



**ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA**

**Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division # 1**



## Presidents Message:

Brothers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my entire brother Hibernians a Happy, Healthy, Holy, and Prosperous New Year. I also want to express my gratitude to all in attendance, at the Christmas party meeting, who voted their support for my presidency of the division, for 2010. I promise to do my very best, as president, to uphold the principles for which the AOH is respected and celebrated. I would like to suggest, from the onset, that my success as President is primarily dependent on the support and action of all of our brothers. I urge as many of you as possible, to commit to a New Year's resolution of making an attempt to attend, and participate, in our meetings. The more hands we have to lift the division, the less work on each individual brother, and the stronger our brotherhood. I truly believe we are a unique combination of individual, dedicated, brothers who will combine our skills to make the Msgr. Sheehan Division a successful and exciting brotherhood. As we start this new decade, I pray that we grow together in our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Our January 21 meeting is a busy meeting, not only for the installation of officers, but also to tackle the demands of the Saint Patrick's Day season. We will focus on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, and the Hibernian Hunger Project. We will have in attendance, our regional (District 8) director Kevin Cummings, who will swear in our newly elected officers, and Kevin Moore, assisting him as Marshall. Please come and welcome them and also express our thanks to our outgoing and incoming officers.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude, to our wonderful President Brother Bill Schimpf. Brother Bill has been an exemplary president, over the last two years. He has led us through a tremendous growth period and has positioned our division as a leading, vital and well respected Irish organization, in Dutchess County. I want to thank him personally, for his tremendous organizational skills, which will make the transition for me, extremely smooth. Thank You Brother Bill!

In Brotherhood,  
Gerard "Gearoid (GAR id)" McVicker  
President-Elect  
AOH div 1, Dutchess County, NY



He who loses money, loses much;  
He who loses a friend, loses more;  
He who loses faith, loses all.



Gene Noone - Editor  
jdrcks@optonline.net  
(914) 469-6661

January  
2010

# Division Newsletter

## Financial Secretary's Corner



Brothers,

Hello and Happy New Year to all of you and your families, I'm writing to inform you your new 2010 AOH membership card have arrived. As your new Financial Secretary it's important that I'm able to maintain all division records and finances for proper reporting to our division, as well as, the AOH State Committee. Please forward your 2010 membership dues of \$25.00 payable to AOH Div. 1 Dutchess County to:

Bill Leo  
c/o AOH  
606 Leetown Road  
Stormville, NY 12582

I will mail you your membership card as soon as I receive payment. Please have your dues paid by Feb. 1, 2010. If possible and to reduce the financial burden to the division, enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope would be greatly appreciated.

I will also have all membership cards at our meeting scheduled for Thursday 1/21 at the K of C hall 2660 E. Main Street Wappinger Falls. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 845-226-1254.

Slainte,  
Bill Leo  
Financial Secretary

P.S. Dont forget to visit the Division at [www.dutchessaoh.com](http://www.dutchessaoh.com)

Brothers:

Just a reminder that our next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, January 21, 2010 @ 7:30PM @ the KofC Hall in Wappingers Falls, NY. It is also our Installation of Officers Ceremony event.

In conjunction with that, and in accordance with AOH Constitutional & By-Laws, I have asked our District 8 Director, Brother Kevin R. Cummings, to installs the divisional officers, he agreed and he will be on hand that evening. My sincerest best wishes to our new Slate of Officers for 2010. God Bless.

In Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity,

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

## A Wee Bit of Irish History

### Bloody Sunday History

#### The First Bloody Sunday

Sunday, November 21, 1920 was a day of violence in Dublin during the period of the Irish War of Independence. In total, 31 people were killed – fourteen British, fourteen Irish civilians and three republican prisoners. The day began with an Irish Republican Army (IRA) operation that led to fourteen deaths – this included twelve British agents/informers and two Auxiliaries. Later that afternoon, British forces opened fire on the crowd of spectators at a Gaelic football match in Croke Park, killing fourteen Irish civilians. That evening, three IRA prisoners in Dublin Castle were beaten and killed by their British captors, allegedly whilst trying to escape. This event will be covered more fully in a subsequent article on the War of Independence later in the year. The events of the day were dramatically portrayed in the film, “Michael Collins”.

#### The Second Bloody Sunday

At the end of this month we will be memorializing “the second” Bloody Sunday. Most of us are more aware of that event because of its most recent impact on Irish history and governmental structure. On January 30 1972 in Derry, Ireland over two dozen civil rights marchers were shot by British soldiers from a British Paratroop Regiment. Fourteen of those persons died. All of the dead were unarmed; five were shot in the back. Most were shot fleeing the soldiers and several were killed while trying to assist the wounded. One man was shot and killed while assisting a victim and waving a white handkerchief; another killed with his arms raised in a surrender position.

British authorities cited the illegality of the march, and claimed their soldiers had been attacked by Irish Republican forces fighting Britain’s occupation of the six northern counties in Ireland. Major Hurbert O’Neill, the coroner who investigated the deaths, later issued a statement:

“It strikes me that the army ran amok that day and shot without thinking what they were doing. They were shooting innocent people. These people may have been taking part in a march that was banned but that does not justify the troops coming in and firing live rounds indiscriminately. I would say without hesitation that it was sheer, unadulterated murder. It was murder.”

The march had been organized by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, a group founded on the principles of disbanding the notorious B Specials paramilitary police force, ending discrimination in government employment, ending aggressive gerrymandering of electoral districts to perpetuate Unionist control in Nationalist communities, ending discriminatory housing policies, and a repeal of the Special Powers Acts. NICRA had sought out, and received, assurances from the Irish Republican Army that they would have no presence in the area. A number of gunshots, which the British attributed to IRA gunmen, are now believed to have come from the British Army itself in an attempt to draw out Nationalist gunmen. As eyewitness Don Mullan wrote:

“The expected IRA reaction did not materialize as seemingly anticipated by British military strategists. General confusion reigned... When Paras moved into Rossville Street twenty minutes later the fusillade of bombs and bullets they later claimed they encountered simply did not occur.”

Immediately after the killings a Tribunal was set up under the Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Widgery. The Widgery Tribunal issued a report within eleven weeks supporting the Army account of soldiers having come under heavy and sustained gunfire and petrol attacks despite that no soldier was killed or wounded, nor were bombs, guns or gunmen discovered, captured or killed. This report, praising the reaction of the British soldiers under the circumstances, was condemned as a British government whitewash.

In 1997 the government of the Irish Republic released a report on the Widgery Tribunal in light of the availability of evidence not before released. In this report the Irish government urged that a new independent tribunal be established such that Widgery’s “poisonous legacy can be set aside”. The report states:

“The Bloody Sunday relatives believe that the report of Lord Widgery was a deliberately incomplete and willfully misleading official version of events designed for the sole purpose of exculpating the actions of the British Army”.

“Lord Widgery’s claim that the soldiers escaped injury by reason of superior field-craft and training is difficult to sustain. Since no gunmen were discovered amongst the dead, the wounded, or the arrested, did these civilian gunmen also possess superior field-craft and training in managing to avoid all the aimed shots of the paratroopers? Were the paratroopers superior merely to the civilians who were killed and injured? This (...is revealed) to be close to fiction; it purports to describe an event that never happened - an intense exchange of gunfire between the Paras and gunmen operating amongst innocent civilians.”

Further eyewitness statements recorded by author and eyewitness Don Mullan recorded another fact totally ignored by the Widgery Tribunal –at least three of the dead youths were killed by snipers firing from Derry’s city

walls, snipers using high-power weapons who came to the peaceful march prepared to pick and chose targets for assassination.

Forced by growing public pressure, in January of 1998 a new, more comprehensive tribunal was ordered. The new Saville Inquiry investigation interviewed some 2500 people, with oral evidence taken from over 900 of those over the course of our years. In August of 2005 the tribunal retired and was expected to release its findings sometime in late 2007 at the earliest. On January 30, 2009 [ironic] it was reported that the Saville report was to be postponed until later in 2009, and again, more recently, the Chairman of the inquiry, Lord Saville, revealed that the inquiry report will be handed to the government in March 2010, some 9 years after the first evidence was heard; a delay which Lord Saville admitted was "extremely disappointing". Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Shaun Woodward said he had been "profoundly shocked" by the new delay, adding "I am concerned at the impact on the families of those who lost loved ones and those who were." It's ironic that the British and Northern Ireland governments remain uncertain about the events in Derry even though the massacre was carried out under the eyes of the press and television cameras and with one of the main eyewitnesses now deputy first minister in the local administration. [As an aside, up until the September 30 postponement announcement, the Saville Inquiry had totaled 190 million pounds.]

Finally, days before the start of the Saville Inquiry in the late 1990s it emerged that the British Army had destroyed weapons used on Bloody Sunday, preventing investigations into Major-General Robert Ford's alleged controversial memo three weeks before Bloody Sunday calling for modified rifles to "shoot selected ringleaders" at the civil rights march. Other British Army evidence, including over 1,000 army photographs and original army helicopter video footage, has never been made available for investigations.

Matt Fitzgerald  
Historian

## Irish Community

### Emerald Ball

Each year, the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee, through their nomination process, selects someone of stature, and certainly of Irish descent, to be the Grand Marshal of it's St. Patricks Parade. As you may already know, Gearoid McVicker, has been selected to be the Grand Marshal, and lead the parade, "up the avenue", as they say.

In conjunction with that, each year, an Emerald Ball Dinner Dance, is held to install and honor the Grand Marshal of the parade. Here are the particulars for this year's event:

Day/Date: Saturday, February 6, 2010  
Place: Elk's Lodge, Rt 376, Wappingers Falls, NY  
Time: Cash Bar, 6-7PM. Dinner at 7PM  
Cost: \$30 per ticket - Roast Beef Dinner,  
Dancing to the music of The Winslow Trio  
Contact: Trish Holohan-Costello (845) 297-0800



### Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade

If anyone would like to take out an "Ad" in the Dutchess County St Patrick's Day Parade Journal, or become a Sponsor, or if you know anyone or a business interested, Please contact me:

#### Journal Ads:

1/4 page \$25.00  
1/2 page \$50.00  
Full page \$100.00  
Full page in highlighted areas \$200.00

#### Sponsorship:

**Bronze:** \$500.00 includes, Full Page Ad in designated Highlighted area, Recognition at the Emerald Ball, Listed as Sponsor on Parade Banners and listed on the "Poughkeepsie Journal" front page, Friday March 5th edition...

**Silver:** \$1,000.00 includes, all of the above, plus two tickets to the Emerald Ball, full mention newspaper ads and distinction on all printed brochures

**Gold:** \$2,500.00 includes all of the above, plus 2 additional tickets to the Ball (4 total), "Full Gold Page Ad" in Journal, Full mention in all press releases, radio and television spots, and Special Recognition with a Sponsorship Banner prominently displayed on Parade Day... Limited availability

All information must be submitted by February 1st...  
Thanks, Jim Whalen

## Sponsors Area



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Dwight Townsend, Enrolled Agent

**ROBERT G. SHEPHEARD JR., C.P.A., P.C.**  
*Certified Public Accountant*

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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.

## 2010 DIVISION OFFICERS

President	Gerard McVicker	Recording Secretary	Mike Sheppard	Historian	Matt Fitzgerald
Vice President	John Fedigan	Treasurer	Denis Conn	Sentinel	Kevin Moran
Financial Secretary	William Leo	Marshall	Mike Quinn	Standing Committee	William J. Schimpf



### Important Dates

- ◆ January 21 - Installation of Officers
- ◆ January 21 - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ February 6 - Emerald Ball

### Prayers for the Sick

Pete Condon	Deacon Bob Horton
Matt Fitzgerald	Dan Lalor
Noel Morris	Bill Schimpf

### On the Radio 91.3 FM:

*"A Little Bit of Ireland"*

Hosted by our own Brendan Daly and  
broadcast from Vassar College.  
Saturday's from 1 PM to 3:30 PM.

### \* In Memoriam \*

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