



Empire State Hibernian

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Board Ancient Order of Hibernians In America*

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March 2020

State Chaplain

Fr. Henry W. Reid

As we approach the high holy days, also known as St. Patrick's Day, May I remind everyone that we, as Hibernians, represent the best of Irish culture and the Catholic Faith.

With that being said, we don't have to snarl at every idiot that is misrepresenting the culture on the day. One reason is that some of the drunken miscreants we might encounter will have a real Irish brogue, having come from the motherland. Others may have been raised here in the USA, but are unaware of what it means to be Irish. For these two groups, make an effort to invite them to become a Hibernian, to experience what it means to be proud of our heritage. Others you run into may just be ignorant jerks, unworthy of our time and effort. Remember, we represent our Faith and Culture, we present our arguments clearly and we don't whine about it; leave that to those who choose to be victims.

Of course, we have various other events coming up this spring. I'm looking forward to our state board meeting in May, and will be hosting the barbecue again. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Filipino Aquaponics and Agricultural Project. We will have 50/50 tickets this year.

In June (13&14) my parish will be hosting the Inis Fada Fleadh. Not only does the gate benefit my parish but will also assist Hope House Ministries and Hibernian Charities. Looking forward to seeing many of you there; Tickets can be purchased at <https://events.ticketprinting.com/event/Inis-Fada-Fleadh-37342> . For info and updates go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/477341642895636/>

In Christ and our motto,

Fr. Henry

President

Thomas A. Lambert

We have all made it past the Christmas season. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and was able to enjoy the season with family! Our Hibernian lives have also settled in with divisional elections now behind us. I had the pleasure of being involved with installations in Niagara Falls, Syracuse and Rochester. Thank you to my fellow NYS Board members who assisted and congratulations to the newly installed Boards!

I hope all Divisions took advantage of the early filing for Per Capita obligations. The National AOH Board has changed the Per Capita requirements. There is a \$16 Per Capita starting in 2020, but if the filing was post marked by 2/15/20, the Per Capita charge remained at \$12. Post Mark requirements are strictly observed! NYS Per Capita

requirements are unchanged. NYS Per Capita is \$6, but if the mailing was post marked by 1/31/20, the Per Capita remained \$5.50. Filings postmarked after 3/31/20 will be \$6.50 Per Capita. Again, Post Mark requirements will be strictly observed! It is not too late to avoid the higher NYS Per Capita. Please file if not already done! If your Division missed the early filing discount this year, please make plans to file early next year! **Any Division or County Board who hasn't filed an updated Form 9 with all current Officers listed should do so ASAP!**

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. This year's tour has raised \$1810 so far after expenses! These funds will be designated to Relatives for Justice. If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to this very worthy cause. Thank you, Martin, for the yeoman's work that you do!

The St. Patrick's Day season is fast approaching. With the season comes parades and parties. Having membership applications available at these events is a great tool for recruitment. The season presents a unique opportunity to not only remember and honor our heritage and link to the island of saints and scholars; it also presents a great opportunity for recruitment! Please make sure that your events are listed on our 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, not just during the St. Patrick's Day season to promote recruitment. Please contact our Webmaster, Lee Patterson and let's make others aware of our AOH happenings!

As I have previously indicated, 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 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!

The AOH/LAOH National Convention is fast approaching. 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.

Don't forget our next State board meeting on May 2nd in East Durham! A formal call to meeting will be going out soon.

Vice President John J. Manning

I want to first start off by wishing "ALL" of my Brother Hibernians and their loved ones a Happy, Healthy and SAFE New Year in 2020.

It was a pleasure and honor to be invited to so many Division Installations in January 2020. I attended the Annual Christmas Celebration and Installation of Officers at the Commodore John Barry Division in Syracuse NY on Friday January 10, and the following day I attended the Annual Mass and Installation of Officers for the Colonel Patrick O'Rourke Division 7, in Rochester, NY on Saturday January 11, 2020.

On Saturday January 15, 2020 I attended the New Jersey State AOH Board Meeting and later that evening attended & supported the fund raiser for Brother Hibernian Sean Penders campaign for National AOH Vice President.

On Friday January 24, 2020 I once again attended the National AOH Annual “Pro Life Mass” at St. Mary Mother of God R.C. in Washington D.C., with my fellow Brother and Sister Hibernians from throughout our Beloved Nation. Following the Mass was the 47th Annual “March for Life” up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court and Capitol Building. I was very proud to see so many of my Brother and Sister Hibernians from our beloved State. Many of our Brother and Sister Hibernians from throughout our state had arranged to leave their homes very early that morning, so they would arrive in our Nation’s Capital in time, to show their support and to participate in the largest Pro-Life rally in the World. I’m very much looking forward to seeing you all and many more of our Brother and Sister Hibernians at the 48th Annual “March for Life” on Friday January 24, 2020.

The month of March 2020 is quickly approaching, and I’m very much looking forward to attending and visiting many of our AOH Counties and Divisions that will be hosting Celebrations and Ceremonies honoring our Patron Saint of Ireland across New York State. We must continue to support each other’s events, so that we may continue to grow within our communities.

I am here to encourage all County and Division Presidents and their duly elected officers to seriously consider hosting a Major Degree in their home Counties or Divisions. It’s important that our members grow with our teachings and rituals of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. 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.

1) “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 jmanningnysaoh@gmail.com, call or text (917) 589-0047.

“Happy St. Patrick’s Day to All”

Secretary

Thomas M. O’Donnell

It was my pleasure to have assisted with the recent Installation of Officers across our great state. Congratulations to all newly elected officers, as well as to those who were re-elected. I wish you much success during the coming year!

Now that elections are over, and officers have been installed, it is time for all divisions to file new Form 9s

and Form 11s. I have received approximately 50% of all such division Form 11 filings so far. I have received far fewer Form 9s Congratulations to those who took advantage of the discounted early filings. If you did not take advantage of the discounted early filing this year, please remember for next year. NY AOH per capita charges are discounted 50 cents per brother for divisions whose filings are post marked by January 31st. Also, please remember, there are separate forms for the National AOH and the NY AOH. Please send me completed NY AOH Form 9s and Form 11s, not the similar national forms! An updated Form 9 is important for keeping our contact information current. **Please file an updated Form 9 even if the names of the officers have not changed.**

I have been continuing to update the list of officers for our Order. Please check the NY AOH website for the current list of State, County and Division Officers with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If there are any errors, please let me know. My e-mail address is tmodonnell@roadrunner.com . My telephone number is 716-622-5185.

As we enter the season of St. Patrick's Day parades and parties, it is important to remember Ireland's history as the land of saints and scholars. This is the best time to publicly celebrate our Irish Catholic heritage and attract new members by doing so. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all! As always, if there are any questions, please contact me.

Treasurer Thomas Beirne

Thank You to all the Hibernian Divisions that already paid their Per Capita and sent their paperwork to the NY State Board. As a reminder all forms and payments of Per Capita are to be sent to the NYS Secretary Tom O'Donnell. All Per Capita post marked after March 31st will be 50 cents higher per member.

The NY State AOH Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal Fundraiser held in January at O'Lunneys Times Square Pub was successful, very well attended, and informative with speakers Martin Galvin, John Dearie and Malachy McAllister. A donation from NY State AOH will be sent to the National AOH, FFAI Christmas Appeal and designated for Relatives for Justice.

I was glad to participate with so many New York Hibernians in the 47th Annual March for Life in Washington DC on Friday January 24, 2020. NY State AOH was very visible at the March with: the NY State Board Banner and The NY Hibernians for Life Banner; and (2) 12' tall Green and white AOH Wind Sails. There were Men and Women Hibernians present from all across the Country, and AOH banners from the National Board, Florida State Board, and Virginia State Board. Our NY State Chaplain Father Henry Reid said Mass on Friday morning at St. Mary Mother of God Church prior to the March. Thank you to NY State Pro Life Chairman Jack O'Brien and all of the jurisdictions that organized busses so their members could attend.

Congratulations to all of the NY Hibernians that are being honored at the many St. Patrick's Day Parades that occur throughout the state. Selling of merchandise with negative or stereotypical depictions of the Irish should not be tolerated by any retail establishment or on line. As Hibernians, we have to fight the negative depictions of our race and promote our Irish Culture, Heritage, and proud History.

Divisions and Counties should forward the details of upcoming events to our webmaster Lee Patterson so it can be added on the State Calendar of events and Facebook page.

All Hibernians are encouraged to attend the NY State Board Spring Meeting in East Durham, on Saturday May 2nd and the National Convention in Orlando, Florida from July 22 through 25th. NY will have candidates running for National Office and they will need our support. Please be advised that rooms are filling up for both events and now would be a good time to make your bookings.

May Saint Patrick Bless and Protect You!

District 1

Kevin O'Reilly

Hibernian's in the Capital District are generally going well and are quite active particularly in Saratoga and Albany. On the flip side we have had some untimely events occur. East Durham/Green Co President Jimmy Cuffe passed suddenly on January 5, 2020. With the help of National Director Liam McNabb we are working with the Division on succession and help with reviving membership. Schenectady Division long time Chaplin Fr. Anthony Curran passed away January 24, 2020 and Immediate Past District Director and Past Division President Owen Cole had a setback but is now home recuperating and things are going well.

Albany: President Tim Weklar, Irish Echo 40 under 40. Major Degree February 29, 2010 Albany Hall by the Schenectady Degree Team. The Communion Breakfast will be held March 1st at their Hall with Division Chaplin, and now also Seminarian, Deacon Jim O'Rourke as the Guest Speaker. Albany Parade Day is Saturday March 14th with festivities following it back at the Hall. Full Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be served all day on March 17th at the Hall. The Division continues its monthly Hibernian Hunger Project work at the Capital City Rescue Mission soup kitchen. They are especially proud of their large volunteer turnout on this past Christmas Eve.

Schenectady: President John Humphries. John is a new President but he has been very involved so he will fit in the Chair very nicely. Past President Jim Scott continues on the road of recovery from the motor vehicle accident and is very grateful to his Hibernian Community.

Troy: President Peter Durkee. In case you missed it, Peter is the NYSAOH Calendar Chair.

Watervliet: President Mark Scully. This is Mark's 2nd term and the Division has been enjoying a bit of a rebirth, proving that Mark's new team is working together and moving in the right direction.

Saratoga: President Tim McNulty. The Division received a Grant from the (NYS) Irish Legislator's Society for hosting Irish Heritage presentations. The first of these was by musician Tommy Wadsworth about the Uilleann Pipe and included a performance, some history on the instrument and the impact it had on Irish society. The second presentation in the series was about "Ireland in 1920, On the road to the Republic", given by Elizabeth Stack, Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany. The third and final installment in the series will be a presentation of the History of the 69th Regiment provided by 1LT Dan Graham, a National Guard Officer currently assigned to the 69th. The Division is very active in its support of Veterans and Children with Disabilities through programs such as: Double H Ranch Adaptive Ski Program, Chamber of Commerce's Veterans Business Council Stride Donations for Leap of Kindness, Wounded Warrior Snowfest.

East Durham: President – Pending

I attended an AOH Leadership Conference in Elmira at the invitation of National Director Liam McNabb. The purpose was to observe and evaluate for possible application in District 1. I believe it would benefit District 1 Officers and potential officers and I have had preliminary discussions with the National Director about when to hold a conference here in the District.

The Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany moved on February 15th, 2020 to its new location at 25 Quackenbush Square, Albany NY 12207. The Museum is a Records Repository for the AOH. Hibernians helped with the move from its former location at 370 Broadway. It was a relatively short half mile move, but a move is a move. Thank You to all the Volunteers.

District 2

Craig E. Speers

On January 23rd I journeyed to Washington, D.C. with scores of pilgrims from WNY and CNY, the Diocese of Buffalo, and hundreds of thousands of Catholics, Jews and other Christians from across our great nation. It was an overwhelming outpouring on behalf of the 47th March for Life and in protest over the truly infamous USSC 1973 decision of Roe vs. Wade. In one of the darkest chapters in American history this decision is now recognized as a moral abomination that led to the murder, the destruction of millions of innocent unborn human beings by the most gruesome of means imaginable.

We were joined in this great protest effort by many of my Hibernian brothers, including many NYS and National officers. Our National President Judge James McKay and our NYS Vice President John Manning were in attendance. We can be very proud of the prominent role the AOH played in 2020 March for Life effort. Our AOH emblems and banners were held high throughout the day, including for the first time ever an in person speech (at March for Life rally on the mall) by the President of the United States. POTUS was joined by VPOTUS (via telelink), and many members of the House and Senate, and Bishops of the Catholic, and Orthodox churches. Included in the Congressional delegation was Congressman Steve Scalise (who survived an assassination attempt in Alexandria in 2017, along with many other Pro Life members of congress). His address was especially moving - his injuries were so severe that he was given little chance of survival. He firmly believes that his deep faith in the Holy Spirit saved his life, and allowed him to recover and become the deputy minority leader of the house and an advocate for the sanctity of life.

This was just one of many uplifting aspects of the March for Life, and the advocacy of the philosophy of the sanctity of life. We can also draw much hope from the presence of so many high school and young adult groups - many praying the Rosary as they made their way up Independence and Pennsylvania Avenues and toward Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court building. The young generation (including many youthful seminarians and nuns) dedicated, committed and full of energy; giving us exemplary hope for the future of Catholicism and the pro life movement. Anyone who doubts this thesis should view the movie "Unplanned", the story of an abortion clinic worker who is transformed into a pro life crusader - this movie will change your life, and your attitudes. It is rough, and yet compelling and is a call to arms for our movement to protect and respect the unborn.

The NYS AOH under the leadership of President Tom Lambert, and Buffalo Division No.1 President Kevin Lafferty and myself are sponsoring a showing of the acclaimed film "Black 47" on February 22, 2020 at 11 AM, at the North Park Theater in Buffalo. This film was sponsored by the Irish Film Board and is a realistic portrayal of the horrendous conditions and mass deaths imposed on the Irish people by the British imperial government and their landlord system during "An Gorta Mor", the great death, the Irish Famine of 1845 - 50. The great myth propagated by British apologists has consistently adopted the failed party line that the immense death toll of the famine was caused solely by the failure of the potato crop.....nothing could be further from the truth. As we know now, during the famine period landlords continued to export massive quantities of food resources of all types, livestock, grains, butter, and much more from Irish ports for commercial gain, while Irish peasant families starved to death. To add to the genocidal toll, landlords and bailiffs continued to evict starving and sick families and to destroy their cottages merely for nonpayment of rents (payment of rent was an impossible threshold due to the failure of the potato crop. These crops not only fed their families, but also fed their livestock, and constituted a kind of currency to pay rents). These widespread and incredibly cruel eviction acts led to hundreds of thousands of deaths as entire families and in some cases entire villages were dispossessed and exposed to the cold and wet elements without food, heat and shelter relief. They died near their demolished homes, or on the road side, or in farm fields and hills. A massive deliberate genocidal act; In today's world British government officials and their landlords would be answering for these genocidal offenses before a War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. In mid 19th century times in London there was only a scholarly debate about the cost of saving Irish lives. Many MP's would have just as soon done away with our entire race, Lord Trevelyan among them.

The showing of this outstanding film is an educational outreach effort by the NYS AOH and the Buffalo AOH Division No. 1. These efforts assist in educating the next generation of Irish men and women as to the sacrifices made by our forefathers under the most unimaginable of conditions.

District 3

Phil O'Neil

Syracuse – Commodore John Barry Division – Onondaga County

Officer Installation and Holiday Dinner January 10th. The Installation of officers was officiated by State President Tom Lambert. State officers John Manning and Tom O'Connell served as Marshalls. A Holiday Dinner party was held in conjunction with the installation, it was attended by 170 Hibernian families and friends at the Marriott Syracuse Hotel, the site of the 2021 State convention. Brother Ed Riley hotel owner was named Hibernian of the year for 2019.

2021 Convention planning and organizing is going well. The convention committee is headed by Brother Bob Bunce. Meetings have been held with AOH State officials.

The Syracuse Division led the Syracuse Right to Life march on Jan. 18th. Total attendance at the march was 150+. The event received no coverage in the Syracuse newspaper. The 2020 Women's March (Pro Choice and #MeToo) was held the same day and received half of a page in the paper with an article and pictures in the paper.

Oswego – Dean Michael Barry Division – Oswego County

The Feast of St. Brigid was celebrated on February 1st by AOH and LAOH with a Mass at the Division Hall. The Mass was very well attended.

The 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Parade will be March 7th. The parade steps off at 1 pm. All District 3 Divisions have been invited to march in the parade with their Oswego Brothers. The City of Oswego asked the Dean Michael Barry Division to take over the Parade 2 years ago and it has grown into a significant area event since the Oswego AOH took on the responsibility to promote and organize the parade. There will be post Parade festivities at the Division Hall.

Auburn - John F. Kennedy Division, Cayuga County

Officer Installation was held on Jan. 18th. National Director Liam McNabb officiated. It was my privilege to serve as a Marshall. The LAOH also held their installation on the 18th. A very nice dinner was put on by the LAOH after the installations. Despite the first snow storm of the winter the event was well attended.

The Auburn Brothers celebrate St. Patrick's Week:

Thursday March 12th, Family Night 5-8pm, Irish Dancers @ 6:30pm

Friday March 13th, Fish Dinner 4-7:30, Irish Music 4- close

Sunday March 15th, Brunch 10am -1pm, Irish Coffee, Bloody Mary, Mimosa Bar

Tuesday March 17th - Saint Patrick's Day, Mass at 10am at Holy Family Church on North St in Auburn, NY, Flag Raising at City Hall at 11:00 am on South Street in Auburn, Kitchen Open at Club at noon; Music from 3:00 – 7:00pm by the Flyin' Column.

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

The Andy Cooney concert and dinner was a resounding success. The event was held at the new Irish Cultural Center. The Center capacity was sold out at 200 tickets. Tickets were \$50 making the event one of the best deals for Hibernians in the country; Andy Cooney and a great dinner put on by The Cultural Center staff.

Nick Durr past District Director has been named as the Grand Marshall for the Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade to be

held on March 14th. Nick has not only been a Hibernian of distinction for many years but is regarded as one of the pillars of the community for his support and involvement in a number of community organizations and projects at the same time.

Watertown - Msgr. James Ruddy Division – Jefferson County

A new roster of officers has been elected in Watertown. Congratulations to Brother Bill Flynn, the new Division President. Officer installations will be held in early spring.

In January AOH Brothers participated in Walk for Life Carthage, NY. Following in the evening the AOH participated in Liferight Vigil in front of Watertown City Hall.

North Country Goes Green Irish Festival events - 3/13 AOH Irish Flag Raising at 5pm, 3/13-3/15 AOH Booth at Festival, AOH History, Membership, Division Activates, Irish Road Bowling demo, raffles, 3/15 Irish Mass at St Patrick's Church 9:30am, 3/15 NCGG Irish Parade 1pm, AOH Car Float. 3/17 Irish Flag Raising City Hall 10am

District 4

Bob Nolan

I hope that each Brother enjoyed the Christmas season and extend a Happy New Year to all.

A. Meetings

Since my last report I have attended the following events/meetings:

- Metro Conference meeting in White Plains;
- Bronx County dinner at Rory Dolan's;
- Westchester and Bronx County Board meetings;
- Bronx Division 3, 4, 5 and 7 meetings and Christmas Parties;
- Installed Yonkers Division 1 Officers;
- FFAI fund raiser at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub.

B. Calendar Sales

- All 65 calendars received from Peter Durkee were sold. Thank you brothers across the district for buying or selling the calendars and special thanks to Mike McCormack for creating the calendars. Thank you Peter for your guidance and direction.

C. Previous Events

- I salute Clive Cronin and the Brothers of Division 18, Peekskill, on their successful dinner in November;
- Kudos to Martin Galvin and the entire Bronx County Board on their sold out dinner where our Worthy State President, Tom Lambert, Brian O'Dwyer, Sean Ruane and Past County President and District Director, Bob Nolan were honored. Special recognition to guest speaker Mark Thompson;
- Congratulations to the New York County Board on their Wreathes Across America event in December;
- Congrats to FFAI National and State Chair Martin Galvin on the successful January 15th fund raiser at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub. John Dearie spoke about the upcoming Irish Presidential Forum at the end of April and Malachy McAllister thanked all Hibernians for their active support which resulted in his remaining in the United States;
- Bronx County division 3 and 4 officers were sworn in by President Galvin at the annual Christmas party/Installation on January 22. Good luck to new Division 3 president, Roger Fahey and outgoing President Joe McManus. Thanks to the men of division 4 for re-electing Jack McCarrick.

D. Future Events

- Yonkers Division 1

Brendan Murphy Memorial Communion Breakfast

Date: February 23

Location: St. Joseph's Seminary

Time: 11 a.m.

- Westchester County Annual Dinner

Date: April 25

Location: Double Tree Hotel

Tarrytown

Time: 7 p.m.

- Bronx County Annual Communion Breakfast

April 2020. Date TBD

- St. Patrick's Day Parade Schedule

Date: March 15

Sleepy Hollow

Brian Hugh Duffy, Grand Marshal, Westchester County President.

Mass at 10 a.m. Parade start 1:30.

Parade Dinner March 6

The Westchester Hastings on Hudson

Contact Brian at greenwaygc@verizon.net

Date: March 15

Throgs Neck

Jack McCarrick, Grand Marshal, Pres. Division #4 Bronx

Mass 9 a.m., Breakfast 10 a.m., Parade Start 12 Noon

Date: March 21

Yonkers, McLean Ave.

Parade Start: 1 p.m.

Date: April 26

Irish Presidential Forum

Fordham Law School

2 p.m.-Tentative

District 5

Steve Kiernan

As District 5 Director I attended several County meetings and events, within the District and outside the area. I distributed the State Calendars to the membership at their County meetings. AI also attended many AOH and LAOH functions since the last newsletter.

As we are well into our busy season, with fundraisers for upcoming parades honoring our Patron Saint, Saint Patrick, here is what the membership has lined up;

March 1, Richmond County Saint Patrick's Day Parade

March 7, Queens County Saint Patrick's Day Parade - Grand Marshal Gerard Fitzgerald

March 15, Brooklyn Irish-American Saint Patrick's Day Parade - Grand Marshal Martin Maher, Brooklyn's Park Commissioner

March 22, Bay Ridge Saint Patrick's Day Parade - Grand Marshal Linda Gallagher Lomanto

March 28, Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade - Grand Marshal Eileen Flannelly Mackell

March 28, Gerritsen Beach 11th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade

In other District 5 news; Richmond County President Thomas Gray Reports; AOH Div IV and LAOH Div IV had their annual fundraiser that raised money for a family in need. All three Richmond County Divisions had a joint fundraiser on February 8th at Blessed Sacrament for the Richmond County Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The AOH Richmond County Ball is on February 22 at the Staaten. Div IV is having their Annual Traditional Irish Breakfast on Feb 29th at the Marine League, 46 Ontario Avenue. The annual Div IV Memorial Mass and Brunch will be held at Saint Thomas Church on March 29th. The Staten Island Irish Festival will take place on June 6th and 7th at the Marine League, 46 Ontario Avenue.

Queens County President Kieran Mahoney reports; Division 14 will have their Annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Sunday March 15th at the Irish American Center in Mineola at 3:30 pm, promoted as a family affair with live music and buffet. Division 21 is having their First Annual Dinner Dance on February 29th, at the Silver Gull, \$75 per person.

Kings County President Eddie Velenskie reports; On February 8th, several Past County Presidents attended and supported the LAOH Kings County Boards 101st St. Brigid Mass at Good Shepherd Church and Luncheon at Buckley's. In attendance was Peter Durkee as he was chauffeured around by his lovely wife, the NYS LAOH President and their daughter. On Friday the 13th of March, Div 35 will be co-hosting with LAOH Div 9, their annual Fish Fry for the Lenten Season, lots of food, showing the movie "Brooklyn" and will have an egg cream and pretzel station, all for only \$20.00 per person, at the Friends of Columbus Council, 3051 Nostrand Avenue. Reservations recommended; more of a gathering for friends and fellowship.

Wish all a fun filled Saint Patrick's Day Season and a Peaceful Easter Season.

District 6

Sean O'Rourke

Greetings from Long Island; Brothers, as of now both Nassau and Suffolk county Divisions have all had their elections and have had their new officers installed. Best of luck to them on their terms of office.

This past January, many Brothers from Nassau and Suffolk attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. Nassau County President and NYS Pro Life Chairman Jack O'Brien has done a great job on informing members and organizing this yearly pilgrimage to D.C.

As St. Patrick's month is quickly approaching, brothers from Long Island will be very busy as usual. From hosting, attending and marching in numerous parades honoring St. Patrick to organizing dinner dances, socials and fundraisers.

Congratulations to Suffolk County's Stephen D. Lemanski and Nassau County's Deacon Tom Costello on their Special honors of being named Aides to the Grand Marshal for the upcoming NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Congratulations to Nassau County's Mike Byrne who will be the Grand Marshall of the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Congratulation to Nassau County's John McTigue who will be the Grand Marshall of the Bethpage Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Upcoming events include:

The 1st Annual Long Island Irish Fest which will be held on Sat. Aug. 8 2020 at Plattdeutsch NHP NY to benefit the Nassau County Feis.

A two day Irish Music Festival, the first one held in Suffolk County for about twenty years, will be held June 13th and 14th. The event is being held in support of Hope House Ministries, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish and Hibernian Charities.

Featured bands include Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, The Druids, The Canny Brothers, Andy Cooney and Band, the McLean Ave Band, Clear the Battlefield, the Screaming Orphans, Bangers and Mash, The Sporting Paddies, and Niall O'Hagan. Joining us are the Hibernian Festival Singers and, from Chicago, Stephen's Green. There will be pipers, dancers, vendors and beer. It is being held on the grounds of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, 495 North Ocean Ave. Patchogue, NY.

Tickets are available online at <https://events.ticketprinting.com/event/Inis-Fada-Fleadh-37342> A two day discount is available online only. Keep up to date at <https://www.facebook.com/events/477341642895636/>

District 7

Timothy J. Tobin

In December, a "Hibernian Roundtable" was held in Elmira and featured National Director Liam McNabb as facilitator. Many positive ideas came from this discussion. Thank you to the division presidents and my brother Hibernians from Binghamton, Rochester and Elmira who participated. Thank you to the Monsignor John J. Lee Division for hosting.

I was honored to install the officers for the Elmira and Binghamton Divisions. Congratulations and thank you to all

those who are serving as officers in their divisions. The divisions are gearing up for a variety of activities that honor our religion, heritage, and culture.

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.

Broome County Division One is preparing for our upcoming Irish Celebrations. On February 22, 2020 we hold our annual Irish Heritage Ball. This year it is held at the Holiday Inn Arena, Binghamton, NY. Starting at 5pm. Dinner is at 6 followed by a program. We announce our Grand Marshall, Maid of Erin and Starter for our St. Patrick's Day Parade. Also, we have an annual community service award. All of this and dancing and Pipers.

On February 29, 2020 we have our Irish Days, held at St. Thomas Aquinas Hall; 11 to 3pm. Music, Dancing, Pipers and vendors.

Our Parade Day celebration Starts on Friday March 6th, with Pipers at our hall at 5:30pm. Parade Day is March 7th. Our Annual Mass at St Mary's Church on Court Street starts at 11:30. This year, Bishop Lucia from the Syracuse Diocese will celebrate the Mass to honor our Brothers who have passed in the last year and also the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick. After the Mass the parade starts outside the Church at 1:30pm. After the parade is a Gala held at Seton High School from 1 to 6pm. Later in the evening Pat Kane plays live Music at the hall. . Finally, on March 15th, our annual Pancake breakfast at the hall from 8 to 1.

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.

Father Raymond Hourihan Scholarship; This is a \$2,000 scholarship available to high school seniors who are the sons and daughters or grandsons and granddaughters of the Monsignor John J. Lee Division members in good standing. A written essay will be administered at the Hibernian Center of Chemung County to all eligible applicants on May 17th. The winner will be announced at the June Men's Division meeting.

Irish Roadshow: The Irish Roadshow is a talent show for residents of the Chemung County Nursing Facility. It features acts such as singing, dancing, storytelling, comedy and more! This year's Irish Roadshow will take place on Saturday, March 21st at 2pm. This is a moving event.

Corporate Communion March: Corporate Communion is March 15th. We will begin at 9am at Elmira's City Hall. Division Brothers will march from City Hall to Saint Peter's and Paul's Church. After the march, breakfast will be served at the Elmira Holiday Inn Riverview. After breakfast we invite all Hibernian's to join us at the Hibernian Center of Chemung County.

Horseheads St. Patrick's Day Parade: All members of the AOH and LOAH are encouraged to march in the Annual Horseheads St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th in historic Hanover Square. The event starts at 2pm. The Division Presidents serve as Grand Marshalls for the parade. The Chemung County AOH and LAOH Divisions will be walking in the parade. This is a great family event fun for both kids and adults.

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 Division's Holiday party was held January 11, 2020, with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians also participating at the Main Place in Hornell. The evening of celebration was capped by the Hibernian of the Year Award being presented to David Crosby. Brother Crosby has been a faithful member serving on almost every committee we have and volunteering for any and all events the Division holds. I had the pleasure of making the presentation; Dave was totally caught off guard, which is a tribute to his personality and humble nature. His selection was roundly applauded by his Brother Hibernians.

Our Focus for the upcoming month will be on our Irish Cultural Week scheduled to be kicked off March 9th. During the week we will sponsor events at the Hornell Arts Council Center with Ceili Dancing demonstrations, Irish Heritage events, musical entertainment and Social events each evening of the week.

The Week ends with our Corporate Communion Mass at St. Ann's Church. The Division will March to Mass and process into Church with the Lady Hibernians for the 8:00am Mass. Following Mass, the Division will March to Paddy's Pub for Breakfast. The Division will join the City of Hornell's Annual St. Patrick's Parade beginning at 11:00 am. The Day of Celebration will continue in the afternoon with family and friends at homes and establishments throughout the area. New this year for the afternoon festivities will be a gathering of Brother and Sister Hibernians at the Arts Center to celebrate our common heritage.

As always, we are beginning to plan our Irish Festival, scheduled for the 3rd week of August, and our Annual Golf Tournament in September.

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

Orange County:

The Orange County board is proud to announce the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade season kicked off with the Parade fundraiser on Sunday, February 16th in Monroe. The Parade will be held on Sunday, March 15th, 2020. The day begins with mass followed by breakfast. The Grand Marshal is Kevin Cummings of Division 2, Orange County.

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.

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 has been elected to be the Grand Marshall of the 2020 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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.

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:

The next county board meeting will be on Monday, March 16th, 2020 at Hibernian House beginning at 8:00 p.m. The Grand Marshall of the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade is Frank McDonagh, a member of Division 3. The parade will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

Division 1, North Rockland held its annual communion breakfast and honored Dan Donohue, Past Division President. In addition, the division is planning on holding recruitment events at Boulder Stadium in Pomona.

Division 3, Pearl River is finalizing its scholarship for this year. The test will be held sometime in March. The scholarship Mass followed by communion breakfast will most likely be held on Sunday, April 19th, 2020 at St. Margaret's in Pearl River.

The annual golf tournament will be held on Friday, May 8th, 2020 at Blue Hill Golf Course; Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.; Dinner to follow after golf tournament at Hibernian House.

Sullivan County:

The next meeting of the Sullivan County AOH will be held on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Ulster County:

The 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade will be the 33rd annual and will be held on March 15, 2020. It was announced that Harry Woltman will be the Grand Marshal and Pat Schiskie Mayor of the Day The parade steps off at 1:00 p.m.

The Grand Marshal's night will be held on February 21st, 2020 at The White Eagle Hall in Kingston.

Freedom for All Ireland Martin Galvin

A-Stormont returns but bad faith on British financial pledges charged-Two days before the deadline threatening a new election, agreement was reached to restore the Stormont Assembly, after a three year absence. DUP head Arlene Foster returned as the north's first minister, while Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill was named deputy first minister. The agreement to restore the assembly was welcomed by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, and accompanied by British promises of extra funding to meet the north's economic crisis in areas like health and education. However almost immediately new Finance Minister Conor Murphy charged that the British had "stepped back from its financial commitments" and the actual financial package was "an act of bad faith", far less than the parties had been led to believe keeping the north in an "austerity trap." British Prime Minis-

ter Boris Johnson termed it a "momentous day...after three years without devolved government, an executive can now get on with the job of delivering much needed reforms to the health service, education and justice". Taoiseach Leo Varadkar commended the six county political parties "for their decision to put the people they represent first and make measured compromises to reach a deal". In a surprising move the DUP backing Sinn Fein member Alex Maskey as speaker instead of the SDLP member in line for the position. Arlene Foster and Michelle O'Neill will now have to show if they can share power and deliver on the commitments in the new Stormont. The five largest parties in the north, the DUP, Sinn Fein Alliance, SDLP and UUP also got ministerial posts. With the exception of the role of justice minister, posts are picked using the D'Hondt system, according to numbers in the assembly. The Justice Ministry is different because the DUP will not allow members from the nationalist SDLP or Sinn Fein to hold this post. The key stumbling blocks were the petition of concern, which had been wielded as a veto by the DUP, and an Irish language act. The new deal requires use of the petition, be "reduced and returned to its intended purpose" and would "only be used in the most exceptional circumstances and as a last resort, having used every other mechanism". The deal pledges legislation for both an Irish language commissioner and an Ulster-Scots commissioner. Irish language group Conradh Na Gaeilge said it was a "historic advancement" but added it "falls very much short" of promises for an Irish Language act.

B-No honors for Black and Tans as planned ceremony backfires - A planned commemoration honoring the Royal Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police forces was "deferred" by the Irish justice minister after boycotts and popular outrage. The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) were formed in the early 19th century to help keep Ireland under British rule. The prefix Royal was added to the name of Irish Constabulary because of their efforts to put down the Fenians, including many Irish Americans and American Hibernians who fought during America's Civil War. The DMP identified the leaders of 1916 to be shot. During the Irish War of Independence (1919-21), the British government bolstered RIC ranks by recruiting thousands of ex-British soldiers, mainly from England. The RIC special reserve were nicknamed the Black and Tans because of their distinctive uniforms, while a group of former British officers were known as the Auxiliaries. They were described in ballads as "England's foul horde" using terror tactics against the Irish, targeting civilians and burning homes and farms include Balbriggan and sections of Cork. Speaking about his decision to defer the event, Justice Minister Flanagan said: "There were those in the RIC who committed atrocities. The horrific record of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries is well known. But there were other officers who behaved with dignity and honour." Dublin City councillors voted to boycott the Dublin Castle event with a motion that was passed by 38 votes to 10. The Wolfe Tone's song "*Come Out Ye Black and Tans*" shot to the top of the play list. Newscasts and editorials reminded the public of the history of the force would be not just remembered but honored by any such commemoration. The deferred commemoration is considered a factor in the loss of popularity in opinion for Fine Gael in the upcoming Irish election.

C-Brexit comes but real problems only beginning Hundreds of anti-Brexit campaigners held demonstrations along the Irish border as Britain left the European Union on January 31st. Protesters gathered at six locations along the border in counties Louth, Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Donegal. Stormont Finance Minister, Conor Murphy of Sinn Fein, said: "This part of Ireland did not consent to Brexit, we voted significantly to remain within the EU and we are being taken out of the EU without consent. There is now an 11 month transition period where Britain remains in the EU's customs union and single market and continues to obey EU rules but is no longer part of the political institutions. There are no longer any British MEPs in the European Parliament. Now Britain must negotiate a trade deal with the European Union that includes Ireland. Britain wants access for its goods and services to the EU but wants out of the customs union and single market and an end the overall jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. All 27 member states and the European Parliament have to be in agreement on a trade deal. Formal talks might only begin in March and Johnson has said there will be no extensions to the transition period. If there is no trade deal by the end of the year, then the Britain faces the prospect of tariffs on exports.

D-Wolfe Tones were targets of Miami Showband Massacre The lead singer of the Wolfe Tones believes they were the intended target of the loyalist attack that claimed the lives of three members of the Miami Showband. The Miami Showband were targeted after being stopped at a bogus patrol, manned by UDR and UVF members, in the

early hours of July 31 1975. Lead singer Fran O'Toole, guitarist Tony Geraghty and trumpeter Brian McCoy were murdered as they returned to Dublin after a concert in Banbridge, Co Down. All three were shot several times, after a bomb was placed under the band's van to make it seem as though the group had been transporting explosives. Two members of the UVF gang behind the attack, Harris Boyle and Wesley Somerville, were killed when the bomb exploded prematurely. UDR members Thomas Raymond Crozier and Rodney Shane McDowell, and UVF member James Somerville, were convicted of the murders. Brian Warfield of The Wolfe Tones said shortly before the Miami Showband attack the band were warned that their lives were at risk. Adding that they had been warned not to travel across the border in the mid-70s following an incident at a GAA club outside of Kilkeel when they had to flee the area by driving across the Mourne Mountains, Mr. Warfield said: "I believe the massacre of the Miami was set up for the Wolfe Tones on that night." "We were playing in a big marquee ... I came out and the organizers said to me 'you can't go home the main road'." "I said why is that and he said 'because there is a blockade waiting for you down there'." "He said, 'we're going to take you over the mountains of Mourne', which they did". "The day we got back to Dublin the Special Branch said that the Wolfe Tones were not to go north again, that our lives were in danger." "I believe that the Glenanne Gang were in that front bar ... getting ready to pick up the Wolfe Tones on the way home.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

There is still time to contribute to Freedom for all Ireland and the Christmas Appeal. The Stormont Assembly was restored after three years, but the British government stepped back from its financial pledges putting the north in a new austerity trap. Brexit was pushed through with long term effects on Ireland that will not be fully seen for years. Legacy mechanisms promised at Stormont House in 2014, will finally be moved forward but only after the British and DUP have blocked truth and justice for families of victims murdered by the crown or loyalist agents. The British want to remove Human Rights Acts protections formally written into the Good Friday Agreement, giving a legalized immunity for British troopers. The DUP wants to undercut investigations of crown forces by the Historical Investigations Unit.

Those still denied freedom in Ireland count on the AOH and LAOH to stand behind them. Those who participated in last February's AOH-LAOH tour saw and heard firsthand how important our grants are.

We have already received more appeals for help than ever before from justice groups, ex-prisoners, cultural groups etc.

Don't let them down!!!

AOH-LAOH FFAI CHRISTMAS APPEAL

PO Box 904
Jefferson Valley,
New York 10535

REGISTER NOW FOR PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

At one time, it was commonplace at Irish events to hear speakers ask why American presidents never spoke about Irish issues like they took up the issues of other countries. That ended in 1992 because of the work done by John Dearie and the pledges given by candidate Bill Clinton, which changed the Irish political landscape so dramatically.

The 1992 Presidential Forum was historic for Irish America because of pledges given by future President Bill Clinton about a visa for Gerry Adams, a special envoy which became George Mitchell, and the question about Joe Doherty and political asylum which led to deferred action for Irish political deportees like Matt Morrison, Gabriel

Megahey and Brian Pearson etc.

The most important step in any Irish political forum is guaranteeing a big enough crowd so that presidential candidates feel it necessary to make time to speak about our Irish issues. Former Assemblyman John Dearie has asked the AOH for help. Judge McKay will be one of the panelists.

Please register for the event by emailing **IrishForum2020@gmail.com**, and include your name and telephone number. The forum will be held at 1pm April 26th at Fordham Law School, on West 62nd street, New York.

FFAI MONTHLY BULLETIN

Please read and distribute the monthly FFAI Bulletin that is now available on AOH national email blasts, or on the New York State and National AOH web sites. We want to give you monthly updates on key events in the north with short analysis and explanation.

NB-Because of time constraints this must be sent out before the Irish General Election. Will have a full analysis in the next bulletin!

Editor

Tom McKenna

Deadlines for The Empire State Hibernian are:

May 15 for the June 2020 issue,

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.

Pro Life

Jack O'Brien

As I think about how hard it is to promote a healthy Respect for Life in today's society, all of you are all in my thoughts. When we are targeted by others for being PRO LIFE, it may dim your enthusiasm. However, never be discouraged! Always remember being on the side of right, truth and faith will always guide us through.

The 2020 National MARCH FOR LIFE, in Washington DC, was a bright, inspirational moment. There was a great turnout this year! The weather was very mild and it was great to see some new Hibernians in attendance. Along with music and the many speakers at the stage, we had the support of President Trump who was proud to Stand Up for Life with us. His speech was invigorating to the Pro Life movement, not just in Washington, D.C. but across America. He stated correctly that we were all there for "one beautiful cause: to build a society where life is celebrated, protected, and cherished." He also noted that we "believe every life is sacred, that every life is a precious gift from God." He thanked those in attendance for their tireless devotion, and I too want to thank my fellow Hibernians, from Buffalo, to Albany and from Oswego, to Long Island, who work to support this cause.

"Why is it important to march against abortion and for a culture of life?"

There are many reasons for public displays by Pro Life believers, but in the interest of brevity I include only 3 reasons here.

1) The March is important as it reminds people that others stand with them: "Pro- Lifers do not feel alone!" It is only in these large public displays, that many people who are afraid to show they are Pro Life feel comfortable enough to come out. People are often intimidated, or afraid to be seen by their clients, neighbors, or customers at smaller venues or the area where they live.

2) The March is important as it teaches the Pro Life Message and Knowledge is Power! Each time people experience the Pro Life message, expressed at the march in so many powerful ways, they inevitably bring new ideas home. They speak about what they learned. This information is shared and grows exponentially with everyone that shares the story again and again.

3) The March is important as it shares its energy with everyone: It Re-Charges those who attend. Marching helps recharge those of us who witness at lightly attended rallies, find ourselves alone praying outside a clinic during 40 Days for Life, or perhaps have been demeaned by a pro choice individual.

For those of us who have put the Pro Life Mission above a game on television, or braved the cold or rain to witness, we find our strength in our faith and in our cause. The MARCH FOR LIFE really brings us back to the reason we were chartered, to protect the Church and its teachings, protect the innocent, men Women, Children and less fortunate.

These are just a few positive reasons showing a need for the National March For Life.

As for myself, I made some new friends at the March. I met people I have spoken with on the phone or emailed with back and forth. I spread the word on what we are currently doing in NY and learn what is going on in other areas. This happens at any Witness I attend. I worked on getting more people to the State Capitol, Albany to join the "March For Life NY" on May 18th.

Go to a Witness - The 40 Days for Life starts Ash Wednesday, February 26th, and runs through Lent. Please make an effort to take part. These public witnesses are truly effective in saving lives! The 5th Annual "MARCH FOR LIFE, New York" takes place in Albany again this year, May 18th. Remember, each time we take part protecting the innocent, we grow in our faith.

Prayer works! On February 8, In Ireland 15 of the TD's that voted against the Pro Abortion bills were all re-elected. It is your Voice and it is your vote, use both wisely. [@Stand Up For Life](#) [@HiberniansForLife](#)



Scholarship Dermot O'Connor Moore

A reminder, the NYS State Board is accepting scholarship applications until February 28th. Please go to <http://www.nyaoh.com/nys-aoh-board-scholarship-competition/> for more information.

Veterans Affairs
SSgt Patrick Gorman
USMC retired.

This month I would like to shed some light on the now delayed bill that adds 4 new diseases to those suffering from the side effects of Agent Orange exposure. The 4 new ailments under review are Bladder Cancer, Hypertension, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's. The VA has delayed the release of the decision due to independent studies conducted by the VA to determine the merit of these diseases being linked to the list of illnesses related to Agent Orange.

As a former VA eligibility supervisor I would like to remind those this may affect and their families if the veteran in question has a disability rating of 50% or more they can be seen for these as well as all other medical care with no cost to them. My suggestion is if they do possess other disability ratings trying to increase the ones you already have is a much easier task than to acquire new ones especially the new ones in question. Contact your local VSO or Veterans service officer at the local VA or through one of the many veterans organizations out there like the DAV.

Finally I would like to pay respect to those that have recently paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting for the freedoms of our great nation Sgt. 1st Class Javier Jaguar Gutierrez, 28, of San Antonio, Texas, and Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Rey Rodriguez, 28, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, were killed by gunfire from an Afghan soldier in a cowardly and despicable act of terror. Both men were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

"They accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue" James Garfield. God bless.

Fund Raiser Calendar
Peter Durkee

This year the Calendar sales are doing well. I've gotten a lot of feedback on the new look. Many of you have told me how much they like the stories on the various Irish Monuments.

So far we have sold 760 calendars between the men and the ladies. I think we can sell at least 800 calendars if we all put our shoulders to the wheel and push the sale of at least 40 more calendars. They make fine St. Patrick's Day gifts or even Easter gifts for someone who has moved away or is at school or in the service.

Remember they are not only a nice calendar but also a learning tool, with 24 articles about various Irish Monuments in different areas of New York State. Plus it gives you a chance to win \$25.00 a day all year long. The money we raise from the calendar sale goes to do the charitable work of the Order. I have 16 Calendars left if anyone needs some please call me at 518-274-8448 or email me at pdurkeel@nycap.rr.com.

I look forward to seeing everybody at East Durham. Have a happy St. Patrick's Day and a blessed Easter.

Immigration
Daniel Dennehy

I hope every Division has named an Immigration Chair; we have much work to do this year. Also, as we are in Saint Patrick's Season, we ask every Hibernian to express dismay at over 50 years of continued inequity towards the Irish in US immigration law to their legislators. An example of this: Less than 60 Irish applicants received DV Lottery Visas last year! We were founded to defend Irish Immigrants, and our work is not finished.

National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and I attended The National Committee on American Foreign Policy discussion with Derry native Emma DeSouza. I later met Emma and her husband Mark, who is from California. Ms. DeSouza has always identified as an Irish person, not British. She is fighting the British government who are preventing her American husband's permission to live with her in Derry, and for her Irish identity. The case is testing

the boundaries of Brexit and Good Friday Agreement. The couple have broken no laws, here or there, and deserves their life together in the place of her birth. The British Home Office considers her marriage to an American inconsequential and launched an expensive legal army on them. At the same time, the young coffee shop operator must pay for her defense. Please stand up for the GFA, learn more and help Emma DeSouza with their daunting legal fees at www.gofundme.com

Hibernians welcome our newest US Citizens

Across America, our Hibernian Halls are centers of Irish American Culture and Hospitality, often the first stop for our Irish Immigrants through the years. One Hibernian Hall, named for our only Irish American Catholic President, John F Kennedy Division 1, regularly extends its great hospitality to immigrants from across the globe, helping them and their families celebrate a most memorable day. The Schenectady Hibernian Hall has been hosting Swearing-In Ceremonies for new American Citizens for many years. This January, 57 new citizens were sworn in by NYS Supreme Court Judge Christine Clark. The Albany County New York, Schenectady Hibernians also give a post-swearing-in reception for the new citizens and their loved ones. We thank our Brothers and Sisters in Schenectady for their beautiful patriotic gesture! Visit them at [www.http://aohjfk.org](http://aohjfk.org)

Save the Date! AOH New York County Division 7's 2020 Celtic Cruise in support of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center sets sail for 4 hours of sailing past the NYC Skyline on Wednesday, June 10! Get info at www.celticcharity.com

Liaison Jack Ryan



I will have these prayer cards available for any Division or County interested in offering these cards to their local parishes. Estimated Cost is about \$250.00/ per 1000 cards.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Immediate Past President Victor J. Vogel

I want to thank the Divisions that invited me to attend their Installation of Officers Ceremonies. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the Suffolk County LAOH for inviting me to participate in their St. Brigid's Mass at St. Joseph's Convent in Brentwood I appreciate the care and concern they have given to me during my years as a County and State Officer. They have always been most gracious to me.

As National Project St. Patrick Chairman, I would like to remind all NYS Jurisdictions that March, April and May are designated for the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal. A \$500 contribution is the equivalent of a grant to a Seminarian or a Novitiate. As a 'Thank You' from the Project St. Patrick Committee for one of these generous donations, a Certificate of Recognition will be awarded. Your Jurisdiction may consider offering a \$500 donation to recognize your Chaplain, an Officer, a Grand Marshal, Hibernian of the Year or any deserving Honoree. The Easter Appeal contributions are appropriate in remembering a deceased member. The Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal Grant Program is thankful for any donation, large or small.

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

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