



ANCIENT ORDER  
OF  
HIBERNIANS  
IN AMERICA

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
MSGR. SHEAHAN  
DIVISION # 1



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Brothers,

First and foremost, congratulations to our brother and historian, Matt Fitzgerald on his worthy selection as Grand Marshall of the 2011 Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade.

It is that time of year when we take nominations for next year's officers. A committee consisting of brother's Mike Kelly, Matt Fitzgerald, and Mike Quinn, has accepted the task of soliciting nominations for all offices. Please consider taking a more active role in helping our division grow and prosper.

Since our last meeting I have attended the celebration of two Monsignors. On November 2, seven brothers attended a Memorial High Mass for our namesake Msgr. Sheahan, at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, in Poughkeepsie. It was a powerful and beautiful tribute to Msgr. Sheahan. Fr. Garristo did a magnificent job in creating an image of Msgr. Sheahan which deeply moved those who were in attendance. Earlier, some of the members attended a wreath laying ceremony at Msgr. Sheahan's grave site. Please join me in thanking Brother & Grand Marshall, Matt Fitzgerald, in organizing this memorable event, which we hope will become an annual tribute to Msgr. Sheahan. In addition, on October 3, five brothers attended Blessed Kateri, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Msgr. O'Connor to the Holy Priesthood. It was a joyous event and Msgr. truly appreciated our attendance. He even went so far as to transfer his membership to our division. I want to personally thank all members who were able to attend these services and to show the community what Hibernians are truly about.

A tremendous thanks to brothers Jack Fedigan and Jim Whalen for the impressive job they did on the Jet's Raffle. Once again the Raffle was a complete success which helps us to fulfill our charitable work.

In closing I want to say that I am disappointed that we had to cancel the Hibernian Charity Dinner Dance and I take full responsibility for the decision. We are living in difficult economic times, which played out in poor attendance numbers. We will however be back next year with renewed vigor and I will personally take on the challenge of Co-Chairmanship with those

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NOVEMBER  
2010

# DIVISION NEWSLETTER

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

I have reconciled the national roster with my division records and all is now synchronized in preparation for our 2011 membership year. If you've had any changes to address, phone, email or parish that I've not been made aware of, please contact me at [845-226-1254](tel:845-226-1254). New membership cards will be available soon. Feel free to send in your \$25.00 membership dues now and I'll forward your new card once I receive them which should be by our December meeting.

### Membership:

I've created a facebook group called Dutchess AOH. This is an open group to compliment our website and myspace page and will enhance communication amongst the division, as well as, provide greater exposure to friends, family and prospective new members. Feel free to become a member of this group which will also include a calendar of events and allow for chat and file sharing capability for division members.

In Brotherhood & Motto,  
Bill

Don't forget to visit our Division website  
for additional resource information at:

[www.dutchessaoh.com](http://www.dutchessaoh.com)



MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE WORK FOR YOUR HANDS TO DO.  
MAY YOUR POCKETS HOLD ALWAYS A COIN OR TWO.  
MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUN SHINE ON YOUR WINDOW PANE.  
MAY YOUR RAINBOWS BE CERTAIN TO FOLLOW EACH RAIN.  
MAY THE HAND OF A FRIEND ALWAYS BE NEAR YOU.  
AND MAY GOD FILL YOUR HEART WITH GLADNESS TO CHEER YOU.



brothers who want to assist. Finally, please mark your calendars for our Christmas Dinner meeting, to be held on Thursday December 16, at The Dubliner Pub in Poughkeepsie. Please let me know of your interest.

In Brotherhood & Motto,  
Gearoid McVicker  
President

This article is being prepared and submitted on Sunday, October 31 and as I write it, I reflect upon last weekend, October 23, when the Kevin Barry Irish Club, memorialized Irish Patriot Samuel Nielson of United Irishmen fame, and the 1798 Rebellion [see June 2009 Newsletter] for details on the rebellion and a brief reference to Nielson, himself]. In future it would be a good gesture if we joined the KBIC in their annual memorial service for Neilson since his Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery gravesite [his third, I believe] was arranged for in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the Ancient Order of Hibernian Division existent at the time.

Tomorrow, November 1, All Saints Day, is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of “A lad of 18 summers”, Kevin Barry, who was executed on that day in 1920 by the British in Ireland’s fight for independence and freedom from the clutches of the British Lion. In addition to demonstrating its brutality in the way they dealt with the Rebels in general, and Kevin Barry in particular, [the song intones “Shoot me like an Irish soldier, Do not hang me like a dog...”], one wonders if the British also wanted to make a point against our Catholic religion. Why else have an execution of anyone, let alone a Catholic, on one of our important Holy Days of Obligation? Further, as best as I can determine, All Saints Day was also an obligatory Holy Day in the Anglican Church, as well as the Church of Ireland. [An interesting sidebar: In 1920, November 1 fell on a Monday as it does this year, and on November 2, Calvin Coolidge was elected the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.]

Our Division has also planned a memorial remembrance for our Patron, Msgr. Joseph F. Sheahan, former Pastor of St. Peter’s Church at the time the Church was in Poughkeepsie. St. Peter’s is now in Hyde Park, with most of the Church’s services being celebrated in Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, which is on the grounds of the former State Psychiatric Center. That service, a High Mass, will be celebrated at 7:00PM in Our Lady’s Chapel by the current Pastor, Fr. James Garisto. Prior to the Mass, at 5:00PM, there will also be a wreath laying ceremony for Msgr. Sheahan at his gravesite at St. Peter’s Cemetery on Salt Point Turnpike in the Town of Poughkeepsie. [For more information on Msgr. Sheahan refer to the November 2009 Newsletter.]

**Samhain** As I promised in last month’s newsletter, I will deal briefly with the celebration of Samhain. The celebration spans a two day period. What we know in this country as Halloween, the eve of All Hallows, and the Feast of All Hallows [Saints]. November 1, in addition to being a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation in Ireland, is also remembered as the Celtic feast of Samhain, which in the old Gaelic meant “summer’s end”. It was one of, if not the most important of the ancient Celtic feasts. The period of Samhain also marks the beginning of the new Celtic year. Interestingly enough, the Celtic day began at dusk, which marked the beginning of the dark and cold night, and ended the following dusk, the end of a day of light and warmth. Hence, the Celtic New Year and Samhain actually begin at dusk on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. In addition to a celebration of the New Year, Samhain was a time to celebrate the harvest of the previous growing year.

The eve of the Celtic year was a very “holy” time. The Celts believed that during Samhain there was a gap in time. Our world and the Otherworld came together on the night between the old and new years. The dead could return to the places where they had lived. Many rituals of Samhain provided hospitality for dead ancestors. Celts put out food and drink for the dead with great ceremony. They left their windows, doors, and gates unlocked to give the dead free passage into their homes. Swarms of spirits poured into our world on November Eve. Not all of these spirits were friendly, so to ward off any dangers, Celts carved the images of spirit-guardians onto turnips. [Of course, we use pumpkins here.] The Celts would set these “Jack O’lanterns” before their doors to keep out unwelcome visitors from the Otherworld.

There was also a much lighter side to the Celtic New Year rituals. Young people would put on strange disguises and roam about the countryside, pretending to be the returning dead or spirits from the Otherworld. Celts thought the break in reality on November Eve not only provided a link between the worlds, but also dissolved the structure of society for the night. Boys and girls would put on each other’s clothes, and would generally flout convention by boisterous behavior and by playing tricks on their elders and betters. [Some things never change!]

Many ancient Celtic customs proved compatible with the new Christian religion. Christianity embraced the Celtic notions of family, community, the bond among all people, and respect for the dead. The Western Church gave Samhain a Christian blessing in 837 AD when November 1 was designated the Feast of All Saints.

There was also a very serious and non-spiritual side to Samhain. Traditionally, it the was time to take stock of the herds and grain supplies, and decide which animals would need to be slaughtered in order for the people and livestock to survive the winter. This custom is still observed by many who farm and raise livestock, since the weather would begin to turn colder, meat would keep. Another factor in the slaughtering was due to the fact that the summer grass would be gone and the cattle would not have the opportunity to forage freely.

Finally, bonfires played a major role in these festivities. The people in the villages would throw the bones of the slaughtered cattle upon the flames of huge fires that would be set for the rituals that would be carried out that night.

So, it's not too much of a stretch to see that the term bones fire would eventually become bonfire. There are so many other things that took place during this overnight period and the time of preparation leading up to it. I would suggest that you get a good book and sit by the fire yourself. I would also suggest that you keep a Jack O'Lantern close by as protection. Some of the things that are alleged to have happened during Samhain are pretty scary and spooky.

### **Our Catholic Faith**

Some time ago I mentioned that I would start to include material that we should be familiar with in fulfilling the membership requirement of being a practicing Catholic [AOH Constitution Article IV, Section 1, Subdivision C] In keeping with that, I am going to include some of the materials we learned as children attending Parochial Schools as full time students or CCD registrants. In addition to being somewhat helpful, I am hoping it will be a welcome walk down "memory lane". Please let me know – 845-454-5308 or [irishrm@juno.com](mailto:irishrm@juno.com).

I would also hope that this might be something we would want to share with and through our offspring in the same manner we pass on our Irish heritage and culture. For openers, how would you have answered the following questions in the early grades: Who made us? Who is God? Why did God make us? What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven? From whom do we learn to know, love, and serve God? Where do we find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church? Since we have all received the post-baptism sacraments of Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation, I am sure we would have passed that "test" with flying colors, including that last question whose answer is the Apostles Creed. I am also sure that we can recite that prayer at the drop of a hat.

Then as we got older and advanced more in our Catholic faith, the instruction and requirements of our faith got more difficult to learn, but we did it. In closing let me leave you with these questions to ponder: What are the three theological virtues? Which are the seven virtues of the Holy Spirit? Which are the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit?

### ***VETERAN'S DAY***

Veteran's Day is celebrated in the month of November (November 11th). But, every day you should thank a Vet or an active member of our armed services for our freedoms and their service to America.



Here is a wish for you and your family:  
May you have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving and as you gather to give thanks for all that is yours, please keep in mind those less fortunate. Say a prayer for them and Americans everywhere!

### ***IRISH COMMUNITY***

#### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2011 Grand Marshal is our own Matt Fitzgerald. Matt congratulations, well deserved and God Bless you over the next year and in the years that follow.

IN GOD WE TRUST  
Mike Kelly



## AOH DIVISION 1 EVENTS



Brothers,

We have concluded our obligation to the NYSDOT to keep our free sign on Route 9D advertising our order. I thank everyone who participated this year to beautify our section of highway by collecting 34 bags of trash. I look forward to many more of you participating next year.

Slainte, Bill Leo

## JETS CHARITY RAFFLE



Again this year, we need to thank our Brother "Jack Fedigan" for donating 4 tickets to the New York Jets vs. Green Bay Packers game Oct 31st and a Parking Pass for our raffle. Gene Noone again did a fabulous job on the Raffle Tickets and the Posters. Thank You Gene!!

**18 of our Brothers participated in the sales and sold 483 tickets.** Each and everyone one of you have the AOH's Gratitude. The two "top in sales" this year are Jim Whalen and Jack Fedigan.

We grossed \$2,470.00. Our expenses were \$155.00 for printing the tickets and posters. This brings our net proceeds to \$2,315.00. All submitted to Bob Shephard.

The Winner this year is Jack Fedigan's Grand Daughter, "Ariana". *I know what your thinking!!!* Matt Fitzgerald pulled the winning ticket with a room full of witnesses. **Congratulations to Ariana.**

On a separate note: Next year I will not be heading the Football Raffle. I've had some scheduling changes in my life which makes it "very very hard" for me to do all of the things I want to do at present. Fortunately (or unfortunately?), Kathy and I continue to maintain a busy schedule. Anyway, at the meeting October 21st Gerry McVicker expressed an interest in taking over the raffle. This makes it very easy for me "not to worry" that we won't be able to bring in similar or even more funds each year. My hat's off to you Jerry!

*(For the archives: Each Year the raffle process begins in April & May, first determining what game tickets we receive (from Jack) or must get (other source), then contacting Gene Noone to order the raffle tickets and posters. Locating person's and location's outside the organization to help in our sales takes place at this time as well. Tickets are then distributed at the June meeting before the summer and members are encouraged to start sales as soon as possible. It's a fair amount of free-time work for 4 months or so. I'd recommend, that we order and distribute 750 tickets as we did this year (you can order more if needed). Collecting checks and cash from sellers regularly and getting them to the Treasure is a must, especially the checks. One thing I did not do this year and encourage for next and future years is to mail 5 or 10 tickets to members that don't generally come to the meetings and ask them to buy or sell them. In 2009, doing this brought in a couple hundred dollars.)*

Slainte & "God Bless"  
Jim Whalen  
2010 Football Raffle Chairman

## HOUSE OF HOPE

A picture of last month's donation to the House of Hope. At the last meeting members who attended donated \$80.00. Within the next week I will be going to BJ's to shop for food for the House of Hope. Any member who would like to make a donation (any amount) can send me a check in my name or money to my home address: 16 Dara Lane, Wappinger Falls, NY. Any questions e-mail me and I will get back to you.  
Thanks.

JIM SWEENEY



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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 Shephard	Historian	Matt Fitzgerald
Vice President	John Fedigan	Treasurer	Bob Shephard	Sentinel	Kevin Moran
Financial Secretary	William Leo	Marshall	Mike Quinn	Standing Committee	William J. Schimpf



### IMPORTANT DATES

- October 21 - Regular Business Meeting / Drawing
- October 23 - Charity Dinner Dance
- November 18 - Regular Business Meeting

### 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 ‡



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IN AMERICA

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