



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheahan  
Division # 1

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

March  
2008

## Division Newsletter



### Presidents Message:

Heartiest Greetings Brothers,

Our February meeting, which was very well attended, was jammed packed with many important issues. One clear point that stands out, is the matter of proper planning for upcoming events such as Annual Charity Dinner Dance, usually held in October. Right now, we have a committee in place, but are in need of a chairman; one who will step up to the plate, and coordinate with the committee, in making the event the true success it has been for many years. Being chairman of anything is not that difficult, so long as you have good people working along with you. When it comes to that, we have the very best of volunteers around. So, I reach out to you, and ask for your help here and now. We need to plan ahead, and right now is the time.

In other matters, I want to wish Grand Marshal Noel T. Morris (our very own) and the entire Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee all the best for the parade this year. Much support is needed, so please show up, and lend your support to this very worthy event. Please remember that due to Holy Week, our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 7:30PM in the K of C Hall in Wappingers Falls. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. May God continue to Bless you and your families, always.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
William J. "Bill" Schimpf  
President

### Financial Secretary's Corner

Greetings Brothers,

This newsletter will most probably reach some of the membership following the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wappingers Falls on Saturday, March 1st. As chairman of the parade committee, I'm hoping that we had a large turnout of the membership for the parade. Especially in light of what occurred at our last meeting. For those of you fortunate enough not to have been witness to the sometime raucous meeting, I can only confess that I and others in attendance forgot the motto of our organization 'Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity'. They say the road to hell is paved with "good intentions". How true that saying seems in this instance. As the parade committee chairperson, I made a seemingly insignificant decision (Oh had I miscalculated) and impulsively, ordered green derby's for the AOH marching contingent. I forgot to take into account that individuals cannot make decisions affecting the AOH without conferring with the membership. For that oversight, I say "mea culpa". There was significant discussion concerning the appropriateness of the green derbies and their so called lack of "dignity". Whereas, I don't agree with everything said demonizing the derbies, I did agree to go along with the desire of the membership not to wear them for the parade. I will gladly eat "crow" or "green derbies", whatever. Rest assured brothers; the derbies did not cost the AOH a cent. They've gone onto "greener" pastures.

On another note, there is the very real issue of outstanding AOH dues for 2008. I will be sending out a notice to all members who have not paid their dues as yet. I ask those of you who have not done so, to please mail a check made out to the AOH, Div. 1, in the amount of \$25.00 to my address: 1905 Magnolia Walk, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603.

Besides the debate over the derbies, our last meeting had a silver lining in that eighteen members were in attendance. It is very important that the membership come out to the meetings to give an ear to what our division is doing or planning to do. Every brother has a right and responsibility to provide input on ideas, projects and charitable considerations. I look forward to seeing and hearing from any many members as possible over the next few months.

Respectfully,  
Jerry Clark, Financial Secretary

## 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 judgment 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.

## Sponsors Area



PHONE: BUS.: (845) 427-2957  
FAX: (845) 427-2426

WILLIAM J. SCHIMPF, F.I.C.  
FIELD AGENT

AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

107 PROSPECT AVENUE  
MAYBROOK, NY 12543

Robert F. Ledrich, Jr.  
*Second Vice President - Investments  
Financial Consultant*

Beechwood Office Park  
2678 South Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Tel 1 845 485 2814  
Tel 1 800 634 0575  
Fax 1 845 485 4918  
robert.f.ledrich@smithbarney.com  
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

## Upcoming Events

### Hibernian Hunger Project

In December 2007, at our last meeting of the year at the Dubliner Irish Pub, a committee was tentatively formed to address our division's efforts in what is called the Hibernian Hunger Project. It was noted by brother Gerry McVicker, that in previous years, our division had collected non-perishable food items and distributed them to local food pantries. He also noted that when the project was first started, that a truckload of food had been collected and over the years the project had substantially fallen off. Brother Gerry asked that someone new in our division chair the project as he had done so for a number of years. Last year, Brother Gerry did it alone! He added that he wanted to put his full attention to the baby shower for the Good Counsel Home, for which he is the chairperson. At that time, brother Dennis Conn, a new member of the AOH, volunteered to chair the Hibernian Food Project.

The original idea formulated that evening was that our division would do something different this year. We agreed to cook a traditional Irish-American dinner of corned beef, cabbage and potatoes for the less fortunate in our community. We intended to cook the dinner for the Dutchess Outreach Program, which operates a food pantry in the city of Poughkeepsie. As with many good intentions, planning is needed and time passed quickly. When brother Dennis contacted the appropriate person at the Dutchess Outreach food pantry, he was informed that we would not be able to provide a meal there as a church was committed to doing so every Sunday. As brother Dennis was a new member, he was not sure in what direction to turn. As a member of the Hibernian Hunger Project, I conferred with brother Brendan Daly, a fellow committee member and we proposed that in light of the recent development with the Dutchess County Outreach Program, a suitable replacement group be found. Brother Brendan had committed to acquiring the food and to cooking the food at his PUB for the AOH. Subsequently, because time was short to fulfill the AOH pledge relative to the Hibernian Hunger Project, I reached out to the Castle Point Veteran's Facility and inquired if we could cook a corned beef dinner for the disabled veterans there. I was advised that we were welcomed to do so and I conferred with our Division President, Bill Schimpf via email. I was communicated via email with other members whose email addresses I had in my possession. Ultimately, with no real objections to the idea, the decision was made to cook for the veterans and we are doing so on Sunday, March 16th at noon at the Castle Point Facility.

For the record, there was some concern about the costs of the meals and how the AOH would pay for them. A tentative budget of \$300 was set by President Schimpf. Before the AOH distributed any money to the project, Brother Brendan Daly informed me that the Dubliner Irish Pub, was willing to not only cook the meals but would also procure the necessary food items and beverages. Furthermore, that his business partner and himself would pay for everything associated with the Veteran's meals. I immediately informed President Schimpf of brother Brendan's offer and the AOH accepted this most worthy proposal.

Once again, I must admit to jumping the gun and making decisions I had no right to in the name of the AOH. At our last meeting, I was once again reminded that our division had procedures that needed to be followed concerning any project and that committees made decisions and not individuals, including financial secretary's and even presidents.

A very most important issue concerning communication between AOH members was brought out at our last meeting. While most members agreed to communicating via email, there was some who felt it to be inappropriate. With the Hibernian Hunger Project as an example, email was used to expedite matters. With our AOH meetings occurring only once a month, the decisions concerning the project were made without the full consent of the membership. This is not to say that I acted entirely without authorization. Regardless of the worthiness of the project, I recognize now my responsibility in following AOH procedures and I pledge in the future to do so. To all my brothers I ask for a pardon for my transgressions. More importantly, I ask all of you to thank Brother Brendan for his generosity. I wish you all a Blessed and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Jerry Clarke, Financial Secretary

## 2008 DIVISION OFFICERS

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



### Important Dates

- ◆ March 27, 2008 - Monthly Meeting
- ◆ April 17, 2008 - Monthly Meeting
- ◆ May 15, 2008 - Monthly Meeting

### Prayers for the Sick

Father Brennan  
Mike Connelly

**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:

- ◆ Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade - March 1, 2008 in Wappingers Falls
- ◆ Wappingers Knights of Columbus 'IRISH NIGHT' - March 8, 2008, Wappingers Falls
- ◆ National AOH / LAOH 94th Biennial Convention in New Orleans - July 23 - 26, 2008



**ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA**

Dutchess County  
Msgr. Sheehan  
Division # 1

107 Prospect Avenue, Maybrook, NY 12543

