



State Chaplain Fr. Henry W. Reid

It is hard to believe that the Summer is over, and another academic year is upon us. There is the upside to time having run by as quickly as it has, and that is that many of us will be enjoying each other's company at the end of October. Sadly, many of those in our divisions, families and communities have gone over to the other side, and as we gather together their absence will be felt, as have the losses of many of our other brother and sister Hibernians; although this time there is a difference as many of us were denied the opportunity to say goodbye. Whether we see each other at the end of October, the beginning of May, or if we have to wait until the State convention in July, we will take the opportunity to remember our friends and brothers, and we will take the time to enjoy one another's companionship while we are here.

As I write this, we are in the middle of the political convention season, and I must say it leaves me feeling uneasy. While I will not push one candidate or party here or at any official function, I believe we have to stop and consider how we came to the current political situation. While I am not a fan of President Trump's style, or certain things that have come about during his Presidency, it is disturbing to hear the disrespect given to the man who holds the highest office in the land. I was always taught to respect the office, no matter who held it. With that in mind, I also object to the "Anyone but Trump" platform that has been put forward, as it distracts from the issues that must be addressed. We are not running an election for junior high school prom king and queen, there are real issues that need to be addressed.

First and foremost, on our list of issues is the fundamental right to life. We live in a state, that less than two years ago passed a law that allows abortion up to the day of delivery, and relieves medical professionals from any obligation to provide care to any child born after a failed abortion. This state is also in danger of reviving and passing legislation that would allow for assisted suicides, something that was defeated when legislators from the Democratic Party, joining their Republican colleagues, decided that the dignity of the human person was best served through measures that would alleviate suffering and allow them proper medical relief. As Hibernians we are Catholics, and the teaching of the Church is that there is a fundamental right to life, from the moment of conception until natural death, and this is something we call upon our representatives, regardless of party to support.

Secondly, we stand by the right to freedom of religion, as enshrined in the First Amendment, and deny those who would use religion as a litmus test to prove ability to govern. When Al Smith lost the election for President in 1928, everyone knew he lost because of the anti-Catholicism that was rampant in the United States at the time. In certain places of this country that anti-Catholicism is still the hallmark of the bigoted members of the Klan and some fundamental Protestant groups, in other places anti-Catholicism is disguised as intellectualism and progressivism; either way it is still evil that must be opposed. When a nominee for the position of federal judge is challenged on his membership in the Knights of Columbus and his Catholic faith, we have a problem that needs to be addressed.

Thirdly, but definitely not the final thing that concerns us, we are an organization dedicated to the promotion of Irish culture and the Irish people. This is getting difficult to do when the Irish are denied the visas that they should be granted under a fair immigration system, and the national system does need to be reformed. Unfortunately, it seems we have been getting scraps that fall from the table, no matter how much effort and cooperation is put in. From the perspective of the Order, it is good to have an infusion of Irish blood come in, in order to refresh us, to remind us of our common ancestry and culture. On the other hand, because of the heathen secular politics of Europe, Ireland Herself has been drifting away from Irishness. Too often I have heard the comments about being more European than Irish, which is a way of saying "We really don't know who we are, but the Europeans give us money and seem really superior, we want that." As much as we desire a fair immigration system for the Irish, and others, we also want to preserve and return that culture we are called to safeguard, to Ireland. As we close out this year, a year many of us hope to erase from our memories, we are called to live up to who we are as Hibernians, to come together as brothers, and to defend our Church and culture. God Bless,

President

Thomas A. Lambert

Brothers: After conducting our first (and hopefully only) Virtual AOH NYS Board Meeting in May, The AOH National Board conducted the National Convention virtually in July. Kudos to our new National AOH President, Danny O'Connell, and the entire Board! The Convention came off with barely a hitch! In these trying and uncertain times it was good to be in the company of our AOH Brothers, even if it was only through Zoom!

The NYS AOH sent 159 Delegates to the recent National Convention. There were 133 registrations from NYS, including some members of the AOH National Board. The cost to register for each Delegate was \$25. As noted at the NYS AOH Candidate Forum, the State Board will reimburse all NYS Delegates (who are not National Board Delegates) who registered AND voted on Saturday in the election for National Officers. Our Worthy Secretary, Tom O'Donnell will soon make available a voucher where you may seek reimbursement. You will need to attest to the fact that you paid the \$25 to register and then voted in the election for the National Officers.

Speaking of the Convention Election, congratulations to Liam McNabb and Tim McSweeney! Liam is now National AOH Treasurer and Tim McSweeney is a National Director. Congratulations Brothers!

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

Congratulations to our Worthy Vice President, John Manning for organizing the NYS AOH 9/11 Memorial Plaque Fund Golf Outing on August 14th in Staten Island. Approximately 120 golfers came out to support this fundraising effort to honor the 18 AOH/LAOH Brothers and Sister murdered during the tragic events of almost 20 years ago. The New York and New Jersey AOH State Boards will dedicate this plaque in 2021 for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. A great cause and a great reason to share Hibernian Brotherhood!

The NYS AOH and LAOH State Boards have taken a leap of faith. The Fall State Board meetings have been scheduled for October 31st in East Durham. We are all hoping to be able to not only have the State Board Meetings in person, but we are also hoping to have the AOH and LAOH Testimonial Dinner the same weekend in near-by Leeds, NY! Hope abounds that the current restrictions will be eased by that time! We have secured availability at Gavin's and at the Shamrock House for Friday and Saturday. We are trying to make this Halloween weekend the same as we would have enjoyed in May, before the pandemic forced a Virtual State Board Meeting. Please make your reservations if not already done! I look forward to seeing all in October!

**Vice President
John J. Manning**

Greetings Brothers...well the summer of 2020 is coming to an end, and like the rest of 2020 it has been a unique year.

It was great to see so many of our fellow Brother Hibernians participating at the recent National AOH Convention that was held virtually. The National AOH Board and the digital convention committee did an amazing job, one that should not go unnoticed. Thank you for their tireless efforts to make this National Convention one never to forget.

Sending my sincerest Congratulations to our duly elected National AOH Board Members President Daniel O'Connell, Vice President Sean Pender, Secretary Jere Cole, Treasurer Liam McNabb, National Directors Timothy McSweeney, Ed Halligan, Ray Lynch, Richard Thompson, Sean O'Dowd, and Robert Mehrens; I am very much looking forward to working with them.

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 September 2020 Newsletter, you are staying healthy and safe.

I am hoping with September quickly approaching many of our County and Divisions throughout New York State will resume their monthly meetings, of course, following social distancing.

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, 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 of assistance. I can be reached at jmanningnysaoh@gmail.com, call or text (917) 589-0047.

**Secretary
Thomas M. O'Donnell**

Although we were unable to travel to Orlando for the National Convention, the first virtual AOH National Convention was a success! Congratulations to our newly elected New York brothers, National Treasurer Liam McNabb and National Director Tim McSweeney.

By the time you read this all the registered New York State delegates should have received an email from me outlining the process for reimbursement of the Convention registration fee. If you were a registered delegate and did not get my email, please contact me tmodonnell@roadrunner.com or 716-622-5185. The deadline to submit your request for reimbursement is September 21, 2020.

With the help of our Webmaster, 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 Divisional Officers with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If there are any errors, please let me know.

Most Divisions have filed current Form 9s and Form 11s. Congratulations to those who took advantage of the dis-

counted early filings. If you did not take advantage of the discounted early filing this year, please remember to do so next year. NY AOH per capita charges are discounted by 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 will be contacting Divisions who have not filed all forms, or who paid an incorrect amount. Again, if there are any questions, please contact me.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy, as much as possible, summer and I look forward to seeing you soon. Hopefully in person!

Treasurer
Thomas Beirne

I hope and pray for all Hibernians and your families dealing with Covid-19, and all of the changes to our lives. It is hard to believe we are (5) months into this crisis, but the effects and changes to education, work, and the economy will be long lasting. Many businesses that supported our charitable causes will never reopen. Many Divisions and Counties are resuming in person meetings. Some jurisdictions held virtual meetings throughout the worst parts of the pandemic. Either way, I encourage all jurisdictions to reach out to your members, via email, phone calls and actual letters mailed to them. Communication is critical now more than ever for retention of members. I fear many members will fall away from the Hibernians if they are not engaged by their officers.

I personally missed the social aspects and interacting with fellow Hibernians from across the United States at the 2020 AOH National Convention, but I am glad that it occurred virtually. I feel that the virtual convention had some positive aspects that will be incorporated in future National and State Conventions. Thank you to all of the NY brothers that participated in the convention and supported our NY candidates. Congratulations and much success to newly elected National President Danny O'Connell, VP Sean Pender, Secretary Jere Cole, Treasurer Liam McNabb, National Directors, especially our own Tim McSweeney, and appointed officers. The NY State Board will be reimbursing the \$25 registration fee for NY delegates that registered and voted at the National Convention.

As we head into the fall, let us remember and honor all of those that were killed in the horrible 9/11 attack on our nation. We can never forget what happened on that day and need to fight any efforts that attempt to diminish the sacredness of it. Many of our Hibernian families had members killed on that day and in the years after due to illnesses contracted during the attack and recovery efforts. Thankfully the memorial towers of lights will occur in NYC again this year. The ridiculous announcement that it would be canceled was reversed; because Americans expressed outrage, the Tunnel to Tower Foundation, Law Enforcement unions, and other patriotic groups stepped up to make sure it went ahead. The (18) Hibernians killed on September 11, 2001 will be commemorated on the 20th Anniversary, on Saturday September 25, 2021, details will follow. It is disgraceful that First Responders and Law Enforcement who were treated as Heroes after 9/11 and again during the Covid Pandemic are being demonized by radical groups, politicians, and in the media. They are being physically attacked and treated with disrespect while carrying out their duties and protecting us and our American way of life. I encourage all Hibernians to support the Clergy, our military and first responders; all of which do an amazing job and need our help and public support.

I look forward to meeting fellow Hibernians at upcoming meetings and events. Hopefully, we will be permitted to have our Fall State Board meeting and Testimonial Dinner on Saturday 10/31/20.

Stay safe and strong Brothers. In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity we will come back stronger than ever.
May Saint Patrick Bless and Protect You and Your Families.

District 1

Kevin O'Reilly

Hibernians in District 1 are dealing with the Corona-19 situation that we are all in. The Highlight of this period was the National Convention. Most attended the virtual convention from home and over all the feedback was positive, especially on the ability to attend all breakout sessions. Of course, all would have preferred in-person attendance. The State Board held the NYS Convention Caucus virtually on ZOOM, I thought it went very well and I suspect we will be seeing more of this. President Tom Lambert and Secretary Tom O'Donnell did a great job.

The Albany Division took an innovative approach and had the full Convention as a viewing event at their Hall. Those attending enjoyed food and even an Irish Breakfast prepared by now National Director Tim McSweeney. On July 25th, at the close of the Convention, Albany had a reception at their Hall to congratulate their own Liam McNabb as National Treasurer, Tim McSweeney as National Director and LAOH sister Karen Keene as LAOH National President. Karen is the first LAOH National President to come out of the LAOH Albany Division. All in the District are making the best of it just like all other AOH Brothers.

Albany: President Tim Weklar. The Division was busy planning and holding the Virtual Convention event at the Hall as mentioned above. They have resumed in-person Division meetings and are following the distancing guidelines.

Schenectady: President John Humphries. The Division is doing their best to achieve some sense of normalcy. They have resumed in-person Division meetings and are following the distancing guidelines.

Troy: President Peter Durkee. Peter is holding Troy steady and they will resume in-person Division meetings following the summer months.

Watervliet: President Mark Scully. The Division is making the best of it. They have resumed in-person Division meetings and are following the distancing guidelines.

Saratoga: President Tim McNulty. Another Division is making the best of it. They have resumed in-person Division meetings and are following the distancing guidelines.

East Durham: President – John Gallagher (acting). John continues his dialogue with National Director, and also National Organizer, Tim McSweeney toward rebuilding the Division numbers.

I know our members are very excited to know that the 2021 Hibernian Calendars are ready to be delivered to the Division Presidents. The question is: Who will buy the last one???

Looking toward 2021 we are very concerned that Covid will still be with us. Most are already preparing plans in the event that the March Seasonal Parades and Activities are not able to occur, not to mention the State Convention in Syracuse scheduled for July. Let us Pray Brothers!!!

District 2

Craig E. Speers

Events of recent weeks have rekindled historical events that led to the founding of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America in 1836. In 1836 St. James Church in Manhattan, NYC was under sustained attack by mobs of anti Catholic criminals.

The AOH responded by posting armed brothers outside and inside St. James Church in order to defeat attempts to attack and destroy the parish. These incidents of anti Catholic bigotry, physical violence and arson attacks on Catholic Churches were not uncommon in that era.

Now flash forward to the summer of 2020. Unbelievably in United States, in the 21st century, we have witnessed a sudden and highly disturbing rise in brutal attacks on Catholic institutions and property. In New York State we have seen the desecration of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan, and St. Anthony of Padua Church in Buffalo, among others. In California the blessed statues of St. Junipero Serra - (Patron Saint of California) were attacked and destroyed in Sacramento and San Francisco.

Over a dozen vicious attacks on Catholic Churches have been recorded since June alone. Included in the infamous roster of attacks are Queen of Peace Church, and the Mission San Gabriel Archangel in Ocala, Florida and Los Angeles, respectively, both heavily damaged by arson fires. In addition we witnessed the destruction of the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Gary, Indiana, and Rockford, Illinois, respectively. Lastly we have seen attacks on memorials to the murdered unborn babies, including an attack at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Bloomsberg, New York. This is not a complete listing of such attacks.

No one truly believes that these attacks on Catholic institutions and memorials are co-incidental or random in nature. These attacks are targeted with the expressed desire of extremist anarchist groups to intimidate and repress our religious faith, and our defense of the sanctity of life.

These attacks are a consequential test of our resolve to defend our faith. Will we respond or will we be passive and thereby overwhelmed by anti Catholic and anti Christian forces? The answer to that question will be a result of introspection on the part of each brother and their collective divisions. Think long and hard on this seminal challenge my brothers.

Already we have seen some positive response, NYS AOH officials have communicated directly to Archbishop Dolan expressing our support during this crisis, and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, a fellow Catholic, has written to United States Attorney General William Barr requesting a full federal criminal investigation into the recent attacks. Fleischmann states that these attacks add to the level of distress that Catholics feel during the pandemic, especially when added to several extreme orders issued by various state governors, which in effect, banned in person attendance at the celebration of the Mass.

Just as in the case of the vicious attacks on our Catholic Churches and memorials, we also need to defend our rights under the Constitution of the United States to attend and celebrate in person Mass, abiding all the while by relevant health guidelines. Banning the celebration of the Mass, or severely restricting the celebration of the Mass, and yet condoning mass demonstrations, protests, and civil disturbances is certainly a grave inconsistency that needs to be challenged, both in the state and federal courts as a basic civil rights violation, and in the court of public opinion.

We must not be afraid to defend our Catholic faith against any and all parties, factions and groups. The time has come my brothers to stand together, to form a united front in order to protect our beloved Catholic faith in the United States. The first step in this process is to write, email or call your Senator, Congressman, state and local representative and express your concern. Be vigilant in protecting your home parish and your fellow parishioners.

On a historical note, on June 1 several state officers and brothers from Division 1 Buffalo, and representatives of Black Rock Historical Society gathered at the foot of Hertel Avenue and the Niagara River in Buffalo to commemorate the 1866 Invasion of Canada by Union and Confederate Civil War veterans. Invasion forces left Buffalo - Black Rock on several barges pushed by steam driven tugs (due to the strong currents of the Niagara River) and landed near Fort Erie, Ontario. The veterans were successful in several engagements with British forces in the Fort Erie region, before their supply lines were severed by federal authorities. Their exact embarkation point is now marked by the famous Fenian Memorial. These brave Civil War veterans risked all in an attempt to force the British to release their oppressive occupation of the Irish nation. Brother Ray Ball, in full Fenian Army uniform, of Division 1 Buffalo, read the inspiring proclamation given to the Irish American troops on that remarkable day; Many thanks to all for a fine organizational effort.

District 3

Phil O'Neil

AOH NY District 3 – Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Oswego, Watertown, Fulton

All Divisions report that fund raising events have been cancelled by the state Covid rules.

The Auburn and Oswego Halls have reopened. They are strictly enforcing the mask, distancing and capacity rules. These 2 Divisions both state that they absolutely follow the letter of the law on the guidelines. They cannot afford to risk the fine and/or suspension of their liquor license that would force them to close their Halls for good.

Most Divisions have “weathered the storm” by going to the Zoom meeting format. Consensus is that the Zoom meeting allows for an exchange of ideas on how to overcome the fundraising deficits but a poor substitute for the efficiency and comradery of normal in person meetings. Divisions also report that Zoom meeting attendance is less than 50% of a normal meeting.

All Divisions are scrambling to come up with new fundraising vehicles. Oswego recently had a take-out chicken BBQ (open to the public) along with the LAOH running a basket raffle. The BBQ sold out and the raffle went well. Syracuse is running a Mega 50/50 raffle. This raffle takes the place of their annual Yankees v Red Sox game raffle that could not be done this year. In the spirit of Brotherhood; Oswego & Auburn are selling these tickets at their Halls. If any Brothers would like tickets for the raffle they can contact me at – poneil5@twcny.rr.com or 315-727-0573 or Division Treasurer Tim Lillis at – tim.lillis@yahoo.com (don't miss the “dot” after tim).

The Order is living through difficult times. Through Prayer, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity we will survive now and thrive in the future.

District 4

Bob Nolan

The men of District #4 want to thank outgoing National President Judge James F. McKay and his team of officers for their hard work responsiveness and dedicated leadership during these past four years.

The National Convention

Under the leadership of Danny O'Connell the first ever virtual National Convention in July was a great success. The breakout sessions as well as the convention were professionally run. The final day included voting on resolutions and election of national directors . Well done Danny and his team. At the state level, special thanks to our worthy president, Tom Lambert and worthy state secretary Tom O'Donnell for their leadership and organization skills before and during the convention.

Congratulations to our new National Officers elected at the first virtual convention on July 25:

President-Danny O'Connell, Ohio
Vice-Pres-Sean Pender, New Jersey
Secretary-Jere Cole, New Jersey
Treasurer-Liam McNabb, New York

National Directors were also elected as follows:

Tim McSweeney-New York
Ed Halligan-Pennsylvania
Dick Thompson-Massachusetts

Ray Lynch-Florida
Sean O'Dowd-Illinois
Bob Mehrens-Montana

District #4 Brothers look forward to working with all National Officers in the years ahead. Special thanks to Mr. Hagen of Ohio and Mr. Ryan of Kentucky for their spirited campaigns for Director.

We also want to thank former Bronxite and National Director Dan Dennehy for his friendship, dedication and hard work on behalf of the Order. We look forward to Dan's continued leadership especially on Immigration issues.

The John F. Kennedy Medal, the highest award presented by the AOH, was given to Philadelphia Congressman Brendan Boyle who has been supportive of Immigration and FFAI issues for several years. The delegates also voted to select Pittsburgh in 2022 and then Orlando in 2024 as the sites of the next National Conventions.

Bronx County Division 3 Hibernians in Action

In the best example of Christian Charity, these Brothers voted to spend \$3,000 to feed the needy and the unemployed in the East Bronx due to the pandemic. Checks for \$500 were presented to four parish pastors to support food pantries/food support programs. Also funded was the Jeanne Jugan senior residence and the Throgs Neck Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Shortly, dinner will be purchased for the Edgewater Park Volunteer Fire Hose. Congrats to President Roger Fahey and the men of Bronx Division 3.

Kudos New York County Thomas Rogers Memorial Division 1 AOH

Since March, New York County Division #1 has continued to meet monthly thru Zoom. Led by President William Lee, this division welcomed all brothers to participate and business was conducted. In one of those meetings I joined, there were Brothers from Boston and the Jersey Shore who were thrilled to be able to attend a meeting. During another meeting a new Brother was inducted. Well done Bill!

ZOOM-the future is now!

Some Counties and Divisions have been able to meet in person while others have used ZOOM. Every County and Division should be meeting in person or thru Zoom starting in October. Invite me to participate in each meeting. Let's keep open the lines of communication among our Brothers.

Future Events

Martin Galvin has announced that the 3rd annual Bronx Irish Mass has been scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, September 12 at St. Barnabas Church in Woodlawn. The Mass will also appear on Facebook, for those unable to personally attend. Martin will forward further details when they become available.

The annual Hudson Valley Irish Fest is scheduled for the last Saturday in September. More details will follow.

The annual Right to Life Mass has been scheduled for Sunday, October 4 at 10:15 a.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Brothers will line up at 9:30 a.m. on 51st St. Breakfast should follow but more details will be announced by New York County as the date draws near. Thanks to Brother Tom Beirne for the update.

The annual Bronx County dinner has been scheduled for Sunday, November 22 from 3-7 p.m. at Rory Dolan's. Further details will be forthcoming from County President Brother Galvin.

District 5

Steve Kiernan

The County Presidents and Division Presidents of New York State District 5, including their officers and membership and myself, would like to congratulate the newly elected National Officers.

Due to the current and ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all large gatherings, fairs and festivals have been cancelled or postponed till further notice. At the time of submission of this report, it is reported to me that the Rockaway Irish Fair hosted by Queens Division 21, as mandated by the Mayor, is cancelled. Also, the Great Irish Fair in Brooklyn is also cancelled for the same reason; though a virtual concert with the intended bands are in the works.

Kings County President Eddie Velinskie reports - The membership of Kings County continue to volunteer at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Community Food Pantry during the pandemic. This is scheduled to go through August 28th.

Richmond County President Thomas Gray would like to mention - a Golf Outing was held on August 14th on Staten Island to raise funds for a memorial in honor of the AOH members who died on 9/11.

"On May 14th, 2020, we lost a cherished member of our Order. Brother Pete Lyne of the Society of St. Paul (SSP) passed away at age 75. Brother Pete took his vows in 1964 and his Major Degree in our Order in 1994. He was a talented musician and played the bagpipes as well as the organ and had a marvelous singing voice. He was a member of Division 1 on Staten Island and was Grand Marshall of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade and loved all things Irish. He worked tirelessly to promote Catholic education and was the National Vocations Director for the SSP. He was truly a friend to all and will be deeply missed." - Thomas Gray

Queens County President Kieran Mahoney reports - Due to the current restriction, all events are cancelled in Queens for the next several months. Any changes or updates will be forth coming.

While we gather in East Durham on October 31st, for our State Meeting, a historic event is happening on the same day. A Hibernian Chaplain will be one step closer in being a Saint. The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney will be Beatified in New Haven, CT.; yet another reason to be a proud member of our Order. Stay safe, Brothers.

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 would like to thank Suffolk County president Christopher Thompson and Nassau County president Jack O'Brien on their great jobs of getting back to in person county board meetings. The presidents are making sure that the proper social distancing procedures are being used.

Brothers from both Nassau and Suffolk counties recently attended the New York State 9/11 Golf Outing in Staten Island. By all accounts it was a great day and a big success.

The 1st Nassau County Irish Music 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 in person meetings and some 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, let's hope the virus keeps trending on a downward trend so we can get back to normalcy. Please stay safe and all the best to you and your families.

District 7

Timothy J. Tobin

I hope this finds everyone in good health and good spirits. It has certainly been a challenging time for all of us, but in true Hibernian spirit, we make it through difficult times by following the principles of our motto, Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity!

I would like to congratulate Liam McNabb on his election as National Treasurer and Tim McSweeney on his election as National Director. Thank you to State President Tom Lambert for his leadership in our virtual State meeting and for our State Caucus during the National Convention.

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.

Unfortunately the Edward E. Giblin Division One Broome County AOH has been on hold due to the Covid Virus. We continue to do our donations to charitable organizations but as a group we have not met since March. All of our fundraising has been put on hold. Our Annual Golf Outing was canceled and our All Division Picnic has been postponed. On a brighter note, In accordance with the State mandates our hall reopened in July. Strict guidelines were set by the Board and the hall is open limited hours Tuesday through Saturday. We hope to have a meeting in September if the numbers in our area hold as they are at present. I wish everyone continued safety in these trying times.

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 AOH Chemung County Division #1 is proud to release the results of its Free Community Lunch Program. This program was held at the Hibernian Center of Chemung County on Saturdays and ran for 8 weeks starting on May 9th and ending on June 27th. The program was open to the public and provided free hot lunches to community members in need; The brainchild of our interim clubhouse steward and intellectual extraordinaire Jim Marks, District Director Tim Tobin and Corporation President Jut McNerny. At that time in early May (which seems like an eternity ago) the school year had just been cancelled and people were beginning to lose their jobs. Many children in the Elmira area rely on school lunches for their daily nutritional needs. These fine gentlemen took it upon themselves to do something about it. And so, the free lunch program was born.

Over the course of the next 8 weeks the AOH and LOAH of Chemung County provided 2,551 lunches to people in the community, averaging 318 meals per day! This was no small task. Approval from the local Health Board was required which included all safety and sanitary precautions food service businesses have to adhere to as well as COVID precautions such as masks, gloves, additional sanitizing, social distancing and safe take-out only capability.

In total over 40 AOH and LAOH members volunteered, to perform such tasks as cooking, cleaning, directing traffic, holding signs, running orders and many more. Members also donated deserts to the magnitude of 350 deserts

per week as well as rolls and bread. Those that were not able to donate their time or food donated financially. Over 30 members made financial donations. In addition, two local insurance agencies decided to put their business competition aside and pitched in as well. The W. J. Farmer Insurance Agency of Horseheads and Perry and Carroll, Inc. of Elmira both made significant contributions.

The program was featured by the local news stations several times as well as radio broadcasts and local school newsletters. The program was so popular that another social club The Elmira Elks Club, Lodge 62 decided to do their own hot lunch program on Sundays.

Overall, this program was a huge success made possible by the hard work and dedication of the AOH and LOAH of Chemung County. In trying times like these we stepped up and made a difference and that's something we can all be very proud of.

The Hibernian Center of Chemung County is open for business and serving cold refreshments and snacks (as required). The club house is open Monday – Saturday 3pm to 9pm and Sunday 2pm to 6pm. Face masks are required unless seated. Social distancing must be maintained and tables and chairs are sanitized after each use. If you feel comfortable doing so you are more than welcome to join us and raise a glass or two.

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

As we had to protect each other and follow the guidelines dealing with Covid-19, the Sons of Ireland Division ceased all meetings and activities until July 7th when we were able to have our first face to face meeting, with masks required and social distancing. We subsequently held our August meeting as well with the same restrictions. The Cemetery Committee, however in early May, began our annual cleanup, weekly mowing, trimming and upkeep, of the section of St. Ann's Cemetery which we have volunteered to maintain.

Unfortunately, our Annual Irish Festival was canceled. The committee worked through Zoom meetings and socially distanced, masked meetings in the parking lot to put on the "Fest" if possible. However, it wasn't to be.

The July meeting allowed Brothers to reconnect and be updated, on what had been happening behind the scenes. Discussions were held about fund raising events for the remainder of the year and into the beginning of 2021.

Our August meeting was highlighted by the Presentations of \$500.00 scholarships to Miss Emma Flaitz, (Hornell), Shannon Heinig (Alfred-Almond) and our Brother Hibernian Breccan Donlon (Hornell). The second Highlight of the meeting, welcomed Colin McDaniel to the Order, with our Induction Rite. The Division debated the pros and cons of our Annual golf tournament and after deliberation agreed to move forward with the planning and application process to host the tournament scheduled for Sept. 19, 2020 at the Twin Hickory Golf Course. Members were asked to volunteer for a work group to trim and weed the landscape at the Parish Rectory. Work was performed on August 8th.

Our meeting also covered a sad note as we draped the Charter for our Brother, Floyd Farley who passed in July, unrelated to Covid -19. The Division performed our ritual at his home for the Family and was a Street Guard for his funeral procession from St. Ann's Church.

It is a tough time for all of us, as we endure the pandemic, but we feel fortunate not to have lost anyone to the coronavirus. With God's grace and our own discipline, we pray it will remain that way.

District 8

Jim Russell

Dutchess County:

Nothing to report at this time.

Orange County:

Due to the pandemic many meetings and events have been cancelled over the last few months.

Orange County is sad to announce that Brother James J. Kelly, an AOH Lifetime Member from Division #1, passed away suddenly last month. In addition, Division #2 longtime member and extremely active brother John Greehy passed away at the start of the summer.

Division #1 continues to contribute much needed supported to food pantries in Monroe and Washingtonville.

Division #2 has tickets available for their annual "Ireland's 32" Drawing. Contact their President William Kirnan for more information. His number is 845-591-9682.

President Brian McCabe reports that our new division in Warwick will soon have their charter in place as National Secretary Jere Cole has indicated to him.

Division #4 in Middletown was ready to host the traveling "Vietnam Wall" on the grounds of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish but had to postpone the event. Past President Ray Patterson, the point person on this tribute will announce a new time for the event once he receives it.

The AOH Orange County Board had to cancel its annual raffle for Army West Point Football tickets due to the pandemic.

Despite the challenges imposed by the crisis, the brothers in Orange County remain hopeful, and they look forward to getting their AOH Divisions back up to speed as the crisis subsides.

Rockland County:

Nothing to report at this time.

Sullivan County:

Sullivan Brothers have continued to serve in our community as we evolve with COVID circumstances. This summer we transitioned from Zoom back to social-distancing monthly meetings. We continue to support our local parishes and community organizations that are suffering because of cancelled bazaars and other traditional fundraising events.

Our own annual 'Half-way to St. Patrick's Day' golf outing is scheduled for Sept 19. Enrollment / Attendance is limited and pre-registration is mandatory. Please call Bob Menges at Swan Lake (845-292-0323) to reserve a foursome.

Ulster County:

The annual Hooley on the Hudson which was scheduled for Sunday, September 6, 2020 has been canceled this year due to Covid-19.

Freedom for All Ireland

Martin Galvin

Stormont First Minister Arlene Foster recently boasted she would never see a referendum on Irish unity in her lifetime, much less a united Ireland. A British Appeals Court ruled it was solely up to Britain, if, when, or what to consider, before allowing any Irish unity vote. The British are designing new measures to bury the truth about the legacy murders of nationalists and to deny Republicans conflict injury pensions.

The British are clearly signaling their intent to hold onto the six counties permanently and to deny justice in order to cement that hold. Ireland needs America to play a vital role to get justice and national freedom for all Ireland. AOH leadership and initiatives are crucial to getting America to fulfill that vital role.

Under the leadership of our Worthy National President and National officers, the FFAI National Committee, including Brendan Moore, Gerry McHale, Malachy McAllister, Jim McLaughlin, Sean O'Dowd, Bob Bolbach and myself were assigned to implement the following Constitutional and Presidential Directives.

Article X-Section 15

FFAI Chairman is the major information resource relative to promoting support for a 32 county Ireland. As such, he is tasked with using all opportunities and means to provide members with background on developing issues and concerns.

His responsibility includes providing varied means for communicating the AOH membership's position on critical issues related to the above.

The chairman shall also organize and facilitate the annual FFAI Christmas appeal.

Presidential Directives

Support and inform the membership on all Congressional, state, and local government legislative action relating to the abolition of the Partition of Ireland, or to injustices arising from the denial of freedom for all Ireland, including where feasible initiating and supporting resolutions or other legislative actions.

-Prepare and submit articles reflecting AOH POSITIONS on issues relevant to freedom for all Ireland or injustices arising from the denial of freedom for all Ireland for publication in Irish-American, or Irish outlets.

Following these directives since our last National Convention, FFAI initiatives included:

1-The AOH conducted national speaking tours on the Ballymurphy Massacre with Carmel Quinn, on the denial of legacy justice with Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, and on British complicity in collusion with Professor Mark McGovern.

2-In Congress the AOH arranged for speakers to brief the House Foreign Affairs Committee and obtained a series of Congressional Letters on Legacy issues which put British officials on notice they were under American Congressional scrutiny. We have lobbied in Washington and district offices to build a growing Congressional network that can be counted upon.

3-In state legislatures, New York among others, held formal ceremonies celebrating the centenaries of Ireland's Declaration of Independence and 1918 vote for freedom (and were scheduled to commemorate the 1920 heroes of the Black and Tan War).

4-FFAI worked together with our National Immigration Committee and National Treasurer, to help FFAI Committee member Malachy McAllister in his quarter century fight against unjust deportation, as well as backing Irish political deportees and other immigration issues which are directly interconnected with the Irish conflict and denial of

freedom for all Ireland.

5-A 37 member AOH-LAOH delegation in February 2019, led by our National President and LAOH National President, attended the Ballymurphy Inquest, visited Belfast, Derry, and Tyrone and represented AOH concerns to Irish government officials.

6- The AOH-LAOH had a record setting Christmas Appeal, approving grants for Relatives for Justice, Pat Finucane Centre, Holy Cross Ardoyne, EALU center for Tyrone Republican ex-political prisoners, New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Cairde Strabane, St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick, Duchas Oiriall-South Armagh, Bridges beyond Boxing, Belfast, Down Patriot Graves, Green Cross, Belfast National Graves, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, and first time recipients Ballymurphy Families Committee, Museum of Free Derry, Tyrone National Graves and the Witness Project.

7-The monthly FFAI Bulletin is now part of the monthly email blast carried on the National and state AOH web sites. These bulletins provide monthly updates on a few key events in the north with short analysis. Our bulletins are now requested by other Irish organizations and individuals. Through these materials the AOH is influencing the agenda for these organizations.

8-Most recently, under a proposal by National Vice-President Danny O'Connell, the AOH initiated a series of video interviews with leading advocates of justice and freedom for all Ireland, beginning with Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, Joe Austin and Brendan McFarlane of Belfast National Graves, and John Kelly and Adrian Kerr of the Bloody Sunday Trust and Museum of Free Derry. These interviews explain and promote the work done by our Christmas Appeal grant recipients, and provide updates on important issues. These interviews also let our members hear firsthand how much AOH FFAI political work, financial contributions and publicity mean.

NATIONAL SPEAKING TOURS

Nothing is as inspirational as hearing firsthand from those still denied freedom in Ireland. Because of the work and interest of AOH members across the country the AOH was able to send speakers to Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Connecticut and Virginia along with New York, Philadelphia, Albany, New Jersey, and Washington DC.

AOH national tours made news in Irish and Irish American They gave AOH members opportunities to show leadership and build the organization locally. Other Irish organizations supported our events and joined issues and priorities set by the AOH. These tours also gave a morale boost to victims groups in Ireland, as speakers returned and reported that America and the AOH was behind them. These speaking tour events give a major boost to our Christmas Appeal.

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 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 the initiative of 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.

3-FFAI has submitted resolutions in anticipation of the 40th anniversary year of the 1981 Hunger Strike, to promote national and local commemorative events about the legacy of the Hunger Strike martyrs and a resolution on British moves to cut off the truth on legacy killings. FFAI will recommend speakers relating to this issue.

CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES

At the request of AOH FFAI, the House Foreign Affairs Committee hosted a special briefing by Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice and Professor Mark McGovern, only 9 days after Boris Johnson announced plans to stop prosecutions of British troopers during the 1969-98 conflict. Congressman Eliot Engel scheduled the briefing, attended by Congressmen, many Congressional aides, two observers from the Irish Embassy and an observer from the British Northern Ireland Office. Mark Thompson and Professor McGovern urged Congress, to take a lead along with Irish America and the Irish government in opposing a trooper amnesty which would be a political disaster and violation of the Good Friday agreement.

Among Congressmen present were Eliot Engel, Brian Higgins, Brendan Boyle, Tim Burchett, Bill Keating, Thomas Suozzi and Dan Kildee. Other Congressmen sent key aides, led by Billy Tranchese representing Congressman Richard Neal. The Irish government was represented by Deputy Head of Mission Emer Roche and Political Counsellor Brian Cahalane.

The British pay close attention to American Congressional scrutiny. FFAI was able to organize this hearing and also a series of Congressional letters to the British Ambassador.

FFAI speakers from Ireland also help in AOH efforts to build up a network of Congressmen, who are aware of key FFAI issues and the importance of Irish issues to voters in their district. Brothers living in Congressional districts across the country are a key part of this effort.

Proposals:

1-FFAI is calling upon AOH members across the country to contact your local Senators and Congressmen, and advise them that issues like legacy justice are important to Irish voters in their district. Try to establish contacts in local offices that we can contact about speakers from Ireland or Congressional letters etc

STATES-CITIES HONOR HUNGER STRIKE MARTYRS LEGACY

The AOH has been successful in getting some states, cities and municipalities to hold formal ceremonies commemorating the centenaries of Ireland's Declaration of Independence and 1918 vote for freedom. After building credibility through ceremonies honoring the events of a century ago, next year we can try a more recent 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 resolutions in states, cities and municipalities across the state and nation.

We can again show state and local officials that the AOH wants Irish issues and history treated with the same attention that other ethnic groups get for their issues and history.

Next year is also the centenary of the six county state. It is important to remember that the British are celebrating an area carved out of Ireland against the democratic wishes of the Irish people expressed in the all-Ireland vote of 1918 and Declaration of Independence. The Hunger Strike also highlights that the six county Orange State treated Irish patriots as criminals and tortured them as part of a British propaganda strategy.

Proposals:

1-The National FFAI Resolution submitted to the Convention about the legacy of the 1981 Hunger Strike, will be modified and circulated across the country with AOH members nationally encouraged to seek state and municipal resolutions and ceremonies across the nation.

MALACHY McALLISTER AND DEPORTEES

Malachy McAllister and other Irish political deportee cases involve FFAI and Immigration issue. I have worked on these cases jointly with Immigration Chair Dan Dennehy and National Treasurer Sean Pender.

We are all disappointed at the injustice done Malachy McAllister. He of course is a personal friend and a key member of the National FFAI Committee. We should not overlook all that Malachy accomplished.

Few individuals could have inspired the support needed to keep Malachy in America so long. Senators Menendez, Schumer, Congressmen King, Engel, Smith, Neal and Pascrell among others personally intervened. Cardinal Dolan called the President. Many law enforcement and military officials appealed for him. The Irish Embassy backed him. The AOH and other Irish organizations campaigned for him. Malachy became a leading AOH member fighting for others.

Malachy has multiple grounds which should have entitled him to legal permanent residence under American law. He was a political prisoner decades ago, in a war now long over. He and his children were targeted for assassination. The Good Friday and Weston Park agreements were said to hold promises for ex-prisoners which were never kept.

Malachy McAllister became a political pawn, in Britain's game of criminalization. The British want to brand Republicans as criminals. In the north they manipulate definitions of victim to disqualify injured Republican ex-prisoners from conflict pensions. Here Britain wants an American rubberstamp on criminalization through deportations and visa denial.

We will continue to fight for him and also fight to insure that DHS/ICE does not try to victimize others at Britain's behest.

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. This fact-finding tour had a tremendous impact on everyone who attended. It was also a major morale boost to groups in Ireland who count on AOH support.

Next year we have hoping conditions will allow us to sponsor a similar tour. Following our Resolution about the 1981 Hunger Strike legacy, FFAI makes the following proposal.

Proposal

1-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.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The 2019-2020 Christmas Appeal was a record breaking success with almost \$100,000 awarded to a total of nineteen groups. Grants were awarded based on written applications, and recommendations from the National FFAI Committee. 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.

Donations can be sent to our PO Box
AOH-FFAI
PO BOX 904
JEFFERSON VALLEY, NY 10535

Obviously we are concerned about the impact the health crisis may have on the 2020-21 Christmas Appeal. All states should be involved in supporting the Christmas Appeal.

Proposal

FFAI is proposing that every state President, personally or through an appointee, support the Christmas Appeal within their state. States and county boards are encouraged to combine donations to earn the award given for \$1,000 donors.

FFAI MONTHLY BULLETINS

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

SPECIAL THANKS

Special acknowledgement and thanks to our National officers, to the members of the FFAI National Committee, Brendan Moore, Gerry McHale, Malachy McAllister, Jim McLaughlin, and Sean O'Dowd, Bob Bolbach and to every AOH member across the country who works for Freedom for all Ireland!

FREEDOM for ALL IRELAND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- Q & A UPDATE July 7,2020

1- *With FFAI proposing a resolution and a program of events about the 1981 Hunger Strike, are you planning to provide information particularly for younger members, explaining the Hunger Strike, the political background the American involvement etc.-* **Brendan Moore** (in telephone conference call)

It is definitely important for FFAI to begin making our members aware of all of the background which led up to the 1981, Hunger Strike itself, the conditions used to break the Blanketmen, the American campaign in which the AOH played a key role, and the political implications today.

As just one example on May 3rd, the British will mark the centennial of the Orange State. Bobby Sands' anniversary on May 5th can be a reminder that this was a state based on systematic sectarian discrimination and in which Irish patriots like the Hunger Strikers were regarded as criminals and tortured.

FFAI has already begun laying out some of these issues in the wording of the Resolution submitted to the Convention, the video which incoming National President Danny O'Connell did with Bik McFarlane, Joe Austin and myself.

2- *Congressional support on FFAI issues is very important. We have lost some great friends including Peter King and Eliot Engel. How do you plan to build Congressional and state support?*

Malachy McAllister (in telephone conference call)

FFAI has made a proposal calling upon AOH members across the country to contact local offices Senators and Congressmen, to make them aware them that issues like legacy justice are important to Irish voters in their district.

We are bipartisan and need both Democrats and Republicans. We want to get to the position where, when we have speakers, sign on letters to the British government, Congressional hearings etc that AOH members can call local offices and say this letter, meeting etc is important to voters in your district.

We are getting a list of Congressman and Senators on key committees and have already found we have active AOH divisions who are willing to follow-up.

3- On behalf of Florida State President Ray Lynch, we would like to know how Florida and other states will be recognized as being a \$1,000 donor. Florida is very proud that our state has gone from mere \$ 100+ donor to a \$1,000 one. In the past, those with donations of \$1,000 were called up front of the delegates and given recognition for it. This being a virtual Convention, will \$1,000 donors be recognized?

Jim Sullivan, Florida State FFAI Chairman

We want recognize and thank everyone who made the 2019-20 Christmas Appeal an outstanding success. As you note I will not be able to distribute at the convention but we are ordering awards made by Tyrone Republican ex-prisoners and will get them to you. We are encouraging that awards then be presented and applauded at local public events to let others see what you accomplished!

Freedom For All Ireland Awards

AOH John Cardinal D'Alton Division 3 Pearl River, New York
AOH Bronx County Board, New York
AOH General Thomas F Meagher Division Locust Grove, Virginia
AOH JFK Division 1 Staten Island, New York
AOH California State Board Chino, California
AOH Dean Michael Barry Division 1 Oswego, New York
AOH Myles Scully Division One Yonkers, New York
AOH Division 32 Carnegie, Pennsylvania
AOH JFK Division 1 Schenectady, New York
AOH LA County Plunket – McDonald Division 3 Long Beach, California
AOH Division 5 Bucks County Langhorne, Pennsylvania
AOH Patrick Pearse Division 1 Columbus, Ohio
AOH Philadelphia County Board
AOH Fr. Abraham J. Ryan Division 1 Louisville, Kentucky
AOH William F. Fennelly Division Watervliet, New York
AOH-LAOH Hamilton County #1 Cincinnati, Ohio
AOH Msgr Charles Owen Rice Division 1 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
AOH Rev James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Lawrence, Massachusetts
AOH Dutchess County Division 1, New York
AOH Msgr Crean Division 1 Mercer County Trenton, New Jersey
AOH Division 5 Albany, New York
AOH Division 32 Cook County, Chicago, Illinois
AOH Division 1 Ashburn, Virginia
AOH Florida State Board
AOH Herbert-Cady Division Alexandria, Virginia
AOH New York State Board
AOH Division 7 Rochester, New York
AOH Division 36 Worcester, Massachusetts
AOH Rockland County Board
AOH Col D.B. Kelly Division 1 Middlesex County South Amboy, New Jersey
LAOH Pennsylvania State Board
LAOH JFK Division 1 Schenectady, New York
LAOH Division 5 Albany, New York
LAOH Michigan State Board
LAOH Maryland State Board
LAOH Philadelphia County Board
LAOH Mary Ellen Myers Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
AOH Christopher Thompson West Islip, New York

AOH Jim McLaughlin Springfield, Virginia
AOH John B F Kelly New City, New York

4-Brexit places Northern Ireland in the eye of the storm. It is difficult to predict what will happen either in the short or long term to the political and economic entities in Northern Ireland. However, what can be predicted is that both will be severely tested as they are subject to the interests of outside forces who advocate for their own narrow interests, regardless of perceived colonial ties or cultural identities.

Those who nurture and perpetuate the sectarian-driven political system in Northern Ireland must be aware that Brexit poses a threat to its viability as a political force in an age past its time where religious and cultural differences can no longer be exploited or where a 100-year old line drawn across a landscape can no longer effectively separate people who share an historic island nation. Institutionalized sectarianism that underpinned ploys such as the “Orange card” can no longer be depended on to maintain the status quo in the face of a rapidly changing demographic more inclined to openness and equality. The partisan divide that served demagoguery so well for 100 years is being gradually eclipsed by an ever-increasing minority of non-partisan voters who rate inclusiveness and shared values above partisan causes rooted in centuries past.

What then should the people of Northern Ireland do who voted 56% to remain in the European Union knowing that England will do what is expedient for England even if it means setting Northern Ireland adrift? The best choice in our opinion is for Northern Ireland to become part of a Federal Irish Republic wherein they would maintain their own parliament, thus guaranteeing the Province of Ulster effective home rule. They would send representatives to Dail Eireann as they now send representatives to the Westminster parliament. In order to ensure the distribution of political power to the other provinces, Northern Ireland’s negotiators would insist on the establishment of a four-province Federal Ireland over a specific time frame that would allow for the development of a federal constitution and government structures enshrining provisions for devolved powers to Provincial parliaments and local councils. Such an arrangement would position Northern Ireland to fully participate in the broader economic landscape that Europe provides and would provide for its young people access to the European labor marketplace. It would make Northern Ireland a more attractive place for international investment and a place where sectarianism would give way to utilitarianism.

The Republic of Ireland is also in the eye of the same storm. The economic ties between both entities are substantial, intertwined, and enormously beneficial to the citizens on both sides of the political divide. It’s incumbent on the powers to be in the Republic to be open to a proposed deal by their Northern neighbors that would obviate the worst aspects of Brexit and proffer a viable solution to the partition of Ireland. It’s highly probable that the citizens of the Republic would support a Federal solution because those who reside outside of Dublin believe that too much power and privilege is centered in Dublin and its environs to the detriment of the rest of the country. They bemoan the fact that in addition to the entrenched political endowments and entitlements everything of substance, including state-of-the-art medical centers, research facilities, financial institutions, sports and entertainment facilities etc., continue to be in Dublin.

We propose this narrative and speaking points be added to the FFAI Congressional Initiatives for 2021-23 per the definition of the Presidential Directives.

**Peadar McManus, FFAI Chair and Vice President, New Haven, CT and
Joe O Flaherty, FFAI CT State Chair, FFAI Chair, Waterbury, CT**

Erie Nua would require a Constitutional change for the AOH and add obstacles to getting a united Ireland.

Our Constitutional objective is freedom for all Ireland. Whether a free 32 county Ireland should be governed from the Dail or 4 local parliaments is up to the people of Ireland.

**Pro Life
Jack O'Brien**

Congratulations to all our newly installed National Officers! As the quarantine affects all of us, there is not much new activity on Pro-Life to report. Although the pandemic has impeded progress, we must plan to move forward. Election Day is November 3rd. As we are into another election, remember your affiliation with the AOH makes you pro-life. Remember everyone's Inalienable Right to Life as you exercise your right to vote.

Abortion, Euthanasia, and Doctor Assisted Suicide are still in the forefront of local and national issues, but have cleverly been put on hold. Presently, they are not on congressional calendars for a vote and many have been sent to currently inactive committees to be buried, until after the election.

I wish to thank Brother Walsh, the AOH National Pro Life Chairman, who spoke very well of New York in his convention reports. Thanks also to all Hibernians for your Respect Life efforts. Pro Life has many facets from Conception to Natural Death. As an AOH member in New York, you are on the front lines of respect life issues. If our pro life efforts are on hold, Pro-Abortion is advancing.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 2020 is RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY.-Be part of the LIFE CHAIN

It is your presence that makes a difference! Respect Life Sunday will have come and gone before we meet again. - I ask every Hibernian to focus on what it means to be PRO-LIFE on **Sunday, October 4th**.

Respect Life Sunday deserves everyone's attention. By October, I expect all of us will be ready to move about, taking precautions with masks. We should be able to get out and attend some RESPECT LIFE events. We must establish the Ancient Order of Hibernians as being dedicated Pro-Life individuals.

On October 4th, thousands of events will be held across America. If you experience even one of them you will achieve a better understanding of how important promoting Respect Life is. Your efforts will be rewarded. You will meet a diverse group rallying for the same cause.

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. Contact me at AOH11@Live.com for more information on a Life-Chain location near you.

- Save the date: **Friday January 29, 2021, National March For Life** in Washington DC.
- Start organizing now for the March For Life in Washington DC- Be Prepared. Please consider organizing your trip and fundraising now, if needed.

Respect Life - make it part of your Family Life: Set the example! Be aware of increased stress. Every life is important and inherently valuable. Treating each other with patience and respect starts at home. This quarantine has Parents and Caretakers understandably stressed over how to protect their loved ones, old and young, from contracting corona-virus. The pandemic has wounded us, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

This forced solitude has often not been a place to find God, but instead to feel isolation. Some of us have found it hard to find God, and the loss of our usual open religious experiences has not made it easier.

Respect and be aware of everyone's Life. As if quarantine isn't enough to bear, we have concerns for public welfare, school closings, social distancing, sheltering in place orders, work from home requirements, etc. Along with the effects of the virus itself, job insecurity, furloughed positions, and being laid off carries financial burdens. These changes have increased stress in the home for children, too. Children are now be dealing with a tense parent or guardian, who, in some cases, are out-of-work, or simply unaccustomed to providing around-the-clock care and in many cases you fill educational gaps. Children may be acting differently, because they do not have the same physical, emotional and spiritual outlets they were used to. They will be looking to their parents for examples of how to cope. As a Hibernian and as a Catholic, show them the way.

You can check the Facebook postings [@Hibernians For Life](#) for current topics and more ideas. I pray that by our next meeting there will be much more Pro life action to report.

Veterans Affairs
SSgt Patrick Gorman
USMC retired.

As we continue to battle the COVID virus in New York the VA has begun accepting patients into the hospitals for all medical appointments. They have a screening system which as far as Buffalo goes is running quite smoothly.

The VA Regional Office Claims Division, who is in charge of the disability cases, has installed an artificial intelligence system to decrease new claims from taking 10 days to process to 1. This is a vast improvement and long overdue change as each day a claim sits in the initial process stage it adds months until someone actually reviews it.

The VA has awarded 400 million in grants to aid in the veteran homeless programs providing sustainable housing to veterans of low income and their families. Local advocate groups lead by; of course an Irishman; Jimmy Fitzgerald, have met with lawmakers in Albany to ensure the GOV has no plans on cutting the veterans programs even though the state is 14 million in debt. The number of veterans needing help with bills, food etc has increased so we must press local lawmakers to prevent this from happening.

Update on AOH member SSgt. Nick Mocarski , he is currently prepping for a push into Iraq while being tasked to provide intel up the chain on a certain area which I cannot disclose due to security measures. Keep the prayers going.

Finally, with immense pain we must honor 7 marines and 1 sailor lost tragically in a training accident. Lcpl. Perez, Cpl. Rodd, Cpl. Villanueva, Navy Doc Gnemmm, Lcpl. Barranco , Lcpl. Sweetwood, Pfc. Ostrovsky, Pfc. Bath and Pfc. Baltierra.

“Marines and their Corpsman do not fear death; it's just a change of our duty station for a greater mission to raise their shields before God”. Till Valhalla boys.

Immigration
Daniel Dennehy

Acknowledgements

As New York State AOH Immigration Chair, since the Convention, I have begun my work to support New York State President Tom Lambert and also my wife, Emerald Isle Immigration Center Executive Director Siobhan Dennehy in their new responsibilities as AOH/LAOH National Immigration Chairs. I ask each and every one of my Brother and Sister Hibernians to lend support to the new National Board officers during their term; they are doing our work and deserve our assistance.

It has been an honor to serve as National Immigration Chair for President Judge Jim McKay and his hardworking, innovative, and understanding leadership. I've had the good fortune to benefit from Judge McKay's unique insight across America and Ireland. This is an exceptional National Board to work with, I'm proud to work with all its Officers. To my fellow National Directors, and so many State, County and Division Presidents, Boards and members, especially Keith Carney for his decades of helping me navigate Capitol Hill, its names, faces and legislation, N.Y. County Division 7 for the Celtic Cruise, I appreciate the opportunity to personally work with so many of you.

I must recognize Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and his predecessor Enda Kenny, Tainaste Simon Coveney, Irish Ambassador Dan Mulhall, his predecessor Anne Anderson and their staff; Kevin Comny, Mike Lonergan, Emer Rocke, Ralph Victory and especially Brian Cahalane, NY Irish Consul General Ciaran Madden and his entire staff; attorneys Eamon Dorman, Jim Byrne, Jim O'Malley, Lisa Johnson, Niall Murphy, Kevin Winters: Mark Thompson and Andree Murphy for their legacy justice efforts; the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, notably the Emer-

ald Isle Immigration Center chaired by AOH Brothers John Tully, his predecessor Dr. Brian O'Dwyer, and all, especially EIIC Executive Director/ JFK Medal Awardee, Siobhan Dennehy, who is my wonderful wife, and mother of our daughters Ashling and Cara.

As the National Immigration Committee Chair, I endeavored to:

- Inform and advise members on the historical and legislative developments related to longstanding Irish Immigration issues.
- Raise awareness that U.S. Immigration and lack of reform directly affects understanding between America and Ireland, the future of AOH and all of Irish Catholic Americans. At all times working towards an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland and cooperation with other groups for a fair American Immigration Policy. (AOH National Constitution)
- Promote and encourage support for Irish Immigration centers across America, which help our most recent Irish, elderly Irish, the most venerable and everyone in between.
- Secure legislative and administrative action for former IRA volunteers and their families, whose support for the Good Friday Agreement was all-important, and continue to live in the USA with unresolved legal status.

At our National Convention, keynote speaker Irish Senator for the Diaspora Billy Lawless had this to say about the Ancient Order of Hibernians,

"As Hibernians, you need no history lesson. Your founding fathers established the AOH in St. James's Church in New York City in 1836 to provide succor and protection to the waves of Irish Catholics arriving by the thousands to these shores. Unfortunately, they were met not with American charity but rather with contempt and derision from a groundswell of nativist, anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic sentiment.

Over 180 years ago, the AOH was a port of refuge for the Irish in America, providing support and a sense of community to new arrivals. Still, your commitment to your faith, your families, and your communities has endured right up to today.

You played a pivotal role in bringing peace to our troubled island and championed the MacBride Principles during some of the darkest days of the Troubles. You fought for the legalization of the undocumented Irish here in the 1990s. I am delighted to see you continue to be active today in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path for the 50,000 undocumented Irish living here."

Bruce Morrison, immigration Lawyer, lobbyist, and former U.S. House Representative, was the sponsor of the Morrison Visa Program, which yielded over 50,000 green cards for the Irish. He stated, *"The AOH Immigration Committee ... has been a persistent and effective force for the protection of Irish people unfairly targeted by immigration officials and systems. They have been a strong advocate for expanding Irish immigration opportunities. When action has been needed, they have always answered the call."*

Suggestions for State County and Division Chairs

Historical relevance of the AOH and Immigration

Raise Communication with National & State Immigration Chair and members about local action

Immigrant support- Visit www.ciic-usa.org

Accomplishments- Share your immigrant family and member stories and actions on AOH Immigration work

AOH's greatest success is the strength of our members. Through our nonpartisan leadership on issues of Irish Immigration is hugely recognized. This is an election year. The AOH does not endorse or condemn candidates, policy, however, must be discussed, as it affects AOH goals.

Improved communication with legislators and other organizations through our work and members. Get to know your legislators, meet them and discuss AOH Immigration:

Find your U.S. Representative here: <http://tiny.cc/yu5sqz>

Find your U.S. Senators here: <http://tiny.cc/jw5sqz>

The AOH Immigration Committee

- The current National Immigration Committee convened in 2018. Committee members regularly meet via Zoom and teleconferences. We reside in 12 U.S. States; Committee members, from 2018 to present: National President Judge James McKay LA (ex-officio), National Chair Dan Dennehy NY, Jim Gallagher CT, Chuck Gildea CA, Keith Carney DC, John Wilson MO, Joe Lee, and Mike O'Connor MT, Ben Coleman NE, Chris Cooke NC, John Myers OH, Ned McGinley PA, Jim Lawracy SC, Kevin Buechler, and Mike Joyce TX. Thank you for your service to the AOH, Brothers!
- This committee has cultivated communication and strong relations with both GOP, Democrat and Independent Members of Congress including our 2020 JFK Medal Recipient U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle, US Representatives Eliot Engle, Peter King, Richie Neal, Chris Smith, and Bill Pascrell, US Senators Dick Durbin, Chris Murphy, Bob Menendez, and Chuck Schumer, and Fmr. U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley.
- The committee discusses historical information on Irish Immigration. Invited guest speakers context, insight, and ideas on the never-ending policy changes of the current U.S. Administration, and other effects on Irish immigrants. We are incredibly grateful for the insights of Irish Senator for Diaspora Billy Lawless, National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin, Emerald Isle Immigration Center Executive Director Siobhan Dennehy, and EIIC attorney John Stahl, Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform Breandan Magee, Fmr U.S. Rep Bruce Morrison and Irish Consulate and Irish Embassy representatives.
- Immigration Chairs should have insight into how the Irish Immigrant community can help itself amidst the impact of natural, policy, and legislation changes. We continue working on the ongoing plight of the Irish undocumented. Our Preamble requires Hibernians to gain information and work on solutions on Immigration. Members should be made welcome to discuss personal positions on the subject; it helps the members understand that Irish Immigration is an essential part of the business of the AOH. We were founded to protect and defend Irish and Catholic immigrants and swore to uphold our AOH Constitution and Bylaws. The easiest way to support our communities is to work with the nearest Archdiocese, Irish Consulate, and Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers.
- Immigration Committee members are expected to share these insights and initiatives with fellow Hibernians and others. This involves working with AOH Immigration Chairs at every level of the Order and with National Officers and create AOH Calls for Action, Media releases, and appeals. Immigration Chairs should report monthly to their Divisions, and National Immigration Committee members should welcome invitations to speak at Division meetings and State Conventions on Immigration.

Needs for the Future:

- More immigration chairs and better involvement of our members in local government interface
- Completion of Irish E3, TRIG Exemption, securing/ improving J1 programs and H1B visa programs
- Emigrant Vote Campaign
- Hibernian Database of legislators to correspond with our Divisions/State/ Etc for Calls for Actions and campaigns

Continuing AOH Immigration Legislation Efforts

We continue to seek legislation that will end 55 years of disparity when Congress removed 17,000 annual green cards from Ireland by eliminating country quotas.

The Irish E3 Visa Bill The E3 Bill was first introduced in 2005 in a U.S. Australia Trade Agreement to give that country access to 10,500 working visas annually, shortly afterward, an Irish E3 Bill would see a restoration of upwards of 10,500 standalone visas for Ireland, a reasonable quota for Irish people. The Irish E3 has been the primary legislative vehicle for achieving an allotment of U.S. visas for the Irish. The visa has been included in the Immigration Reform Bills in 2008, 2013, and 2015

The E3 Visa for Ireland Bill A version of that Bill, the E3 Visa for Ireland, seeks approximately 5,000 annual visas from the remainder of Australia's annual 10,500 visa allotment. Since 2005, Australians annually use half or less of their E3 visas allotment. Therefore more than 5,000 US working visas are left unused. E3 Visa For Ireland was unanimously passed in the House in 2019. The Senate Bill involved a mighty and successful effort nationwide by Hibernians to remove 9 GOP Senate holds on the Bill. Afterward, one U.S. Senator from Arkansas, Tom Cotton, added his own hold. Despite appeals from the White House, bipartisan Senators, Irish Government, and neighboring Hibernians and Arkansas Irish groups, Tom Cotton refused to lift his hold as that Congress ended its term. The E3 Visa For Ireland was again sponsored in 2020 by Massachusetts Congressman Richie Neal, and passed, receiving unanimous support the House on March 9, 2020.

Malachy McAllister -Hibernian: Malachy McAllister is a native of Belfast, Ireland, and a member of AOH Monsignor Crean Division, Mercer County, New Jersey, before that, a member of AOH Cardinal O'Fiaich Division 7 New York County. In 1982, based on his membership in the Irish Nationalist Liberation Army (INLA) and a false 1982 accusation that he served as a lookout for gunman during a tumultuous 1981 Hunger Strike Protests, all without due process, Malachy served 3 1/2 of a 7-year sentence and was never charged again. Malachy endured death threats from RUC officers regularly.

Seeking refuge in America:

32 years ago, in 1988, the McAllister home in Belfast was riddled with bullets by the Loyalist Red Hand Commando death squad intent on killing his young family member. A similar attack had just been committed to the family of Jim Clinton, a fellow Irish Republican. In that atrocity, Clinton's young wife was shot repeatedly through the living room window and murdered. The RUC at the scene ridiculed the family; the perpetrators remained free to attack Malachy's family. Miraculously, Malachy, and his young family escaped injury and quickly fled to North America.

24-year fight against deportation;

For the past 24 years, Malachy has fought deportation. His Hibernian Brothers supported him by educating the media and legislators about Malachy's character, his efforts towards the Peace Process, the unjust nature of his sentencing, and the looming threat by Loyalist if he was returned. Malachy remained free to raise his family, while under an order of deportation, due to a Private Bill from legislators from both parties. They knew him as a community leader, a family and business person, and a productive member of society. U.S. Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama were aware of his case, but never actively sought to deport him.

Why is this Administration different? Malachy may have been under an Order of Deportation for many years. Still, all he needed to stay here was a Private Bill from a Congressman to extend his stay. The Bill would sit in Congress, as most private bills do, but that was all required.

That's how it's supposed to work. We elect our representatives, and they vouch for their constituents to the agencies of government. Even though 9/11/2001 and increasing anti-immigrant sentiment changed the view of many in government, Malachy stayed all these years because his legislators knew a good man from a bad one.

So what changed?

The Trump Administration Department of Homeland Security disallowed the use of Private Bills to renew Stay of Deportations. As the last letter from Senator Melendez expired, the new policy called for two 6-month stays of deportation followed by a shorter stay, and then deportation. That is why Malachy got deported. After an all-out attempt by Hibernians last year to move Malachy's Bill out of Committee, all but two GOP Committee members refused to lift their objections to the Bill, and it stalled in Committee. Malachy was told to prepare for deportation. In

November 2019, the AOH Call To Action was swift. Thousands made dignified calls to the White House. At the same time, Cardinal Tim Dolan and US Representative Peter King led a personal and well-informed appeal to President Trump and Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. He was given another six months, although President Trump was said to have suggested a longer time. This year, as May 24 approached, the AOH again relied on the proven tactics of last Thanksgiving.

Deportation Day: Somewhat Broken But Unbowed

Malachy McAllister was deported on June 10, 2020. On that day, he was met by dozens of AOH LAOH members, his family, and friends, including Sean Ruane, who sang Only Our Rivers Run Free for Malachy's grandchildren and family. AOH Pipers led the assembled in a dignified march to the American flag in a plaza across for the Federal Building in Newark. Father Brian Jordan, blessed Malachy and led all in prayer under the Stars and Stripes. At 12 Noon Malachy, accompanied by lawyer Diane George, Sean Pender, Martin Galvin, and Dan Dennehy, walked to the Federal Building's steps. Father Brian Jordan walked side by side up the stairs, Fr. Jordan in his Franciscan Robe and Malachy wearing a Hibernian jersey with 32 emblazoned on his back. Malachy promptly reported for deportation, looking back with his free arm raised saying "Tiocfaidh ár lá"

Cruel and Inhuman Treatment, At What Cost?

Malachy's deportation by ICE was cruel, inhumane treatment, plain and simple. He endured unnecessary incarceration in jail during the COVID 19 pandemic. Although, over the years, he dutifully reported for his appointments with DHS, put him in a jail cell overnight. He would've reported to ICE before the flight, as he did the day before. DHS based their deportation on an RUC super-grass, no jury conviction from Brits that wouldn't ever see the light of day in America. Their spokesman lied about other crimes, there were none. The Department of Homeland Security spent a fortune to send him to Ireland against doctor's orders and in the middle of a pandemic. They ignored the public, the Irish Peace Process & Irish government, the media, US legislators, Malachy's physicians who warned against his flying with his broken collarbone, cracked rib compounded by asthma, and the head of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York, because of a policy change.

That Day Will Come - "Tiocfaidh ár lá"

The AOH and Irish America must push Congress to have DHS and US State Department place the Irish Conflict and the convictions of its participants, who worked for Peace, in a historical context. The US State Dept has already offered exceptions for many countries whose conflicts have ended long after the GFA, and now we seek the same exemption for the Irish Conflict. If Malachy's single RUC conviction was so exempted, he would be able to return as he left, head held high.

This is not an easy time for Irish Immigrants to the USA, so I'm grateful for the support they continue to receive from our noble Order.

National Director Report

Daniel Dennehy

As this is my last report as National Director for Metro New York, I thank President Judge Jim McKay, and salute my fellow National Directors and Board members, New York President Tom Lambert and my fellow NYS Boardmembers, Past Presidents Vogel and McSweeney, the State, County and Division Officers from far and wide. You entrusted me with your support, welcomed me to your Halls and made me and often my family, feel very truly welcome! It has been a great privilege and honor to serve as an elected National officer of our noble Order. I look forward to our next in-person meeting or gathering, and May God Bless you and your families, till we meet again!

Highlights:

2019 FFAI Trip to Ireland - I was delighted to assist National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin in arranging the Dublin portion of the FFAI Trip which included Judge McKay Sean Pender and I joining Billy Lawless in a historic meet-

ing with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and participating in Joint Oireachtas Hearing on Irish Immigration, also planning of meetings with T.D.'s and Senators, a historical walking tour of Dublin and the Dail for group, an evening at Padraig Pearse birthplace, and talks and reception at the Dail and Iveagh House.

Tara Circle Multi Year Support for Emerald Isle Immigration Center Building Fund - I was proud to be a conduit for the massive support given by Tara Circle, a Westchester Cultural Institute to the Emerald Isle for their construction project. Cy Hughes, Chair of Tara is also a Rockland AOH leader, board members Dinis McCarthy and Cathy Hogan are also Hibernians as are several members of the EIIC board including Chairman John Tully, his predecessor Dr. Brian O'Dwyer and Executive Director Siobhan Dennehy, LAOH Division 18 member and now LAOH National Immigration Chair!

Coordinated Efforts for the Community- Honored to assist in arranging a first-ever off-campus Irish Consular Reception at St Barnabas High School, which brought entire community to St Barnabas for an honest exchange of opinions with NY Irish Consul Staff and Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Immigration Delegation including Billy Lawless. FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and I participated in the lively and festive Christmas themed program. <https://bit.ly/2RSUwKr>

Life During the COVID 19 Lockdown

Divisions worked with the National and NYS Boards and I to make sure PerCapita and EIN information are up to date. I encouraged Divisions to adopt Phone trees and online conferences to keep in touch with members. Since the lockdown, I 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 engaged in charitable works in their community. If you are involved with a relief effort, please share your work the National and NYS Board.

- Ed Shevlin, Queens AOH Division 21 Charities & Missions Chair, volunteered with Catholic Charities Office of Mission. The volunteers received, repackaged, and distributed 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 asked for volunteers to join him and donations to Catholic Charities Office of Mission- Community Programs, contact him at (917)226-5540.
- Only months after the newest Division of the AOH in America was initiated in Orange County NY, in Warwick, NY, the Officers of that Division went to work on COVID 19. Brian McCabe, Division President, and Dr. James Laughlin MD, Division Financial Secretary of the new Orange Co. Martin McGuinness- Stephen McDonald Division, Brain Sharkey, Nassau Co. Division 17 Past President, and I started **The Meitheal: Irish Americans in Support of Health Care Workers**, during COVID 19, in the NY- NJ Metro area. We were joined by leaders from law enforcement, legal, medical & first responders, labor orgs, the United Irish Counties, Brehon Law Societies, Irish Immigration Centers, and Irish Business and Trades organizations. The Meitheal acquired and distributed PPE and other necessary items to frontline healthcare workers through donations from Irish connections in the community, restaurants, labor, service industry, and construction companies. Learn more by visiting @TheMeitheal on Face- book or by emailing: themeitheal@gmail.com
- 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. I was delighted to see many Hibernians raise awareness and creative fundraising ideas for Slainte 2020. **Slainte2020** 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. Slainte2020 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>.

- **Fighting BREXIT's assault of Irish Unity**

Emma DeSouza Victory- National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin and I attended The National Committee on American Foreign Policy discussion with Derry native Emma DeSouza. Ms. DeSouza always identified as an Irish person, not British. She ran a vigorous legal defense against the British government who were preventing her American husband's permission to live with her in Derry, and for her Irish identity. The case tested the boundaries of Brexit and Good Friday Agreement. The couple had broken no laws, here or there, and deserved their life together in place of her birth. The British Home Office must now consider her marriage to an American consequential after launching an expensive legal army on them. At the same time, the young coffee shop operator must pay for her defense. Irish America stood by Emma, sometimes the good guys win!

American BREXIT Committee I have participated in the American BREXIT Committee hosted by John Dearie and Mike Cummins with Hibernian leaders from NY, NJ, CT and PA. Invited guests, including the UK and Irish Consul Generals, discuss various aspects and consequences of BREXIT

The McGuinness Principles To mark the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and achieve its aims, Sean Pender, Neil Cosgrove, and Past National President Brendan Moore and I drafted the McGuinness Principles to complete unfinished elements of the Good Friday Agreement to achieve Irish Unity with Peace and Justice for all. Our Call to Action and Information that will help you, your legislators and local organizations to get on board with the McGuinness Principles can be found at www.mcguinnessprinciples.com.

House Bill Supports Good Friday Agreement and McGuinness Principles against Brexit December 3 saw the passing by Unanimous Consent of a House Bill sponsored by N.Y. Rep. Tom Suozzi. Many towns and cities have adopted the Principles, and Hibernians have played a key role throughout

Irish Citizen Assembly On November 1, a letter from Irish citizens in Ireland and England addressed to Taoiseach encouraging the government to establish a Citizens Assembly or Public Forum to take a renewed look at Irish reunification in light of the potential ramifications of Brexit. I have attended Irish Civic Forums in the past, here and in Ireland. Based on those positive results of previous events, I encourage participation in this kind of forums as long as they are in line with the fulfillment of the Good Friday Agreement.

Irish-American Cultural Exchange As a parent myself, I introduce fellow Hibernians to opportunities for cultural exchange in Ireland and the U.S. for the young. Here are a few fine examples of opportunities for our young:

The Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership <https://wiprogram.org> brings Ireland's best and brightest university students to valuable experience and live with host families in their New York program.

Gael Scoil, <https://www.gaelscoil.us> hosted by Joe Cahill AOH Division 10 in Hamilton NJ is an excellent children's program of a weekend full of emersion in Irish culture and history in a local Catholic high school. Gael Scoil chieftain Gerard O'Rahilly relayed that they received two consecutive Irish Emigrant Support Program Heritage Grants, which funds their annual event.

Celtic Irish American Academy <http://www.celticirishamericanacademy.com>

is a transformational international summer school for American high school students in July based in Galway City. In Ireland and here I promoted this program to Irish President Higgins and Tainaste Simon Coveney.

AOH Landmark Grant from Ireland - Proud to team up with Danny O'Connell and Sean Pender to achieve a 2018 \$30,000 Emigrant Support Grant from the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs or AOH, a first for AOH National Board that is being purposed for promotion, marketing and significant technology enhancements to National Secretary's Office.

Hibernian Hunger Turkey Run - Westchester AOH officer Cathal McGreal annually organizes a fun event with a huge donation of turkeys, which feeds hundreds locally. With the Hibernian Hunger Project in mind, AOH Division 18 Peekskill and Hudson Valley Irish Center joined the local Fire Dept. Police, EMT's and Lions's Club in supporting the effort and help with the expenses of Cathal's outlay. It's a fun way for the community to see us.

Webmaster

Kevin R. Cummings

Website Posting Statistics:

Fifteen (15) posts have been added to the website this past quarter which includes news items; state events; officer reports and historical happening items.

State Board Group Emails

Over the last quarter, seven (7) group email blasts were distributed to subscribers which include state officers, county and division presidents, and members of the Irish community across New York State. The blasts included information on state board events, seminars, fundraising events, past state officer death announcements and history calendar announcements.

Events Calendar:

I recognize that the COVID-19 rules have curtailed many in-person events around the state but please send me information on all your *virtual* division and county board events as soon as they are available. Please include any event flyers as well as specific viewing information, including time, location and especially contact information (phone number and email address).

State News Section:

This is the area of the website where we can highlight all of your local, county and state events once they have taken place. Simply remember to take at least 1 picture and send a short description of your event. Remember to include a list of names for people in the picture. We will then handle the rest.

Social Media Communications:

Our social media accounts continue to be active and are providing new and shared information about AOH and Irish cultural events around New York State.

If you use social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, please follow the AOH New York State Board pages and repost and share as we publish new information. This will help increase our online footprint as well as increase awareness of our events and activities.

Editor

Tom McKenna

Deadlines for The Empire State Hibernian are:

November 15th for the December 2020 issue

February 15th 2021 for the March 2021 issue.

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

Charities & Missions

Matt Buckley

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

I hope you and your families are all well and safe. I would like to congratulate National Treasurer Liam McNabb and National Director Tim McSweeney. Because of their outstanding leadership, our National Board is in good hands and sure to succeed.

Since the last edition of the Empire State Hibernian, I represented New York State as a delegate at the remote National AOH Convention. These unfortunate times have caused the cancellation or postponement for many of our Hibernian events. As a result, the friendship and brotherhood enjoyed at these times are forced to wait until the next.

Prior to the National Convention, I informed Judge McKay and the National Board that I would be resigning my position as Project St. Patrick Chairman. I enjoyed my tenure in that office and thanked Judge McKay for the opportunity. I will now concentrate my efforts on the Irish Culture Collection which is located at the East Islip Library. It contains over 300 books at this time and is housed in the Irish Heritage Room. It is listed as the only such collection in New York State. All donations, especially Historical Non-Fiction, are gratefully accepted.

Liam McNabb
AOH National Treasurer

Thank you to the NY State Board, County and Division Presidents and members for all for your support leading to my election as AOH National Treasurer. The recent virtual AOH National Convention was a success and we, as New Yorkers, were very engaged in the Committee discussions, General Sessions and overall business and decisions of the Order. We were also successful in electing Tim McSweeney as AOH National Director.

Special thanks to State President Tom Lambert for his leadership and counsel during our campaigns. Our State Executive Board worked diligently to ensure we filled our delegates and even had numerous alternates. Given that this year was much different, it was very challenging and I commend Tom O'Donnell for going "above and beyond" to organize and submit our list of delegates.

Thank you all. I look forward to more work together for the "good of the Order."



President's Testimonial Dinner



The NYS AOH/LAOH President's Testimonial Dinner is scheduled to be held at Anthony's Banquet Hall, Route 23B, Leeds, NY on Saturday October 31, 2020. Due to current Covid restrictions arrangements have not been finalized, additional information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Being honored at the dinner are:

Thomas A. Lambert, President, New York State AOH

Marybeth Durkee, President, New York State LAOH

And

2020 Burns Hayes Award Recipient Past National AOH President Brendan Moore.

If your county, division or individual members wish to recognize our honorees with a journal ad the deadline for submitting the contract is October 15, 2020.

[Download the commemorative journal contract here](#)