness-McDonald Division. I had the great pleasure, along with National Immigration Chairman Dan Dennehy, Orange County President, Ed Burke and Cy Hughes of Rockland County to install the division members and officers. A light reception was held afterwards. Welcome Brothers!

Rockland County:

Rockland: Annual Emerald Ball was held on February 22 where Hibernian of the Year Fergal Hayes (Division 3 Pearl River) and Business Person of the Year Ed Hartnett (Division 3 Pearl River) were honored. It was a very successful night and journal. Thanks to all who supported.

The 58th Annual Rockland St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled due to the health crisis. Grand Marshal Frank McDonagh (Division 3 Pearl River) and Parade Commander Sgt Deirdre Smith-Withers, Suffern PD (LAOH Division 4 Suffern) will march next year.

The April county board meeting was held on Monday, April 20th, 2020 via conference call.

Division 1, North Rockland was due to host a St. Patrick's Day Party for the residents of the NYS Veterans Home in Montrose. It was canceled due to Covid-19.

We have begun to make donations to our local Catholic Charities branch, our local parishes and the Marian Shrine to keep them working to help those they serve. We continue to work toward our annual scholarship dinner/dance as well as selecting the recipient of our annual scholarship. We are optimistic that these events will take place this year. We are also looking to make use of technology to keep our Division in touch and will be exploring Video calls or conference calls to keep our meetings going.

Division 3, Pearl River has reported the following:

- November/December - **Pot of Gold:** Finished up another successful Pot of Gold campaign. Both parties were well attended and made good money for our charities and scholarship fund. Also had our best attended yet **Wren Night** event on 12/26 - plenty of musicians, song and story. **Inducted** new officers at December division meeting.

- January - Had a **Night of Appreciation** for outgoing division president Dermot Moore where the Hibernian House was packed to the rafters.
- February - **Ski Trip** to Belleayre was well attended with 44 on the bus the day before the Superbowl. Division 3 was well represented among the honorees at the **Emerald Ball** including: Hibernian of the Year Fergal Hayes, Business Person of the Year, Edmund Hartnett and Grand Marshal Frank McDonagh.
- March - March 8 we sponsored a showing of the **movie, Rebel Rossa** as an early Irish American month event, little did we know that it would be the last official event prior to the pandemic taking full hold. We did continue to move our division scholarship process forward and had nine scholars take the test on Irish and Irish American history and earn division scholarships - testing done in appropriate social distancing manner.
- **Pandemic** - Our focus over the last 4-6 weeks has been on the welfare of our brothers and families. We've spent the majority of energy on keeping members informed of the well-being of their brothers, opportunities to help others and ways to support local businesses. As of the writing of this, we are in the process of reaching out to our senior members (roughly 250 members) by phone or email to check on their welfare. Early returns are that the phone calls and outreach is so appreciated.
- **Good and welfare** - The division has suffered terrible losses over the last two months, starting before the pandemic but being accelerated by such. Since beginning of March, we have lost brothers: James Harding, Phil Sheridan (a number of division offices and former District Director), Larry Kaine (former chair of scholarship committee), Dan O'Keefe, and Rich Lenihan (aide to PR parade Grand Marshal this year). In addition, we've had numerous members sick over the last month with COVID-19, with several members in the hospital.

Sullivan County:

The Sullivan County AOH has not met because of Covid-19.

Ulster County:

The 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade was not held this year because of Covid-19. Other activities have been canceled as well.

The annual Hooley on the Hudson is scheduled for Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Freedom for All Ireland Martin Galvin

Under our national leaders, AOH FFAI has become more effective, in influencing American and Irish politicians, contributing to justice groups in Ireland, impacting British policies, and setting the agenda for Irish American groups. Under our state leadership, New York State plays a leading and indispensable role in everything accomplished nationally. Since our November Board meeting, we held our fourth groundbreaking speaking tour in 18 months, getting a formal House Foreign Affairs Hearing and news coverage in the *Belfast Telegraph* and *Irish News*, as well as the *IRISH ECHO* and *IRISH VOICE*. The hearing followed a series of Congressional letters on legacy issues putting British officials on notice Congress was watching them.

We were scheduled again, working with our state president and state PEC Chair, for formal ceremonies in the New York State Senate and Assembly on April 21st, honoring patriots of 1920 and the Black and Tan War, like centennial ceremonies honoring Ireland's 1919 Declaration of Independence and 1918 vote for freedom. Next year the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Striker Martyrs led by Bobby Sands MP, we should be in Albany honoring their legacy. FFAI works with our Immigration Committee to support Malachy McAllister, the Irish political deportees and other FFAI related immigration issues.

New York doubled the contributions of any other state in a record breaking Christmas Appeal. We are now looking at ways with our National Vice-President for grant recipients to work with us on projects to help our fundraising or recruiting on an ongoing basis.

It must be noted that the health crisis held back some plans but did not stop British injustice. We planned an important role in the Presidential Forum, with Judge McKay on the panel and our discussions with organizer John Dearie at our state FFAI Christmas Appeal fundraiser. FFAI expected to propose a May or June speaking tour following last year's successful book launch tour, and report on another successful state ceremony in Albany etc. The British saw the lockdown as their chance to renege on the Stormont House Agreement and block investigations into British crown force legacy killings.

It is crucial that we begin making up for lost time asap.

SPEAKING TOURS

Nine days after Boris Johnson announced plans to block prosecutions of British troopers for Troubles killings, the House Foreign Affairs Committee hosted a special briefing by Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice and Professor Mark McGovern, attended by Congressmen, many Congressional aides, two observers from the Irish Embassy and an observer from the British Northern Ireland Office.

The Congressional Hearing highlighted a tour in which the AOH held public events in Chicago, Columbus Ohio, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Baltimore, Hartford, **Albany, Peekskill and the Bronx.**

We got tremendous publicity in Ireland as well as the Irish American papers. These public events not only paid for the tours but were a major contributor to the success of the Christmas Appeal and helped in recruiting, as people see and want to be part of an organization which plays a key role in fighting for justice in the six counties.

Without being able to count on proven New York events this tour may never have happened.

Brothers living in Congressional districts across the state were a key part of this effort. Tom Lambert's work with Congressman Brian Higgins and Vic Vogel's work with Peter King are great examples.

These tours give AOH members opportunities to show leadership and build the organization locally. Other Irish organizations supported the tour and aided on issues and priorities set by the AOH.

Proposals:

1-We are hoping to make a firm proposal for a new speaking tour in November which could provide a speaker for some of our best Christmas Appeal events, follow-up on FFAI political issues post-election and motivate more areas to support our FFAI political and fundraising initiatives.

2-In the interim we will be working on an initiative with our National VP Danny O'Connell to bring updates or interviews to you via computer. We understand this is not as effective as bringing speakers here for you to meet, ask your own questions and share your concerns personally.

STATE HONORS

New York State AOH and LAOH packed the Assembly and Senate galleries, after calling their elected officials to support resolutions in both 2018 and 2019. Led by State Presidents Vic Vogel and Jacqueline Clute, we got state resolutions voted in the Assembly and Senate about Ireland's 1918 vote for freedom and 1919 Declaration of Independence.

This year working with State President Tom Lambert, State PEC Chair Liam McNabb Chair and former State FFAI Chair Ciaran Geraghty we had a firm date of April 21st to return to Albany for state ceremonies remembering Terence MacSwiney, Kevin Barry and other Irish patriots who gave their lives during the Black and Tan War of 1920.

We are now welcomed back by our state officials because they know that AOH members, who vote, will turn up and we demand the same recognition for Irish issues that is given to others.

These ceremonies accomplish a number of important AOH objectives. They foster an awareness of our history to people who might never have heard of events like the Irish Declaration of Independence or understand their historical importance. They show our elected officials that they have to pay attention to Irish issues and the AOH. Thirdly at a time when the British and Unionists want to honor the six county state and partition, these ceremonies are a subtle reminder they created the Orange State against a national vote for freedom, and Declaration of Independence and through a war using the Black and Tans to terrorize Ireland.

Proposal:

After building credibility through state ceremonies honoring the events of a century ago, next year we can honor a more modern event. Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike, the death of Bobby Sands MP and nine others.

The Hunger Strike and what it represented should be the theme of a state resolution in New York State and in cities and municipalities across the state and nation.

Resolutions should also recall the contribution of AOH members under former State President John Egan and National Digest Editor Frank Feighery, who were instrumental in getting AOH banners and representatives at demonstrations across New York State in support of the Hunger Strikers every day from March 1st through October 3rd.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The 2019-2020 Christmas Appeal was a record breaking success led by New York. A total of \$20,864 came from 37 New York State contributors to the Christmas Appeal, New York more than doubled the next highest state.

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 with Bob Bolbach keeping the records. 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.

New applications were approved for the Ballymurphy Families Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust (which oversees the Museum of Free Derry), Tyrone National Graves, and the Witness Project headed by Sean Murray.

Repeat 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.

February 2021 Fact-Finding Tour

In 2019, Hibernians completed a highly publicized nine day fact-finding mission led by President Jim McKay and LAOH President Carol Sheyer and including leading Hibernians from 13 states.

Proposal

In February of 2021, we are proposing a tour that would include meeting the families of all of the hunger strikers as well as discuss the continuing legacy and political meaning of the 1981 Hunger Strike today.

MALACHY McALLISTER AND DEPORTEES

Malachy McAllister and other Irish political deportee cases involve both FFAI and Immigration issues. It would be impossible to explain any of these cases where Irish husbands and fathers of American citizens were denied legal status without explaining the FFAI context. I have worked on these cases jointly with Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy and National Treasurer Sean Pender. Malachy is a Belfast born Hibernian and key member of the AOH National FFAI Committee. Malachy McAllister's stay against deportation is still scheduled to end on May 28th. 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

"England out of Ireland" banners in St. Patrick's Day and other parades always get a great response alongside organization banners. I encourage everyone to wear Easter Lilly pins or carry banners which remind everyone that the AOH never forgets those still denied freedom in Ireland.

FFAI MONTHLY BULLETINS

In response to requests for information we established a monthly FFAI Bulletin. Some bulletins are used in the monthly email blast. They are carried on the National AOH site and NY State site. The aim is to give you monthly updates on a few key events in the north with short analysis and explanations.

Proposal

FFAI Bulletins should be circulated to County and Division FFAI Chairs for presentations at monthly meetings.

Pro Life

Jack O'Brien

I hope this message finds you all well. **Sadly, due to the Coronavirus**, all organized Pro Life events have been canceled, just like all our meetings, schools, parades, and dining out. We had to cancel the **March For Life- NY** for May 18th, in Albany. Each of us are asked to continue our individual Respect Life work.

PAST There were several events prior to the quarantine. All were well attended. Hibernian men and women should continue their effort to promote and attend all Respect Life events. Since I last wrote, the major event was the 40 Days for Life. The National 40 Days for Life is a powerful effort. For the 25 days before its cancellation, from the opening Mass until the stay at home order, we saw babies saved daily. It is not money or donations that help as much as your presence at the event. Please realize "it is your presence that makes this difference". As well, we now have reports of some Planned Parenthoods closing.

CURRENT It has been a year since the NY Governor codified Roe v. Wade legislation and many in Albany are still pushing the Anti-Life agenda. Now **Surrogacy has also passed the Senate in NY State**. This Paid Surrogacy (aka ‘Womb-for-Rent’) will be legal in NY State as of February, 2021. Interestingly, the very law against the practice, signed by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1992, was repealed by the 40 pages of surrogacy and “assisted re-production” regulations in the newly passed NY State Budget.

Commercial Surrogacy was basically decided by a ‘committee of three people’ in a budget meeting, – avoiding the usual path of such a bill through committees with debate before a final vote on the specific bill by both houses. This in effect allows these Contracted Children to be legally bought and sold – and treated as a commodity.

FUTURE SUNDAY OCTOBER 4th is RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY - Be part of the LIFE CHAIN!

It is your presence that makes a difference. I ask all Hibernians to focus on **National Life Chain Sunday 2020** held **October 4th**. By then I expect all of us to be ready to move about and get out to a PRO-LIFE event.

Life Chain is a very effective event. Held annually, on the first Sunday in October, the LIFE CHAIN is organized in cities and towns across New York State and all of America. It is an easy event, just to stand on a designated local sidewalk and take part in this **90- minute witness**. You need only to show up and hold one of the six (6) pre-approved pro-life signs provided at the site. (Do not bring K of C signs, Right-To-Life signs, etc.) I will have a location list started by the next newsletter. I organize 2 locations in Suffolk County alone. Contact me at AOH11@Live.com for more info. For PRO LIFE ideas check the Facebook postings at @Hibernians For Life for current topics and more. I pray that by our next meeting there will be much more Pro life action to report.



Scholarship

Dermot O’Connor Moore

It looks like we are on the right path. We had 28 applications this year compared to 4 in 2018. I have to thank Lee Patterson and Kevin Cummings for all the work they did on the website to make the applications and study material so easily available.

The winner of the 2020 Board Scholarship is Elizabeth Encke, daughter of John Encke of Orange County Division 2, who will be attending Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut in the fall. All 28 applicants were outstanding and we had hoped to award an additional two scholarships but unfortunately this was not feasible this year with the loss of the golf outing due to the ongoing medical crisis.

Speaking of the crisis, this year presented new challenges as we had to get innovative with the administration of the exam. Some were given virtually out of necessity and I have to give a big shout out to all the Division presidents and officers who went above and beyond to get the tests proctored.

Last but definitely not least, I extend my heartfelt thanks to scholarship committee members Kevin Cummings, Neil Cosgrove, Tim McSweeney, Mike Tobin, and John Wolfe. They had an extremely difficult task this year rating such worthy candidates.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Enke. Go raibh mile maith agaibh to all the candidates for participating in our program and on behalf of the NYS Board, I wish them all the best in their endeavors.

Veterans Affairs
SSgt Patrick Gorman
USMC retired.

Today I'd like to discuss the VA's policy and procedures during the Covid crisis. The VA has moved to having most of their appointments to Tele health while suspending other non essential appointments, which can range from basic dental to radiology, until the open orders are allowed in the VISN 2 NY/NJ healthcare system. After speaking with public affairs and the patient advocates I would like to relay the message that all appointments will be considered on a case by case basis, so if a veteran was told, for example, their x-ray needs to be postponed they can request to be seen based on their need for that procedure.

If you do have a scheduled appointment at the VA you will be screened before entering and then allowed to proceed to that clinic. The emergency room and pharmacies will continue to function as normal, as will scheduled travel for eligible veterans that need to attend their appointments whether it's from the VA office or the DAV if they are working out of that hospital. The VA, like most hospitals, is overwhelmed. If a problem occurs in scheduling one of these appointments deemed non-essential currently the best action to take is just to contact the patient advocate at your local VA to handle the situation on your behalf.

Today's salute to heroes recognizes Buffalo AOH member SSgt Nicholas Mocarski. Nick left April 29th for a year deployment under Operation Inherent Resolve to conduct combat operations from Kuwait up to Erbil Iraq, which is located in the Northern Kurdish district. May we all say a prayer for his safety and service to his country.

“The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his”
GEORGE S PATTON JR

Fund Raiser Calendar
Peter Durkee

Brother's as I sit here and write this report I'm a little saddened that we have not reached our goal of 800 calendars for this year. Mike McCormack certainly did his job, “Well done Mike”. I think the State Directors have done their job of getting the calendars distributed to the various divisions in the state; “Great Work, Brothers”. Now if we can get the members do their job and buy/sell the calendars we may yet meet our goal. I MAY BE PREACHING TO THE CHIOR but to you I thank you for being true Hibernians, to the others I feel sorry for them it's their loss. Last year we sold 752 calendars, that was so far the best in the past several years. We didn't meet in May due to health issues so stay safe and say a prayer that God will watch over all our Brothers and Sisters. Have a good summer and God Bless.

Immigration
Daniel Dennehy

If you could join me as I walk through the streets of Manhattan, you would feel as if the clock on normal life stopped. As an elevator mechanic, I am an essential worker; many of my colleagues are sick with COVID 19, quarantined by exposure or home caring for loved ones. Since the clock stopped, I must now cover many Manhattan buildings for elevator emergencies, often I carry my backpack and toolbox and head to the calls 'Shank's Mare,' that's Irish slang for 'on foot.' If you were with me, on one of those walks during COVID 19 days in NYC, we would pass many of the closed Churches, stores, and Irish Pubs and Restaurants. These are places usually filled with familiar faces, where we congregate, enjoy good company, and involve others in our Hibernian works and efforts. Now there are no patrons, publicans, or bar staff. The pubs we pass have windows painted, and bunting hung to herald a Happy St. Patrick's Day like no other.

When the clock stopped, the realization sank in that employment for every person would change drastically. For the first time in the history of my involvement in Irish Immigration, I was assisting the Irish Consulate, Immigration centers, and Embassy share word that Irish J1's and other recent emigrants should make their way back home to Ireland. Before the airlines shut service to Ireland and with the likelihood of the pubs, restaurants, construction sites not opening anytime soon, Ireland experienced the most massive repatriation of its citizens since WW 2.

Since then, President Trump issued a Presidential Proclamation on Suspending Entry of Immigrants, which went into effect April 24, 2020. To explain the new Order's implications I have included the chart The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers has created detailing which visa holders these affect. If you have questions or need support, find you local Irish Immigration center here: www.ciic-usa.org

COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS Follow @IrishCoalition for updates

Presidential Proclamation: Suspending Entry of Immigrants

Limits entry & visa issuance for at least 60 days for those OUTSIDE the U.S. seeking entry as immigrants and without parole/travel documents.

Does NOT apply to those INSIDE the U.S. applying for a green card either family or employment based (adjustment of status).

Effective 23 April 2020 at 11:39am EST

Applies to	Exceptions
Adult/married children of USC's	Current LPRs/Green Card Holders
ALL spouses & children of LPRs	Spouses & minor children of USC's
Parents of USC's	Healthcare professionals & COVID-19 related response professionals (spouses/minor children)
Siblings of USC's	Employment based immigrant investors (EB-5)
DV Lottery Applicants	U.S. military members (spouses/children)
Employment-based immigrants (see exceptions)	U.S. government workers & law enforcement
	Individuals designated as serving the national interest by the Department of State or Department of Homeland Security

USC = United States Citizen
LPR = Legal Permanent Resident Full Proclamation: bit.ly/34Z5r3n

Government of Ireland
Immigration Support Programme

For Irish Americans statewide in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut as well as Irish immigrant students, workers, or retirees who cannot return to Ireland because of the lockdown quarantine, self-isolation, unemployment, there is help. Slainte 2020 offers direct assistance to our communities for those who cannot receive US government assistance, for a variety of reasons, during the COVID 19 crisis. The Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center, New York Irish Center, New York Gaelic Athletic Assn, and United Irish Counties are united in this effort to appeal for donations and a resource for employment opportunities, and financial assistance. The Slainte 2020 committee is extremely grateful for the donation passed at the NYS Board and hope other County Boards, Divisions and members will add to that support. Any donations given will go directly to assisting members of our community directly. Learn more at <https://www.slainte2020.org/>

When the clock stopped, we were on the verge of winning E3 Visas for the Irish as the House had just voted unanimously, and we were chipping away at Senate holdouts. We had hoped that the annual White House St. Patrick's Day celebration would herald the new Visas. We were looking forward to the AOH Division 7 NY County Celtic Cruise, which has been postponed to mid-September. As of this writing, we continue working with Malachy McAllister to secure him and his family permanent US status.

When the clock starts to tick again, and we can worship, celebrate, and work together in person, much will have significantly changed, perhaps permanently. Some of the bars we loved will not open again, some of our favorite bar staff will have moved on, and sadly some of the people we loved will have succumbed to this dreaded disease. For the rest of us, whether we stayed safe at home, keeping in touch with our Brother members and loved ones by phone, or those who filled the ranks of essential workers every day, we will meet again! We will raise a glass, lament their passing and compare notes on how we spent our time during COVID 19. Hopefully, the noble efforts we all make during COVID 19 will lessen the blow for our communities, and we can resume our struggles for US legislative Immigration Equality for the Irish. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the resources and efforts I have detailed in this report.

National Director Report

Daniel Dennehy

When we look back at the COVID 19 health crisis, how will we remember it? Will we recall phone conversations and online chats with family, friends old and new, and fellow Hibernians and the renewed spirituality that social distancing thrust upon us? Will we remember our admiration for our Clergy offering Mass for all of us at home, and our front line employees in healthcare, emergency services, US Post office, and at the checkout counter of the pharmacy and grocery store? Will we remember the COVID lockdown as a time when we had to mourn our dead and pray for our sick, together, but safely separated by social distancing? We don't know the time or the hour that this crisis will end, or how we will feel afterward, so we might as well find ways to work together in the meantime!

Hibernians across the Metro Area and beyond are planning for the National Convention, our great reunion! Divisions are working with the National and NYS Boards to make sure Per Capita and EIN information are up to date. I admire the Divisions that have adopted phone trees and online conferences to keep in touch with members. Since the lockdown, I have attended many zoom-style meetings; each person sees the others Brady Bunch style, working together, however remotely. The critical work of our Order continues, while we wait for the crisis to end.

Many Hibernians and Divisions are engaging in charitable works in their community. If you are involved with a relief effort, please share your work with us at the National and NYS Board. If not, these are some of the ways to get involved:

John Manning, New York State AOH Vice President, is Chairman of EMS FDNY Help Fund, created to help those who are battling medical issues, injuries and personal tragedies, filling the gap of needed support for EMS first responders and their families in time of need. Visit here: <https://emsfdnyhelpfund.com>

State Director Steve Kiernan and Eddie Velinskic of Brooklyn AOH and Ed Shevlin, Queens AOH Division 21 Charities & Missions Chair, are working on various food supply efforts in the Archdiocese of Brooklyn and Queens. Brother Shevlin is volunteering with Catholic Charities Office of Mission. The volunteers receive, re-package, and distribute parcels of nutritious food and gift cards to thousands of less fortunate members of the Archdiocese, at various Churches in Queens. Catholic Charities provides PPE for the volunteers. Brother Ed is asking for volunteers to join him and donations to Catholic Charities Office of Mission- Community Programs, contact him at (917)226-5540.

Buy Irish

Brian M. Clancy

I hope and pray that this finds you all unaffected, other than the necessary inconveniences, by the dreadful pandemic. My goal for 2020 at the beginning of the year was to restart activity at the local level in the Nassau/Suffolk AOH/LAOH while gradually reaching out to more and more brothers around the state to try and start similar groups regionally throughout NY. Due to the Corona virus and the fact that business owners and professionals have been hit particularly hard by the lockdown, I have amended the plan slightly to try to jumpstart participation outside of Long Island. The overall objective, however, remains the same.

Please be sure to visit our website, Thecelticconnections.com, which was designed by Brother Brian Rogers of Huntington Div. 4. While its intent was only to handle Nassau and Suffolk, I have asked Brother Rogers to increase our capacity so that we can temporarily (for at least the next 6 months) include the entire state in the website. To further ease the inclusion of businesses around the Empire State, we are waiving the dues for any members until August 1, 2020. At that time, members who see it as beneficial will pay \$50 per year for a listing in our business directory.

You may recall that the secondary goal of the network was to boost the coffers of both the Divisions and Counties. Well, the timing and need for those funds has never been better. I can tell you personally that my Division, Kevin Barry of Smithtown, is facing a potential reduction of more than \$8000 in our fundraising efforts this year, depending upon whether we can hold our annual golf outing. This will in turn, affect our ability to carry on the good of the order and help our local community. And while the NCAA football season remains in jeopardy, so do the Notre Dame raffles that are run by Nassau and Suffolk Counties, a potential \$10,000 loss this year. Similar results can be expected in all of NY's Divisions and Counties.

So gentlemen, our Hibernian Business Network has taken on a new urgency. Businesses have everything to gain and nothing to lose. I am asking every Division and County officer to get the word out. If you get me the emails of the editors of your newsletters, I will be happy to write a blurb for inclusion. The network is also a tool for recruitment. In Suffolk alone we've added more than a dozen new members. And in these dire economic times, I think you will find Irish business owners friendly to almost anything that might help them, especially since they get a free 3-month trial. I am available at 631-523-7863 via text or phone or at BMCND78@GMAIL.COM.

Charities & Missions

Matt Buckley

I am pleased to announce that for the year 2019, Divisions and County boards have reported to me a total of \$584,577 of charitable work in some way or fashion. That is an increase over last year of about \$57,000. Thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do as we make our way towards the 1-million-dollar initiative. This is very easily obtained if we continue to report all our endeavors. Believe it or not there are still Divisions not sending in a report. I have some recommendations to make and will be discussing this with the NYS Executive Board soon on appropriate ways to handle it moving forward.

There have been great questions sent to me these past few months as to what does or does not count as a reportable function/ event. I'd like to propose the following as a short list of what we have seen and can do so far:

- Any event or function that raises/ collects money for a charity**
 - Actual Monetary donations collected and dispersed
- Any function that collects items for someone or someplace**
 - Food drives/ clothing collections/ Medication / Etc
- Time spent doing this Charity / fundraising**
 - Each Hibernian is counted at \$15 per man, per hour
- Travel to and from a function or work of charity**
 - From the IRS - \$0.14 per mile to and from event or function per vehicle
- Promotion of education to the Irish Culture**
 - Raise money for Irish Museums/ Language Classes / Gaelic Football/ Parades / Etc
- Any event or function that espouses the cause of the AOH**
 - Project St Patrick / National Hibernian Charities / Disasters / Hunger Relief / Etc
- Any event or function that is recognized by the Catholic Church as a charity**
 - Hope House Ministries / Dominican Sisters / Etc

This coming July I will be at the National Convention in Orlando FL and I look forward to sitting with our National Chairman of Charities and Missions. Besides the many questions I have, you Brothers have asked me to figure things out on your behalf as well. For example, I'd like to know definitively what should be reported and, how it should be reported (broken down by charity type as an example). This should not be left to the division levels to guess and be creative. Fortunately, National has recently sent out an idea of what they would like to discuss and resolve this year. My plan is to leave with a clear and decisive written instruction from the National level on how these reports are to be submitted. I would also like to see an updated way of collecting this information. The days of printing paper is antiquated and not conducive to getting it done quickly and accurately. Currently there are no

definitive answers to these very important questions.

If you are planning on attending this year, please join me in the Charities and Missions breakout session to discuss these very important topics. Many hands make light work, and often issues are resolved faster with your input. If you do not plan on attending, please email me your questions to bring to the National Board.

This year we have been hit with a pandemic that NYS has not seen before, Covid 19. Sadly we have lost many friends and family to it. I am very proud to announce that many Hibernians have put their best foot forward and helped out those people in need when it was needed most and continue to do so at the time of this report. We should all be very proud. I'd like for everyone to summarize with photos if available and send me what you've done so I can share with the rest of NYS State and Nationally. Don't forget to report it next year as well.

Finally, remember the Arnold J. Nagelhout NYS Charities and Missions Award. At this time please submit to me any Division/County you would like to nominate for this award. It is not necessarily about money, but more about the spirit of C/M.

The Arnold "Arnie" Nagelhout – Annual NYS Charities and Missions Award

I am pleased to announce our 4th Annual Award to recognize the New York State AOH Division which best epitomizes this spirit of Charity. The award is created and presented in honor of Arnold "Arnie" Nagelhout long time NY State Board Member and Charities and Missions Director.

As part of our Motto, Charity is the heart of our Faith and Organization. As members of the New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians we're called to assist our parish's ministries and our community's endeavors by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy (to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, tend the sick, visit those in prison, bury the dead, and give alms to the poor). Pope Francis recently said, "I am grateful to the many volunteers who offer their service in soup kitchens, giving food to those who are alone, in need of help, out of work or homeless. These meal centers and other works of mercy --- such as visiting the sick and the imprisoned are examples of charity in action that promote a culture of giving, since those involved are motivated by love for God and inspired by Gospel wisdom."

These "Local" charitable activities are not being considered in lieu of our National AOH endeavors, but rather in addition to them. Both will be considered in the selection of the award recipient and both should be included in the application narrative.

When applying, a Division should submit a written narrative of their activities in the past submittal year (no more than 250 words). For the sake of this award, the year will be January 2019 through December 2019. They should also submit a copy of their Division's New York State Charities and Missions Annual Report for the same timeframe. All award submittals must be mailed in by no later than ONE MONTH PRIOR TO CEREMONY. The Trophy will be awarded at the NYS State Convention or at the State Testimonial Dinner, depending on the year.

As we intend this award to be ever changing to meet the changes in society, judging criteria will be agreed upon by the judging panel while maintaining a focus on charity as defined by the Catholic Church.

In addition to the award, the NY State Board will make a \$500 donation to the charity of the recipients' choice to a recognized charitable organization.

Immediate Past President

Victor J. Vogel

As with most of us, the present health crisis has curtailed our scheduled activities. Since our last meeting, I have participated in a Conference Call with the National Board. After individual Officers' reports were presented, the National Convention in Florida was discussed. As of that April 8th meeting, the convention is still being scheduled unless otherwise notified.

I also participated in a Conference Call with the Suffolk County Board. The purpose of the call was to determine the well-being of the membership. The Suffolk County Board also voted to donate money to food drives that were supported by the Divisions. At a time when health and safety are of prime concern, Hibernians are always ready to do the Good Work. I was pleased to participate in my own Division's food drive. I would like to thank all of the Hibernian Volunteers and those who work to protect and care for us during this emergency. God Bless You All!

Catholic Action

James Hamilton

In his Easter homily, Cardinal Dolan reflected on the despair and emptiness the disciples must have experienced on Good Friday “when the world was empty of light, goodness and decency, of truth and hope and life itself... empty of God!” He noted that the pandemic has left many of our homes, churches and places of business empty which can cause us to lose meaning and hope in our lives. But he reminds us that the emptiness of Christ’s tomb is a metaphor in the emptiness we may be experiencing in our lives during these difficult times waiting to be filled with the light, hope and meaning of Christ. We are an Easter people called to bring the light of Christ into the darkest of our world.

In 1945, Maryknoll priest Fr. James Keller founded the Christophers (or “Christ bearers”) to encourage the faithful to recognize their worth to positively impact and create a better world. Their motto “It’s better to light a candle than to curse the darkness” captures the essence of their mission to provide hope in the aftermath of World War II. I first learned of this motto during a Youth Day at St. Joseph’s Seminary as Cardinal O’Connor asked the thousands of attendees to extinguish their candles so we can see the brilliance of the single candle in his hand stand out in the darkness as he preached on the Gospel “And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness cannot overcome it!” John 1:5

As Hibernians, we can find inspiration and encouragement to light a candle in our own little corner of our world to bring hope to others during this pandemic. Hibernians throughout New York are rising to the occasion to bring the light of Christ to families who have lost or are caring for loved ones affected by the coronavirus, they are providing support to individuals and families who are struggling to provide for their families due to a sudden job loss or a closed business and they are reaching out to their neighbors to provide hope to those feeling overwhelmed, discouraged or alone.

Let us light a candle each day by reaching out to our neighbors and brother and sister Hibernians who may be alone and isolated due to age and infirmity. Let us reach out to our neighbors who lost loved or are caring for loved ones infected by this dreadful virus. Let us find ways to encourage and provide support to our neighbors who may be out of work or had to close their businesses. Let us rally together to support food pantries and fundraisers for families who are struggling to provide for themselves. Let us continue to provide financial support to our local parishes and schools. It is through these small acts done with great love that we can truly say we are an Easter people. He has Risen! Alleluia! Go méadai Dia thú!

Sports

Michael Byrne

The Covid-19 Pandemic has certainly impacted all our lives and schedules. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost a family member or friend due to this dreadful virus. As an AOH family, we will get through this.

The New York AOH State Annual Bowling Tournament was held on Sat, November 29, 2019. The tournament was held at the Farmingdale Bowling Lanes, 999 Conklin St, Farmingdale, NY 11735. A buffet dinner and presentations were held at Hibernian Hall, 85 Grand Ave, Massapequa, NY 11758. Thanks to AOH Division 15 for their hospitality. The event was a huge success. We made a profit of \$1,250. Thanks to all our sponsors. It was agreed at the tournament that the event would take place again this fall in Nassau County. A team from Nassau County Board won the trophy this year.

Unfortunately, The James F Hayes Golf Classic had to be canceled. Our Annual Thomas D McNabb 7-a-side Gaelic Football Tournament also had to be canceled. I will try and reschedule that for the autumn, but not sure if we will be able to get a slot.

On the local level as chairman of the Nassau County AOH Feis, I am hoping it will go ahead as scheduled on September 20th.

The Long Island Irish Fest which was originally scheduled for August 9th, but has been re-scheduled for October 18th, 2020. We have a big lineup of bands performing; Andy Cooney, Harpers Ferry, the Screaming Orphans, the Brooklyn Bards, and McLean Avenue. We will also have pipe bands, Irish Step dancers, and an Irish traditional music session, and vendors. All proceeds will go towards supporting our feis, scholarships and local charities. We are looking forward to a great event!

Editor

Tom McKenna

Deadlines for The Empire State Hibernian are:

August 15 for the September 2020 issue

November 15th for the December 2020 issue

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



The past few months have been a difficult and trying time for all. Due to the ongoing health crisis we have been forced to distance ourselves from all but our most immediate family and friends. As a fellowship, the Brothers of our Order have grown accustomed to the camaraderie and support of each other; we come together not only to share our joys but also our sorrows.

In the last few months Brothers have passed and we have not been able to come together as a community of faith to grieve with their families, celebrate their memories and pray for their souls.

The New York State Board offers its sincere condolences and prayers for the members we have lost, their families and Hibernian Brothers. Please take a few moments to say a prayer in their remembrance. We have been made aware of the following passings. May they rest in peace.

Jerome Hart	Division 1, Allegany County
Judge John Gruber	Division 1, Eire County
Tim O'Sullivan	Division 2, Greene County
John McGuinness	Division 19, Kings County
V. Donald Cunningham	Division 8, Rensselaer County
Brother Peter Lyne	Division 1, Richmond County
John Gannon	Division 3, Rockland County
James Harding	Division 3, Rockland County
Warren Hennessey	Division 3, Rockland County
Laurence Kaine	Division 3, Rockland County
George Leahy	Division 3, Rockland County
Richard Lenihan	Division 3, Rockland County
Daniel O'Keefe	Division 3, Rockland County
Phillip Sheridan	Division 3, Rockland County
Jack Bradley	Division 2, Suffolk County
John E. Bradley	Division 2, Suffolk County
Thomas Collins	Division 2, Suffolk County
Patrick McGee	Division 2, Suffolk County
William McShane	Division 2, Suffolk County
Brendan O'Grady	Division 2, Suffolk County
Regis O'Neill	Division 4, Suffolk County

In your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brothers
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.
The old order has passed away:
welcome them into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,
but fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever. Amen. ([US Conference of Catholic Bishops](#))

Additionally, please pray for the speedy recovery of all those still ill.

New York State A.O.H. Officers and Chairmen, June 2020

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