



**ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA**

MARCH 2011

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DIVISION NEWS

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

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

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Brothers,

I would like to wish my entire brother Hibernians, and their families, a Blessed and Happy Saint Patrick's Day. Please make a note that the March meeting has been moved up one week to March 10th, due to Saint Patrick's Day falling on the third Thursday.

March 5th is almost upon us, as is March 17th. On March 5th I will have the honor to officially hand over the duties of the Grand Marshall of the Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Day Parade to my dear friend and Brother Hibernian, Matt Fitzgerald. It is with sincere pride that I will march behind him this year, and with all of the previous Grand Marshalls. I hope many of you come out and congratulate Matt and celebrate with him, what I believe has become the biggest parade in Dutchess County, and one we can all be extremely proud of. Amazingly, this is the 16th year. Do not forget that we are a major sponsor of the parade and filling in our ranks goes a long way for us to get the attention we deserve. So bring out all the family to march this year. In addition, March 17 brings us the oldest and largest parade in our country's history. This year is the 250th anniversary of the NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Be Proud and Enjoy. The Kevin Barry Club is hosting a bus trip to the parade this year and those who wish to participate can get details from Brother Matt Fitzgerald.


On Feb 5th, I had the pleasure of attending the Emerald Ball at the Villa Borghese, hosted by the Parade Committee. I want to congratulate the Parade Committee on a great turn out and a wonderful event. Our very own, Brother Jack Fedigan did a stand up job as MC and introducing Matt Fitzgerald as Grand Marshall Elect.

The February meeting brought us an additional two new members. Join me in welcoming Enda Ryan and Charles Fager. So far, this year we have added eight new brothers, five new and 3 transfers. Although this is terrific news, it is even more important that we retain the members that we currently have. Therefore I urge all who have not yet renewed their membership to please respond to our financial secretary's request for dues payment. We need all of you individually and collectively to make us fulfill our motto of Friendship, Unity, and true Christian Charity. Also, there will be a Major Degree Ceremony on April 10th, in Yonkers. All brothers who desire the Lessons of the Order should contact Brother Jack Fedigan for details.


I was recently contacted by a reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal, who heard, from multiple sources, of the great charitable work we do. He will be preparing an article, based on an interview with me, to run around March 4th, on who we are, and what we represent as a brotherhood. I am hoping that this will give us some great publicity and hopefully some new members. Keep a look out for it.

Regarding our charitable work, we will be co hosting with the Dubliner Irish Pub, in Poughkeepsie, our Castle Point Veterans Saint Patrick's Celebration on March 13, at the VA Hospital, route 9D, Castle Point. Please join Brother Brendan Daly and Chairman Jack Fedigan to help make this, once again, a great success. An email with meeting time and details will be forthcoming.

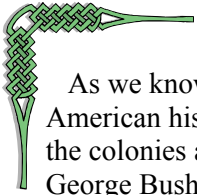
God Bless,
In Brotherhood & Motto,
Gearoid McVicker
President



May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks.
May your heart be as light as a song.
May each day bring you bright happy hours,
That stay with you all year long.
For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck, and happiness
For today and every day.



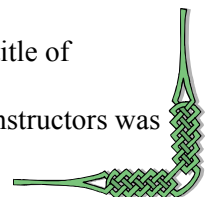


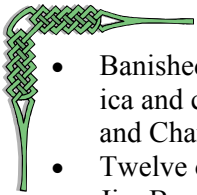


As we know from our personal readings and study, there has been an Irish influence on the American soul and American history since before the Revolutionary War. By 1776, there were already 300,000 Irish immigrants in the colonies and their contributions to the fight for independence were undeniable. In March of 1991, President George Bush declared the first Irish-American Heritage month. Every year since, subsequent presidents have signed similar proclamations. The month of March was, of course, chosen for the fact that so many Irish-Americans celebrate their heritage on St. Patrick's Day. Without a doubt, the number one event that celebrates Irish-American Heritage Month is the many St. Patrick's Day celebrations around the country. St. Patrick's Day, on March 17th, is often celebrated with parades. The largest parade is New York City's, which includes over 150,000 participants, 3 million observers, along the famed Fifth Ave route. There are parades in cities and towns across the country. Chicago, IL and Savannah, GA also celebrate the day by dyeing their namesake rivers green; and who can forget that year's long tradition of painting the green line in the middle of NYC's Fifth Ave--- alas! With March as Irish-American Heritage Month we celebrate the fact that the Irish people, their customs, and influence have formed a vital part of American history. Many Americans claim Irish ancestry. Their ancestors are the ones who helped fight for independence, fought in wars, settled the frontier, and contributed to the culture and values Americans hold dear today. March is a time to recognize those contributions and remember the many Irish-Americans who both helped form the United States and continue to influence it today.

There are many items of importance, however lost or forgotten, to pass on so that they do not fade into obscurity:

- Irish born Patrick Maguire was the first man of Christopher Columbus' crew to step on North American soil.
- Perhaps, one of the greatest stage actresses of the 20th Century, Laurette Taylor first starred on Broadway in "Peg O' My Heart".
- During the World War II Battle of the Solomon Islands the American ship Juneau sank with the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa aboard.
- Charles Carroll of Maryland was the longest-lived and only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Sharon Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, school teacher, was the first American civilian to give her life to the National space program.
- Grand opera was introduced to this county by New York industrialist Dominic Lynch.
- Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II with 28 citations for bravery, including the Medal of Honor.
- Margaret Hayes, heroine of the Battle of Monmouth in 1779, became known to history as "Molly Pitcher".
- Comedic genius and creator of the Keystone Cops, Mack Sennett was the son of Irish immigrants born in Nova Scotia.
- From housemaid to socialite to heroic survivor of the Titanic tragedy, Margaret Brown becomes immortalized as "The Unsinkable Molly Brown".
- Hero in two World Wars, William "Wild Bill" Donovan became the first chief of American counter-intelligence.
- Irish born James Hoban, County Killkenny, was the Architect of the White House, rebuilt the White House after its burning in 1814 and later assisted in building the United States Capitol; participated in the laying of the cornerstones at the White House and Capitol.
- Oliver Pollock, a wealthy merchant, advanced the United States \$300,000 during the Revolutionary War which helped assure his close friend George Washington's victory.
- John L. Sullivan, the world's first recognized Heavyweight Boxing Champion held the title for ten years.
- Beginning as a scout for the U. S. Army and later a guide for Teddy Roosevelt, Tom Mix is one of America's greatest western film heroes.
- A schoolteacher, James Holland born in County Cork, moved to the United States and invented an "underwater cigar" which became the world's first submarine.
- John Gregg invented the Gregg system of shorthand, which later was adapted to 14 other languages.
- Credited with many innovations in both newspapers and the printing industry, it was John Dunlap of Philadelphia who printed the Declaration of Independence.
- One of America's greatest agricultural advances, the reaper, was invented by Cyrus McCormick.
- John Barry won the first and last naval battles of the American Revolution, thus earning him the title of "Father of the American Navy".
- A leading pioneer in the aviation industry and one of America's first women pilots and military instructors was Nancy Corrigan. [Not to be confused with "Wrong-way" Corrigan of WWII fame.]





- Banished to Australia from England, Thomas Francis Meagher, a native of County Waterford, escaped to America and commanded the famed Irish Brigade and volunteers in the battles of Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville during the Civil War.
- Twelve of the heroes who defended and died at the Alamo were of Irish ancestry, among them Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, and Bill Travis.
- The Medal of Honor our highest decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces, was instituted by President Abraham Lincoln. The Medal of Honor was first presented in 1861. Through 1994, 258 recipients of this country's highest decoration were Irish or of Irish descent.
- There are many more that could, and should, be included. Unfortunately, space does not allow for it at this time. So we will just continue with the list in the March 2012 edition of the newsletter.

In closing this month's article, perhaps, as printed in our March 2010 newsletter, we can guide ourselves and others by reading the prayer called "The Breastplate of St. Patrick". This powerful prayer was composed by Saint Patrick in the year 433. Because of the length of the prayer, which you can get on your computer, I will only present a very key and meaningful verse of the prayer: Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Brothers,

Think positive! Spring & Summer are just around the corner: so they say. All I know, is that Old Man Winter is hanging on for dear life. Although, of late, I have not been as active as I would like, and not by choice, you are ingrained in my thoughts and prayers. As an organization, we're approaching our busiest time of the year with a dinner, a parade, feeding the poor, feeding our veterans, etc. Many hands make work light. I will try and do my part, and encourage all of our Brothers to do likewise. Our division, and her members, can be very proud of our accomplishments, and what we do in the name of Christian Charity. May God Bless you, and your loved ones, always.

William J. "Bill" Schimpf
Chairman, Standing Committee

AOH DEGREE CEREMONY

A Major Degree ceremony is scheduled for April 10th, in Yonkers, NY. This is a great opportunity for all brothers who have made their Shamrock Degree to become fully pledged to the AOH and receive the Lessons of the Order. Anyone who is interested in receiving their Major Degree should contact President McVicker or Vice President Fedigan and let your wishes be known. If you are unaware, the AOH has only two Degree levels, the Shamrock and the Major Degree. The Shamrock Degree is performed locally at the monthly meeting and those brothers who wish to receive their Shamrock can attend the meeting to receive it.

IMPORTANT NOTICE DATE CHANGE

Brothers,

The march meeting has been rescheduled from March 17 (Saint Patrick's Day) to Thursday March 10 at the Knights of Columbus.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brothers,

It is that time of the year again to renew your commitment to our great cause! Membership dues (\$25.00) are now due! Membership cards will be available at our February meeting or you can mail your check to:

Bill Leo
AOH Financial Secretary
606 Leetown Road
Stormville, NY 12582

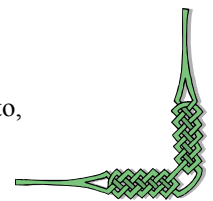
Or call me at 845-226-1254 or email bill.leo@live.com

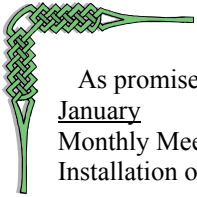
Please consider enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope to reduce the Divisions expenses. If you have questions, I can be reached at 845-226-1254. To remain a member in good standing your dues MUST be paid no later than 3/17.

I will also be at our next meeting and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wappingers on March 5th and will accept checks and cash at that time. Once I receive payment, I will mail you your 2011 membership card.

Please check-out our website at www.dutchessaoh.com or our join our facebook page at dutchessaoh.

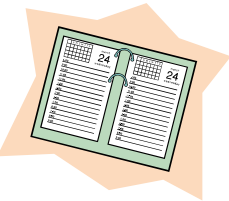
In Brotherhood and Motto,
Bill Leo
Financial Secretary





AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS

As promised the Calendar of Events for the year are as follows:



January

Monthly Meeting
Installation of Officers

February

Monthly Meeting
Emerald Ball

March

Monthly Meeting
D.C. St. Patrick's Parade
C.P. Vet's St. Pat's Celebration
Hibernian Hunger Project

April

Monthly Meeting

May

Monthly Meeting

June

Monthly Meeting
Jets Ticket Raffle Kick-off
Shamrock Degree Ceremony
C.P. Veteran's Picnic

July & August

Summer Break
NO ACTIVITIES

September

Monthly Meeting
Good Council Baby Shower

October

Monthly Meeting
Hibernian Hunger Project
Charity Dinner - Dance

November

Monthly Meeting
Msgr. Sheahan Commemorative Mass
Nomination of Officers

December

Christmas Party Meeting
Election of Officers

There is always room for new ideas and events, if you know of or wish to start one, please bring your ideas to the membership at any meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS

AOH Quartoseptcentennial (175) Update

In conjunction with the 175th anniversary, we have an ad journal which will be distributed at the President's Dinner for those advertisers attending or will be mailed to all others. This Journal will be a history of the AOH for the last 175 years, as well as any division, county or state board who wants to write the history of their entity and sponsor that page. We are asking all division, county and state boards to celebrate our 175th year in existence. Take the time to write the history of your division, county or state or if you are relatively new or do not want to write the history, sponsor one of the many pages written by our National Historian. We are also asking each division, county and state to celebrate our anniversary throughout the entire year with a mass at some point and for our State Conventions to do something special to commemorate this pinnacle of our Order. How many organizations do you know who have achieved this honor of being in existence for 175 consecutive years? A mass mailing of all information, forms, contact information and everything you will need to partake in this special time of our Organization's festivities.

Our Historian, Mike McCormack is the chairman of that committee with Tom O'Donnell as the person to contact to write your own history or sponsor a page. The Journal Committee, besides Mike and Tom consists of Phil Gallagher, John Ridge, John Gara and others who wish to contribute. Contacts for both of these men are: Mike McCormack 631-732-1390 or aohbard@optonline.net, and Tom O'Donnell 215-698-7434 or nlnod@comcast.net.

IRISH COMMUNITY



2011 Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 2011 Parade will be held on March 5, 2011 at 1:00PM. The Grand Marshall for this years parade will be Matt Fitzgerald. Line-up for the parade will be at 12:00PM on North Street. All brothers and their families will be most welcome to join us and our float with the theme of IRISH MUSIC - GLADDENING THE HEARTS OF MANY.

In Brotherhood, Mike Quinn



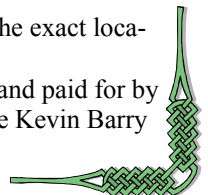
NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Trip

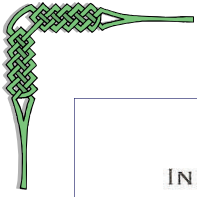
The Kevin Barry Irish Club is organizing a bus trip to NY on the Feast of Our Beloved Saint Patrick, March 17. The fee will be \$25.00 round trip. The bus will leave from the Dutchess Mall on Route 9 just south of I-84 in Fishkill promptly at 8:00 AM. The bus will be in the parking lot near the McDonald's Restaurant. The plan at this time is to arrive in New York somewhere along 6th Avenue in the area where the parade assembles.



Everyone will be "on their own" to march, watch, or whatever. The exact afternoon homeward bound departure place has yet to be determined due to ambiguity regarding the exact location of the parade's terminus, but the time will be no later than 5:00PM.

Bill Brogan is coordinating the trip for the KBIC. Reservations have to be confirmed and paid for by Sunday, February 27. Bill's phone number is: 845-897-5457. [Checks are payable to the Kevin Barry Irish Club]





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Certified Public Accountant

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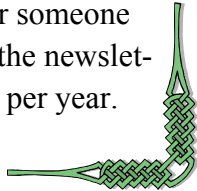
Next to Home Depot
(845) 297-8327

Your Ad

Here!



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.





IMPORTANT DATES

- March 5 - St. Patrick's Day Parade
- March 10 - Regular Business Meeting
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Deacon Bob Horton	Dan Lalor
Noel Morris	Dave Ryan
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 †

A recent picture from the Poughkeepsie Journal, featuring some of our members. The Picture was taken at the Emerald Ball in February.



Courtesy photo
From left, Gerard McVicker (2010 grand marshal), Matt Fitzgerald (2011 grand marshal), Ethel Brogan (executive board, Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee), Monsignor F. Bellew (pastor, St. Mary's Church, Wappingers Falls) and Dave Costello (chairman, Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee).

Public-spirited Hibernians not just here for the beer

Larry Hertz • March 1, 2011

Gerard McVicker is proud of his Irish heritage. But every year as St. Patrick's Day approaches, McVicker braces for the annual jokes and stereotyping of his homeland.

"There's a lot of focus on green beer and drunken Irishmen, that sort of thing," he said last week. "Our organization is dedicated to showing we're involved in more serious endeavors." McVicker is president of the Dutchess County chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a national fraternity founded in 1834 in New York City to combat anti-Irish discrimination.

Yes, the Dutchess chapter plays an integral role in organizing the county's largest St. Patrick's parade. The event will be held Saturday in Wappingers Falls, where a pint or two of green beer or Guinness stout may indeed be raised. But the group is also involved in a number of charitable causes, helping the hungry, veterans and victims of domestic violence.

"The purpose of our organization, as stated in the preamble of our constitution, is to promote friendship, unity and Christian charity," he said. Because so many Irish-Americans are descended from immigrants who left Ireland during a famine in the mid-19th century, one of the local chapter's primary projects is the Hibernia Hunger Project, which coordinates donations to local food pantries. Twice a year, the chapter organizes events at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System at Castle Point - a St. Patrick's Day festival arranged by Brendan Daly, proprietor of the Dubliner Irish Pub in the Town of Poughkeepsie, and a summer picnic. Ellen Varian, recreation assistant at Castle Point, said both events are popular with the patients there. "It's very fulfilling for them to get to interact with people from the community, to talk about their military experiences and spend time with their families," Varian said.

The group's latest project is helping the House of Hope, a shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children in Fishkill. Barbara Walker Brickhouse, assistant executive director of the shelter, said AOH member James Sweeney calls her at least once a month asking how the group can help. "Jim asks us what's on our wish list — food, blankets, boots for the kids — and whatever it is, he gets it to us," Brickhouse said. "What these guys do, it means a lot to us."

Another Poughkeepsie Journal Article.



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msgr. sheahan
division #1

101 Brothers Road, Stormville, NY 12582

