



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division # 1

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April
2008

Division Newsletter



Presidents Message:

Brothers:

Spring has sprung; the grass has rizz. So they say. I trust everyone and their families, had a truly Happy Easter, which came a bit early this year. March was a busy month for us, but certainly none the wear for success. The Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade, in which we participated, was a huge success, in spite of the ominous threat of snow in the forecast. Almost immediately, we were involved in our Hibernian Hunger Project, which this year, was centered around our veterans at Castle Point VA Hospital. What a fantastic charitable gesture on the part of Brother Brendan Daly, and his partner George Takos, at The Dubliner's Irish Pub. God Bless them, for they made the event a huge success for all. Their wonderful generosity and spirit of love and respect for our veterans, and our division, make us all walk with pride. Let me, again, thank them, and our division members who gave of their time and talents both to this event, and to the parade.

Our March meeting, although successful, was not that well attended. Brothers, we have a lot going on, and need your prayers, direction, and help. So, let nothing prevent you, and come on out to our next meeting on April 17th (even your taxes should be done by then), and join in the fun, camaraderie, and pride of being a member of this organization, second to none. We have lot's of special events coming up, including our Annual Veteran's Picnic, our Baby Shower, and our Annual Charity Dinner Dance.

If you haven't yet paid your Annual Dues, you will be getting a reminder from our Financial Secretary Jerry Clarke. Let's close the gap on this before our next meeting.

May God continue to Bless you and your families abundantly.

Sincerely and fraternally,

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President,
AOH Div 1, Dutchess County

Financial Secretary's Corner

Greetings Brothers,

Sunday, March 16, 2008, will always be for me, the most memorable St. Patrick's Day celebration that I have ever attended. Whereas, a number of AOH members had offered me their congratulations for running the Hibernian Hunger Project meal at Castle Point Veteran's Facility that day, the person or persons mostly responsible for the day's success were Brendan Daly and his partner, George Takos. Together, they financed the event, acquired and prepared the food and did so unselfishly and humbly. I personally feel indebted to them for I never intended that they do all that they did, including providing the entertainment in the form of bagpipers, Irish traditional musicians and the children from the Broeshler School of Irish Dance.

Those present that day would need to have a heart of stone not to be able to see how the Veteran's enjoyed themselves. Kudos to all my AOH brothers that came out and assisted in the event. It was a pleasure to witness our membership acting with Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. I believe our division is only beginning to see what we can achieve when we work in unison. I encourage all our brothers to get involved so we can continue to serve our community in spirit of fraternal kinship.

Respectfully,
Jerry Clark,
Financial Secretary

PRAYERS NEEDED

Please keep in your prayers, our President Bill Schimpf as he is in Arden Hill Hospital undergoing tests. They do not have a diagnosis as of yet. He is in fairly good spirits and welcomes any and all calls.

Bill is in room 221, bed 1. You can contact him at (845) 294-5441, ext. 5721



A Wee Bit of Irish History

Internal Affairs in Northern Ireland

The two most pervasive problems of the new state of Northern Ireland were the continuing polarization of the nationalist and unionist communities which occasionally flared into violence, and relations with its two closest neighbors, Britain and the southern part of Ireland. The state of Northern Ireland was born amid bloodshed and communal disorder. J.C. Beckett's judgement that "between the early 1920s and the late 1960s Ireland enjoyed a longer period of freedom from major internal disturbance than it had known since the first half of the eighteenth century" is invalid if confined to the Northern state.

In 1922, 232 people were killed in violence and 1000 wounded. The nationalist minority refused to recognize the new state, the twelve anti-partitionist MPs refused to attend parliament; Catholic teachers shunned the educational system, refused salaries and submitted students for examinations in Dublin. At the time when the institutions of the new state were being established, a considerable number of its citizens refused to participate on committees or to perform any action which would lend support to the state's authority. As time passed and the state remained, most nationalists decided on a reluctant acceptance of the need to come to some accommodation. In many cases, they found that the state institutions which had been established were arranged to exclude Catholics from power. Many institutions were heavily biased in favor of Unionists, for example, the local government franchise which remained unreformed until 1969, reflected property and not population, excluding non-ratepayers and awarding many people with more than one property multiple votes. Housing allocation and the manipulation of constituency boundaries were actively used in many cases to maintain Unionist majorities. The membership of the police force was largely Protestant. As late as 1961 only 12% of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was Catholic and the B Specials were exclusively Protestant.

Education too was an area where Catholics felt bitterly that the system established by the Education Act NI of 1930 had been tailored by Protestant pressure, producing a state education system which was in fact Protestant, and forcing Catholic schools to find 50% of the cost of education. In the administration of justice, Catholics have alleged that the Special Powers Act which placed considerable powers in the hands of the Minister of Home Affairs was designed exclusively against the nationalist majority. Allegations were vindicated by the Cameron Report in 1969 about discrimination against Catholics in public employment. The most serious allegation in this field was that the Northern Irish government operated a policy of deliberate discrimination in counties Tyrone, Derry and Fermanagh, creating conditions which encouraged emigration to counter the higher Catholic birth rates in these areas. Disputes about the extent of institutional discrimination, and about the reasons for it, have always been particularly bitter. One point is clear, instead of resolving inter communal fear and suspicion, the establishment of the state served to encourage alienation, fear and suspicion and acted to institutionalize discrimination.

The familiar relationship between economic recession and inter communal strife was bloodily revived in the depression of the 1930s. The dependency of Northern Ireland on exports made the state particularly vulnerable to world trends. The linen trade was severely restricted; in 1933 no ships were launched from Belfast shipyards for the first time in over 100 years. Between 1930 and 1939 the unemployment rates never fell below 25%. The bitter competition for too few jobs inevitably took a sectarian turn which was exacerbated by worsening relations between the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. The formation of the Ulster Protestant League in 1931 encouraged Protestants to employ other Protestants exclusively. This sentiment was endorsed by Basil Brooke, the Minister of Agriculture in Stormont and future Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. The early 1930s were nervous and vituperative years. Widespread riots in 1931, some of which involved the IRA, resulted in 70 people being injured. There were riots in Belfast, Larne, Portadown, and Ballymena during 1931. The troubles peaked in 1935 when twelve people were killed and six hundred wounded. The frequency of sectarian violence gradually faded as the employment situation improved but few believed that it had retreated far below the surface.

The comparative peacefulness of the next twenty years set the scene for the important changes which appeared to be taking place in the 1950s and 1960s. This period of communal peace, or rather absence of overt conflict, coincided with a growing and deliberate emphasis on economic expansion in Northern Ireland. Shipbuilding, engineering and aircraft production boomed; agricultural production increased and the economic expectations of the people rose accordingly. The post-war years saw a determined attempt by the Northern Ireland government to attract foreign capital and industry, and its success was considerable. As a result of various incentive schemes, 150 new factories supplying 55,000 new jobs were established. Many of the new industries were branches of international companies which offered employment and sometimes promotion to middle class Catholics who had formerly found promotion prospects restricted. An improvement in the prospects and conditions of Catholics was evident elsewhere. The post-war legislation which broadened the social benefits of the welfare state particularly benefited the poorer classes, and in Northern Ireland, this included a disproportionate number of Catholics. The Education Act in 1947 opened doors of educational opportunity by introducing free secondary education and the remarkable rise in the number of Catholics attending university was one measure of its impact. Although the extent of these changes is often debated, during the 1950s there was a growing tendency among Catholics to see their future in an Northern Ireland context rather than in an All Ireland state.

At a social studies conference at Garron Tower, G B Newe called for greater participation by Catholics in Northern Ireland affairs and Terence O'Neill, the future Prime Minister indicated that Catholic participation would be welcome. In 1959 the republican party, Sinn Féin, lost its two seats at Westminster, their percentage of the vote decreasing from 26 to 14. Just as significant was the attempt by some leading Unionists to suggest that Catholics might be permitted to join the party. The attempt was thwarted by the bigoted obduracy of the Orange Order, but that it had been made at all was seen as a sign of the changing times. The most dramatic evidence of this change was the failure of the IRA violent offensive during 1952-1962. Its defeat owed more to apathy than to the efficiency of law enforcement which was acknowledged by the IRA in its statement ending the campaign. The decision taken by the IRA to abandon military methods and concentrate on socialist objectives through politics seemed to promise that the 1960s would be free from republican violence.

AOH Division 1 Events

Hibernian Hunger Project

On Sunday, March 16, 2008, our division of the AOH in conjunction with the "Dubliner Irish Pub", Poughkeepsie, NY, celebrated St. Patrick's Day one day early with the disabled veterans at the Castle Point Veteran's Facility. What was planned as a simple corned beef, cabbage and potato dinner, was made into a spectacular event thanks to Brendan Daly and his partner George "Twoomey" Takos:) Besides acquiring all of the food, preparing it and delivering it to the facility, Brendan & George arranged to have us all entertained by bagpipers, an Irish session band and some Irish step dancers.

The event started with dinner being served at about 12:45pm. Prior to dinner, all were treated to some scones with real Irish Gold Kerry butter. The meal of corned beef, cabbage and potatoes was served to us by Jim Cook and his daughter Abigail. Topping off the dinner was Irish soda bread supplied by our own brother Jack Fedigan.

Following the meal, we were entertained first by two bagpipers, one of them our AOH brother, Dr. Richard Whalen and his band mate Sam Rosenberg. The vets were played a medley of armed forces songs as well as The Wearing of the Green and other Irish songs. Then, the Dylan Foley & Family Irish Session Band played some traditional Irish folk music for us. They continued to play in accompaniment with the children from the Broesler School of Irish Dance, Fishkill, who danced a couple of jigs as well as performing some step dancing. In all about seventy-five people were fed and entertained, all in the spirit of good will and St. Patrick. Kudos to all who participated in making our Hibernian Hunger Project a success.

A special thank you to Brendan and George for their generosity and hard work. Also to our food servers Jim and Abigail. Thanks to Richard and Sam for their bagpipes playing and to the V.A. administrators who assisted in making this happen, Ellen Varian, Patty Cole and Anne Furey. A special thanks to the Dylan Foley Family and to the Broesler School of Irish Dance.

Last but not least, a thank you to all our AOH brothers who participated in either bringing the disabled veterans to the hall or by helping set up the room and the clean up at the end. They are, AOH Div.1 President, Bill Schimpf, V.P. Pat Turbitt, Noel T. Morris, Mike & Glen Kelly, Gerry McVicker, Dan Euell, Dennis Conn, Mike Shepard, Dan Briscoe, Dave Berk and Jack Fedigan (great Irish soda bread maker). If I've left anyone out here, please forgive me and thank you.

It should be noted that although we may not have exactly fed the "hungry" as part of our Hibernian Hunger Project, that without a doubt, we brought a day of joy to the disabled veteran's at Castle Point. It's hard to decide who benefited the most that day, the veteran's or the AOH. All differences aside, we represented our division and the AOH proudly by acting in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. May we always strive to do so.

Thanks to all, Jerry Clarke

In a note written by our President on Sunday, March 16, 2008:

Brothers:

It was an extremely heartwarming experience to attend, help and be a part of our Hibernian Hunger Project today, held at Castle Point Veterans Hospital. For those that couldn't make it, it was absolutely fantastic. In addition to the meal provided for our country's real heroes, bagpipers, Irish dancers, an a wonderful traditional Irish band were on hand, all compliments of Brother Brendan Daly, who couldn't do enough for us, in making it a complete success. While I realize that our original intent was to have it at the Outreach, this was a wonderful alternative.

The looks on the faces of those hospitalized veterans, who gave us so much, was satisfaction in itself. I actually overheard one veteran telling another, that there are some good days at the facility, but a lot of bad ones, where he has too much time to think, but that today looked like one of the best there. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the following Brothers, who were involved:

Brendan Daly	Jerry Clarke	Pat Turbitt	Michael Shepard	Dave Berk	Noel Morris
Gerry McVicker	Glen Kelly	Mike Kelly	Dan Briscoe	Dennis Conn	Jack Fedigan

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

In Brotherhood,
William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President,
AOH, Div 1, Dutchess County

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Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you or someone you do business with wants to advertise with us, just get a business card to the newsletter editor. And the money to our Financial Secretary the cost is just \$25.00 per year.

ODE TO THE PLASTIC PADDYS

Saint Patrick was a holy man, a servant of the Lord;
but now, when they remember him all reverence is ignored.

They celebrate his memory with plastic clubs and hats;
Saint Patrick never carried those, and you can bet on that!

And as for all the shamrocks green sure, he picked them by the batch;
but never stuck one on his face, nor dyed his hair to match!

And worst of all is the tendency to drink 'til they can't move;
then sing a ditty 'bout an Irish city and think that he'd approve!

He never spent his days at play nor his evenings full of drinking;
and I doubt he'd even think that funny no matter what they're thinking.

And though they call him patron he must surely stand aghast,
at those who call him "Paddy", and who never go to Mass.

But when their party's finally done and his patronage they require
to help them through the heavenly gates, and avoid the devil's fire,

perhaps they'll think it funny then, when he turns his face away,
from those who thought such things were fun upon Saint Patrick's Day.

De Bard

Reprinted from: National Hibernian Digest, March - April 2008



Correspondence

Brothers:

I have been informed by our Financial Secretary, Jerry Clarke, that presently, we have some 20 plus members who have not yet paid their 2008 Annual Dues, representing somewhat of a crisis within. As you know, and in the past, we have sent out 3 reminder letters requesting our membership to pay their dues by deadline of April 1st, generally receiving a favorable response by now, with maybe 1 or 2 members declining. This would be considered a normal attrition, but certainly not 20 plus members. Because of this, I have asked FS Clarke to publish a report of unpaid Dues Members, as is the normal practice, and advise the membership, in the hopes that either they will respond, or that a friend or relative in the Div will contact them, and tighten this up a bit. I thought that I would have had that report for you at the March 27th meeting. Remember, 20 plus members represents about one-third of our division, and is something that needs to be addressed and very soon. It is my understanding that Jerry is also sending out a Final Notice, as well. Generally, this has been done in early March, but Jerry was away.

I realize that reporting someone for non-payment of dues is not a pleasant duty, but it needs to be addressed, prior to just losing these gentlemen. Even though April 1 is the cutoff, I would entertain clearing this up by April 17, the date of our next meeting. When the list is published, please try and contact these members, and secure their dues payments, as best you can. Thanks for your cooperation in the matter. God Bless.

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President
AOH Div 1, Dutchess County

Brothers,

As you may or may not know, Brother John Greenan, has stepped down as our Treasurer, and has been replaced by Brother Dennis Conn, a bank manager with Ulster Savings Bank, who was approved at our last meeting. In spite of my daily agonizing back pain, I met with Dennis yesterday, and signed the necessary account paperwork to open our account, and move things along for us. Both Dennis and I are on the account, which will hopefully serve to facilitate matters.

Dennis is fully aware of his responsibilities, and the fact that all bills are to be paid only upon the approval of our membership. He is also aware that we are in need of a formal monthly Treasurer's Report, as well as our annual commitments to both AOH state and national, and obviously the handling of day to day transactions, such as annual dues payments he will receive from our Financial Secretary.

Again, let me say, that from my personal experiences, both John and Dennis are two fine gentlemen, whose service to our division is greatly appreciated, as well as David Berk, who preceded John, as our treasurer. I have personally committed my full support to Dennis, should he need my assistance, in any way. God Bless.

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President,
AOH Div 1, Dutchess County

Mr. Michael McCormack
National Editor
The National Hibernian Digest

Dear Brother Mike:

As I read the headlines of the current edition of our newspaper, "First An Gorta Mor Award Announced", I am reminded of our recent An Gorta Mor project, and the many other great charitable endeavors that our local division perform during the year, without shame or recognition, and always In Our Motto. In that effort, I often wonder what it would take to give the lads a shot in the paper, now and then.

I am advised that one of our members tried to make contact with the newspaper, but never received any return telephone. I am quite sure that he perhaps did not try to reach yourself, for he would have received the assistance needed.

Please advise me of the parameters needed to provide some occasional publicity in the Digest. If pictures are included, what format, etc. should they be in? Can this be accomplished via e-mail? I am certain that you will be able to provide us with the necessary guidelines for same. As a Brother Hibernian, I need your help, and appreciate it very much. Thanks, and God Bless.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
William J. "Bill" Schimpf
President,
AOH Div 1 Dutchess County

2008 DIVISION OFFICERS

President	Bill Schimpf	Recording Secretary	Mike Connelly	Historian	Matt Fitzgerald
Vice President	Pat Turbitt	Treasurer	Dennis Conn	Sentinel	Dave Ryan
Financial Secretary	Gerard Clarke	Marshall	Jim Whalen	Standing Committee	Gerry McVicker



Important Dates

- ◆ April 17, 2008 - Monthly Meeting
- ◆ May 15, 2008 - Monthly Meeting
- ◆ June 19, 2008 - Monthly Meeting

Prayers for the Sick

Father Brennan
Mike Connelly
Bill Schimpf

On the Radio 91.3 FM:
"A Little Bit of Ireland"
Hosted by our own Cornelius and
broadcast from Vassar College.
Tuesday's from 10 AM to 11 AM.

* In Memoriam *

Irish Community

Upcoming Event Dates:

- ◆ IHF Irish Open Mike Night - Public Event Open to All
On Saturday, April 12th, we will be hosting an open mike night at Mulligan's Irish House in Poughkeepsie. Adrian O'Leary will provide the live accompaniment for people or groups who want to sing a traditional Irish tune for us. The event is open to all Irish crooners so come on out and show off your stuff and bring your friends.
- ◆ IHF Reverse Drawing - Saturday May 10, 2008 - Mulligan's Irish House
- ◆ National AOH / LAOH 94th Biennial Convention in New Orleans - July 23 - 26, 2008



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