

Brothers,

Now that we all have our lights back on, let me start by wishing everyone, on behalf of my entire family, heartfelt thanks for the condolences, on the death of my mother, Mary. It is the comfort of friends and family that helps makes these difficult events somewhat easier to endure. I also want to thank the parade committee for co-dedicating the parade in her honor.

I want to congratulate all of our brothers and sisters Hibernians, and all those terrific people, on the parade committee, who work so hard to make the Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade a premier event for all of Dutchess County. It was truly a Grand Day and could not have had better marching weather. The parade's success is measured, each year, by the growing numbers of participants and spectators. I truly enjoyed, my role as Grand Marshall, and was proud to be another Hibernian to lead the parade. Since its inception we have had nine Hibernians out of fifteen grand marshals. They are chronologically, Fr, Charlie Cohen (1996), Cornelius Flaherty (1998), Rev. Msgr. Francis P Bellew (2000), Michael J Kelly (2002), Jack Fedigan (2006), Tim Doyle (2007), Noel Morris (2008), Ken Brown (2009), and me self.

Now to business, we will have our Castle Point Celebration, on Saturday, March 13, at the Castle Point veteran's hospital. Please, please come, make this celebration a Hibernian success, and let the vets know how much we appreciate them. This is a great opportunity to bring along family members and enjoy great food, music, and traditional Irish dancing. Our committee chair, John Kelly, will appreciate as much help as possible. Thanks to Brendan and George, at the "Dubliner" for making this happen.

Our next meeting is on, March 18, so come and bring lots of energy to hammer out strategies to increase or fund base so we can fulfill our charitable mission. Brother Jim Sweeny has asked for our help to support the House of Faith/House of Hope, which is a support network for battered women. Jim has asked for brothers to make a small donation, or purchase some items of need and bring them to the March 18, meeting. Additional information can be found on our website; <http://www.dutchessaoh.com/> . Also, we still have membership dues that are outstanding. Please bring your dues up to date, but more importantly please let us know that you still stand shoulder to shoulder with us in Motto. Every brother is needed to build or strength and the community needs us more than ever in these trying times.

Please read your Irish history bits in the newsletter. We will have a little fun, filled contest between the Bards and the Seanachai. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, & Blessed Saint Patrick's Day.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gearoid McVicker
President