



# *New York State Board Empire State Hibernian*



DECEMBER 2021

## ***STATE CHAPLAIN***

***FR. HENRY REID***

Brothers,

These autumn days are a great blessing for me, as I can sit in the woods, quietly listening to the sounds of nature all around me. The chirping of birds, the squirrels that make too much noise for something so small, and the rustling of the leaves, as the deer walks behind me, in the direction of the houses, so I can't take the one decent shot I will have all season. Anyway, if it's deer season, we're also approaching Thanksgiving, and soon Christmas. So a few words of advice: Enjoy the time with your loved ones, because before you know it, they will be grown up and might not want to spend time with you, or they may be to the age where this will be their last holiday season. Either way, spend the time with them wisely. Do not waste your time with the stupidity of Black Friday, especially the part of it that interferes with Thanksgiving; if your child needs an Xbox more than they need time with their grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins, etc... than you have failed.

There are ultimately two things in our lives that matter the most, the relationship we have with God and the relationship we have with those God has given us, and that is what we are supposed to be celebrating this Season. The Birth of Christ, which is what Christmas marks, is the celebration of God becoming man, a.k.a.: the Incarnation. No other event in human history compares, not reduced prices on kitchen appliances, not the football game, not even hunting. God chose to become a human being so that we could come to know Him.

With that being said, remember that the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass, and holy

days of obligation, has been lifted, and all of us, who are Catholics in good standing, are required to attend. Truthfully, I always feel a little stupid when I have to tell Hibernians that we are required to go to Mass on Sundays, because each of us have taken oaths to do as much: when we were Confirmed, when we stood in as a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor, and when we were sworn in as Hibernians.

In the spring, the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be reviving the old practice of holding an AOH retreat, in Stony Point, NY. This will be an excellent opportunity for prayer and reflection, and quiet time, so consider making this retreat.

In Christ and our motto, Fr. Henry W. Reid

## ***PRESIDENT***

***JOHN J. MANNING***

It was a pleasure to have seen many of our Brother Hibernians at the recent NYS AOH Semi-Annual Board Meeting that was held on Saturday November 6, 2021, at Sacred Heart Church Hall in Monroe, NY. I was extremely proud and honored to witness thirty-four of my fellow Brother Hibernians take and pass the Major Degree that was held immediately following the State Board Meeting. The Brothers in Richmond County and on the "Cu Chulainn Celtic Warriors" Major Degree Team did another amazing job. I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of my Brother and Sister Hibernians from Orange County, New York, for all of your hard work, dedication, preparing, and coordinating for the NYS AOH/LAOH Semi-Annual 2021 Fall Meeting and post meeting festivities back at the Orange County Division 1 Hall, Job Well Done!!!!

NYS FFAI Chairman Vince Tyer (Rockland County) and National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin (Bronx County) are working hard on getting the kickoff for the 2021-2022 National Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal. The Christmas Appeal has become a major initiative for Our Order. Last year was a record year, with over \$100,000 being raised and given to groups in the North of Ireland who support their communities while supporting the goal of a free and united 32 counties of Ireland, as well as legacy issues. Some of these groups include: The Holy Cross Ardoyne trust, The Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, Green Cross and the St. Patrick's Centre. Many of our County and Division Boards, along with individual Brother Hibernians across New York State, have participated last year and in previous years. We hope that you will continue with your generous donations to this very important AOH Initiative. Please visit [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com) for more information on where to send your donation to this very important and worthy cause.

Congratulations to Brothers Ken Ferguson (Nassau County) and FFAI Chairman Vince Tyer (Rockland County) for coordinating and hosting the NYS AOH FFAI "Pot of Gold Raffle", the pot was \$22,000.00. The winning ticket was drawn at the Annual NYS AOH FFAI Fund Raiser held on Thursday November 18, 2021 at Stout Irish Pub/Restaurant. Invited was our good friend Joseph Smith who emigrated from an English prison to America 50 years ago with \$50 in his pocket. He was arrested by US officials 7 years later and spent the next 3 years in the justice system fighting deportation. Despite this, within 10 years he owned 12 successful Bobby Van's restaurants with close to \$100 million in sales annually. Joseph is a self-made entrepreneur and investor with a long career in the hospitality industry. Joseph has never forgotten his roots and still has strong ties to his hometown Ardoyne, Belfast. He has been on the board of Friends of Sinn Fein for 25 years and has remained an active and loyal supporter of the Irish

Republican movement and is happy to aid Gerry Adams when he visits New York.

NYS Veterans Affairs Chairman Shaun Stanger (Oneida County) along with our NYS Social Media Director Chad Ghastin (Westchester County) and NYS Webmaster Kieran McGirl (Kings County) did an amazing job with "Honoring" our fellow Brother Hibernians from across New York State that had served in our United States Armed Forces. Each day in the month of November one Brother Hibernian was selected, their military bio and photo was posted to the NYS Social Media outlets and our NYS Web Site. The month of November was selected due to Veterans Day falling on the 11<sup>th</sup> and we wanted to express our sincerest gratitude for our freedom. Outstanding Job Brothers!!!!!!

I hope to see many of our fellow Brother & Sister Hibernians in Washington DC on Friday January 21, 2022, for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Right to Life March. Please start booking and coordinating your Counties and Divisions to participate and make this very important event. It's amazing to see how many young adults take the time away from their personal lives to make this journey every year. Trust me I went for the very first time back in 2015. With what I witnessed and experienced, I have gone back every year since and will continue to march every year to support this worthy cause.

At this time, I would like to wish all my fellow Brother Hibernians and their Families a Merry Christmas, & Happy, Healthy and SAFE New Year in 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time if there is anything you need, or I can be of assistance. I can be reached at [jmanningnysaoh@gmail.com](mailto:jmanningnysaoh@gmail.com) call or text (917) 589-0047.

**GOD BLESS!!!!!!!**

"Yours in Friendship, Unity & True Christian Charity"

John J. Manning

New York State President

## ***VICE PRESIDENT***

***THOMAS M. O'DONNELL***

It was a pleasure to have seen many of our Brother Hibernians at the recent NYS AOH Semi-Annual Board Meeting that was held on Saturday November 6, 2021, in Monroe, NY.

Our NYS Major Degree Teams currently have the following dates scheduled for Major Degrees:

Schenectady; February 6, 2022, Albany Hall, 375 Ontario St. Albany, NY 12208. Candidates arrive at noon. Candidates, \$20, Observers \$10.

If your County or Division is interested in hosting a Major Degree of our Order, please contact any of the Major Degree Teams that are here in New York State.

- 1) Cu Chulainn Celtic Warriors Major Degree Team (Richmond County)

Point of Contact:

Brother Michael McGroarty

253 Malvine Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10309

(646) 533-1495

E-Mail: [mikemcgrty@gmail.com](mailto:mikemcgrty@gmail.com)

- 2) Schenectady Major Degree Team (Schenectady County)

Point of Contact:

Brother Owen Cole

738 Swaggertown Road

Scotia, NY 12302

(518) 399-1269

E-Mail: [omcole54@gmail.com](mailto:omcole54@gmail.com)

- 3) Tara Court Major Degree Team (Suffolk County)

Point of Contact: Brother Jeff Nisler

33 Corlett Place

Huntington Station, NY 11746

(631) 385-2425

E-Mail: [jeff.aoh@nisler.com](mailto:jeff.aoh@nisler.com)

Wishing all my Fellow Brother Hibernians and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year in 2022.

## ***SECRETARY***

***THOMAS BEIRNE***

It was inspiring to see Hibernian Officers and members from around the State at the NY State Fall State Board meeting in Monroe, Orange County on November 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a very productive weekend.

As we are closing in on the end of the 2021 year, Divisions are in the process of having nominations, elections, and installations of officers. Welcome to the new officers and wishing you a successful, productive term of office. It is critical that the current Division Officers are forwarded to National AOH, NY State AOH, and County Boards (if applicable). Communication is vital for our Organization to function properly.

Divisions are reminded to send to the NYS Secretary payment for the 2021 per capita and the required forms: NYS Form 9 (Certificate of Election); NYS Form 11 (Financial & Membership form); Charities & Mission Report. Please use the NYS forms available on our Website: <https://www.nyaoh.com/>

Please be advised that Division assessments are \$6.00 per member. Assessments postmarked by January 31, 2022, will be reduced to \$5.50 per member. Assessments postmarked after March 31, 2022, will be increased to \$6.50 per member. We are requesting that Divisions include the name of their County and the number of their Division on all checks. This will help to guarantee that all Divisions receive proper credit for the payments.

An option to fill out the forms on line, and submit them electronically along with payment of the per capita is being finalized and will be added to the NY State AOH Website shortly. Please check on the website.

Hopefully all of our Divisions are rebounding back stronger after the disruptions caused by the COVID Pandemic. We need to be active,

engage our membership and recruit new members. The core missions of the Hibernians to defend our Church and clergy, our Irish American culture, history, and fight for justice and a United Ireland are as critical now as at any time in our 185 year history.

I hope that all of you and your families are safe, healthy, and will be enjoying the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, Advent period, and the Christmas season. Hopefully you will have a chance to spend time with family, relax and reflect on what is most important to us.

***TREASURER  
KEVIN O'REILLY***

In the months since coming into office I have been busy getting accustomed to the financial practices and policies of the State Board. In addition, I have been having intensive interaction with our primary banking institution as I come to understand our accounts, and they have been a very cooperative business partner. The Board has been very helpful to me as I have had get-to-know type questions and they have been very open to reviewing what I see as general areas of exposure to potential financial risk. Most common are the varied existing "hand shake" agreements which really need to be formalized with signatures and set plans for the finances of the agreements.

I want to remind all to keep your financial institutions up-to-date with your contact information and follow through on closing old accounts. I have done an on-line search and found that the New York State Office of the State Comptroller currently holds, as Public Record, Unclaimed Funds for:

Name & Address as listed on NYS Unclaimed site,  
Reported Unclaimed Year

AOH Division 4 143 Hillcrest St Staten Island NY  
1030 2016  
Ancient Order Hibern 370 Broad St Waverly NY  
14892 2004

Ancient Order Hibernians C O John R Taylor 217  
Washington St Lockport NY 14094 2018  
Ancient Order Of Hib 50 Tindale Dr Rochester NY  
14622 2003  
Ancient Order of Hibernian Attn: Thomas Cahill 38  
Wood Acre Dr Pittsford NY 14534 2007  
Ancient Order of Hibernians C-O James A Kendall  
12 Helen Ave Cortland NY 13045 2006  
Ancient Order of Hibernians Po Box 848  
Far Rockaway NY 11694 2021  
Ancient Order of Hibernians And 5 Forest St  
Bayville NY 11709 2019  
Ancient Order of Hibernians Div 8 C O Russell  
Diragi 10 Idaho Ct Coram NY 11727 2019  
Ancient Order of Hibernians Glen Cove N 94 Arden  
Blvd West Hempstead NY 11552 2016  
Ancient Order of Hibernians 455 Rockaway Pkwy  
Valley Stream NY 11580 2001  
Division #4 Ancient Order of Hibernians 4615  
194th St C/O Martin Kearns Flushing NY 11358  
2002

You should follow up on these at their website (<https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us>) to clean these up. They will not disclose the dollar value to you until they establish you are a legitimate claimant. From personal experience I know they are easy to work with so I would not hire a representative for your initial exploration as the only guarantee is that the claim is worth at least 1 cent. I will soon provide this and similar information I came across to the National Treasurer.

It was good to see many of you at the Fall State Board meeting in Monroe, NY. As we mentioned at the meeting it will soon be time for per capita payments. Pay early to take advantage of the savings.

With Installation season upon us I want to wish the best for the new and outgoing officers.

I wish you all wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year Seasons!

If I can be of assistance on any of your financial concerns, I am here to listen and help you get answers to your questions.

**DISTRICT 1**  
**PJ HIGGITT**

Hello Brothers All. We had an enjoyable and productive fall here in the District. Divisions were active and spreading the Hibernian message. One of our priorities in District 1 has been to increase the membership in our Organization. I am happy to report that through the first 10 months of 2021, District 1 has recruited 74 new members. I personally appreciate the hard work of the Division Presidents and their members. On behalf of our District 1 members, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. To our Hibernian Members who have served in the Armed Forces of our great nation, belated Happy Veterans Day! On that note, I have included a highlight of one of our longtime District members who served both the Hibernians and out Country. If I can do anything for my fellow Hibernians, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 518-221-3428 or

[burghvets@gmail.com](mailto:burghvets@gmail.com).



Charles Z (Walsh) Wojton, Currently Chaplain for AOH Division #8 in Troy. He has been a member since the 80's and held division offices as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and Chaplain. He was recently LAOH NYS Chaplain. He is a Vietnam

United States Navy veteran serving aboard the submarine, USS Remora (SS487) for 3 1/2 years in Pearl Harbor and the Western Pacific.



**DISTRICT 2**  
**TIMOTHY K BARRY**

Brothers, it has been a trying three months for District 2. The fallout from Covid seems to have "disconnected" so many of our brothers. As of this writing there have only been responses from one division regarding AOH requests, activities, suggestions, and guidance. I will continue to move forward cultivating a sense of inclusion and collaboration for all divisions during my tenure.

On a more positive note, I attended my first State Board meeting which was held in Monroe, NY. The meeting was well attended and productive, as were the post festivities. We have eight new members in our district, four in Division 4, and four in Division 7.

Rochester did not receive any Pot of Gold tickets; however one was purchased by Lockport. For the Bowling Initiative, there were zero responses.

Our new member drive is taking a two prong approach. We will be taking out a six month ad in the Church Bulletin throughout the Rochester Diocese. In conjunction with that we are working on securing a sponsorship/registration with local Parishes, and in turn we will have a banner placement with our logo and new member registration info.

The Brian O'Reilly golf tournament raised \$2,275.00, which will be added to our Charity fund. In addition Division 7 also raised \$1,400.00 in tips during Barry's Irish Festival. Those funds will be added to our Building Fund.

As I prepare this report we are collecting money and gifts that will be distributed through Rochester Catholic Charities.

We are also offering a special charity raffle. The grand Prize will be a week's stay in July 2022 on Seabrook Island in South Carolina, tickets are \$20.00 ea. Please email me for info and tickets at [ytee317@gmail.com](mailto:ytee317@gmail.com).

## ***DISTRICT 3***

### ***JOHN EMMETT GREER***

I recently attended the semiannual NYS AOH Board meeting in Monroe, N.Y. It was my first fall meeting. The meeting was excellent, and it was well attended. All the NYS District Directors met with National Director Tim McSweeney after the regular meeting. We had a very productive meeting discussing the responsibilities of District Directors.

All divisions in District 3 have been active raising money for charities, for the AOH, and recruiting new members.

**Auburn** - The JFK Division #1 elected a new President, Matthew Quill. Their installation dinner will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup> at their hall. The Division continues to support several charitable organizations including several food banks and food pantries. 8 new members since the State Convention.

**Syracuse** - The Commodore John Barry Division elected a new President, Michael Lehmann and Vice President, Phil O'Neil. There will be a Division Holiday Party January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Syracuse Marriott. Syracuse supports several local charities including food pantries.

2 new members since the State Convention

**Utica Division** - The John C. Devereaux, Div. # 1 will be having their installation of officers on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Irish Cultural Center in Utica. The division added over \$10,000 to their charitable account in 2021 and will be giving several thousand dollars to 5 local food pantries after the holidays. They have also decided to support another new charity in 2022. They continue to partner with the Utica Irish Cultural Center. In November they teamed up with the Utica Police Department, Oneida Sheriff's Department, and a local bank to give more than \$1,000 worth of turkeys, potatoes, and trimmings. AOH Members, local Law Enforcement, and Firefighters handed out the food.

**Watertown** – The Msgr. James A Ruddy Division  
Some upcoming events -Christmas donations to

Saint Mary's Food Pantry, Food donation to Feed Our Veterans Watertown, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, AOH holiday get together, Life Right Program in Watertown, N.Y. Pro Life walk Carthage N.Y

3 new members since the State Convention

**Oswego** - The Dean Michael Barry Division # 1 added 19 members this year and 7 since the State Convention

## ***DISTRICT 4***

### ***DENNIS GROGAN***

Greetings from District 4; Despite the difficulties presented by the Delta-variant of the COVID-19 virus, District 4 has been very active in conducting meetings, holding events and recruitment. I want to express my admiration of and appreciation to the County Presidents leading the way and getting things back on track in District 4.

Within the District, we have focused much effort on the recruitment of new members and to support challenging situations with existing Divisions.

### ***Bronx County***

Bronx County Board President, Martin Galvin, reports that he and his executive board are focusing their efforts on recruitment. The County Board is assisting in the reorganizing of Division 5 and have several transfers lined up to join that Division. The Board will use each of its events to promote recruitment.

Congratulations to the County Board and Divisions on the successful Gaelic Mass held on Saturday, October 2, at St. Barnabas Church. This year's Mass was dedicated to the memory of the 1981 Hunger Strikers who lost their lives and all the deceased members of the Bronx County AOH. There was great attendance from the community as well as brother and sister Hibernians. The tradition of the Masses in Gaelic is a strong reminder of our common heritage, the importance of our ancestral language and the community of faith which we share.



On Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Bronx County Board held its annual Dinner Dance. This year's event honored Congressman Eliot Engel, AOH National President Danny O'Connell and Nuata Shanley.

### **New York County Report**

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, NY County held a Social at the Black Sheep restaurant in Manhattan. With no formal agenda, President Hamilton wanted to give our Brothers an opportunity to emerge from the "lock down" and strengthen our bonds of Friendship and Unity. Also, it helped support one of our NY County brothers, Tom McGrath, as he reopens the Black Sheep after being shut down for nearly 18 months. Our Brother, Tom completed 4 marathons in 4 days to raise funds for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, whose programs aid first responders and their families. Great Going, Tom.



On Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, New York County together with the Ladies AOH and the Sisters of Life at

10:15 a.m. Respect Life Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Following the Mass, our AOH and LAOH members from NYS shared a brunch at Connolly's on E. 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Due to the support of all, NY County AOH and LAOH Boards were able to present \$1,800.00 to the Sisters of Life for their continued activities supporting the sanctity of life.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Division 7 held its Celtic Cruise raffle. Unfortunately, the actual cruise had to be postponed due to the newly imposed Covid-19 guidelines, but the raffle went forward at Maggie's Place on E. 47<sup>th</sup> St. The proceeds of the raffle, which exceeded \$15,000.00, went to the Emerald Isle Immigration Center to assist it with its valuable work.

On December 18, 2021, at 12:00 pm, NY County will be co-sponsoring the annual Wreaths Across America at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. Please consider joining your brothers at the ceremony. You're welcome to invite everyone you know. This is a free event open to everyone and it is especially wonderful for kids and families.

### **Westchester County Report**

County Board President, Clive Cronin, is working hard to see that the enthusiasm and affairs in Westchester County keep going strong. Attendance at the County Board meetings is strong and there is renewed effort at recruitment and assisting struggling divisions. On a sad note, the Brothers of Westchester County lost one of their own - Robert Bateman. Bob was a National Lifetime Member and past National Historian.

The Hudson Valley Irish Festival was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, it was once again a great success thanks to the Brothers of Division 18 Peekskill that supply the manpower to run the festival, without them there would be no festival. The County staffed a recruitment table at the Festival and received 17 application; 12 of which were scheduled for taking the oath of the Order at November meetings. Great job!!!.

**DISTRICT 5**  
**KIERAN MAHONEY**

Kings County is holding a 50/50 Raffle At this point total is \$3,000.00, the drawing will be held at Leif Bar in Brooklyn before the Division 12 Meeting. The County spent time recruiting at the Great Irish Fair. Division 12 had its annual boat ride in August, where we raised funds and donated to Bay Ridge Catholic Schools. Division 35 and Division 12 helped out at food pantries in Brooklyn at the Resurrection, OLPH and OLA Churches.

Kings County AOH/ LAOH will have an AOH Honoree night at the Baile na Gaile in Brooklyn. December 12. Honored will be Jerry McCabe of AOH Div. 12 and Joann of LAOH Div. 22.

Division 12 will make a Donation to the Children's Foundation at their Christmas party. Divisions 12, 19, and 35 have been doing well all year keeping the Kings County AOH alive and well. During these trying times we not only survived, but we thrived. We managed to Donate time, and money to the many different organizations that needed assistance. Additionally we managed to increase our membership by 8 throughout Brooklyn.

Queens: All Divisions have been active in their recruitment efforts. I would like to thank Tim McSweeney for all his efforts in sending the online forms of prospective members. We have been able bring some of them into our meetings. Division 21 had their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival and made donations to their community for a grand total of \$47,500. Great work brothers.

In September the Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade honored one of our members in their parade, and there was AOH interest driven from the event as well! Many brothers are involved in organizing that event.

Richmond: Divisions are gearing up for their voting season and preparing for the Richmond County Parade on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Preceding that the Richmond County Ball will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, more



On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Davison 18 (Peekskill) held "An Afternoon of Irish Heritage" including a band, Irish Dancers and Pipers, at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Hall in Verplank NY. They also held a "Thanksgiving raffle".

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Division 16 (Pelham /New Rochelle) held an event - Honor the Rebels of 1916 and others that contributed to the Fight for Irish Freedom that had associations with New Rochelle.

details to follow.

As always recruiting efforts are being made throughout the county.

## ***DISTRICT 6 JACK RYAN***

It's been only three weeks since the NYS AOH Board meeting in Monroe, New York, when I submitted my report on the State of Affairs of District 6, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

I would like to reiterate my admiration for both County Boards and their Divisions, operating at a very high professional level. I feel that all Officers are keeping our Hibernian values, goals and traditions centered in their minds when carrying out their responsibilities. I am honored to be able to work with everyone and I support the fine work they do.



Currently, Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal, Annual Per Capita fees for County, State and National Jurisdictions, Charities and Missions, Thanksgiving Baskets and Turkey Donations, Annual Division Christmas Parties and Fundraising

Events are all part of the year end activities of the County and Division Boards.

## ***DISTRICT 7 JOHN WALKER***

District 7 continues to be busy by raising monies for our mission. Both Hornell and Elmira held their Irish Festivals, with Elmira having esteemed Guest Brigadier General Katherine Simonson; who serves as the Deputy Assistant Director of Research and Development for the Defense Health Agency.

Broome and Hornell held there Golf Outings. Elmira held their annual Beef Raffle in November and they are gearing up for donation drives for Catholic Charities and other worthy causes. Broome County held their annual Turkey Party in late October. Donations were made recently to Catholic Charities, local food pantries, and Habitat for Humanity. Several members of Broome County have volunteered to help the LAOH Juniors build a ramp for Build-A-Ramp project for the handicapped. Everyone should place March 5<sup>th</sup> on their Calendar and Join Broome County for their annual St. Patrick's Parade. Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season from District 7.

## ***DISTRICT 8 EDMUND T. BURKE***

The District 8 County and Division Presidents, officers, and members thank the State Board for convening a successful fall meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Parish in Monroe. In the afternoon, a team from Orange County held a Shamrock Degree for more than twenty-five brothers from seven different counties. Following the Shamrock Degree, the Cu Chulainn Celtic Warriors Major Degree Team from Richmond County conducted a Major Degree. The day ended with an evening of Irish entertainment at Division #1's hall in Monroe.

Orange County Division #1 Vice-President Kevin Strommer is getting ready to take another "Polar Plunge" on behalf of New York State Special

Olympics. Thanks to the State Board for getting onboard with a \$100 sponsorship! As the leader of the division's Lt. Allen Junior Division, Brother Strommer plans to involve the juniors in this effort to raise money to send Special Olympians to compete in upcoming games.

As Division #2 in Cornwall has continued work to upgrade their hall, Brother Kevin Cummings reports that the schedule for use of the hall has been filling up competitively over the fall. Brother Chuck Parnow in Rockland Division #3 similarly states that their Hibernian House has run into scheduling conflicts due to demand. Some events on the calendar include: a Night at the Races, Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon, a Special Needs Community Christmas Event, and the traditional Wren Night on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

On the recruitment side, Division #3 in Warwick plans to initiate a new look on Facebook. While they did not hold a day of golf in the snow this year, they are already looking forward to their next golf outing in early May of 2022. Division #4 in Middletown successfully moved their meeting night to the first Thursday of the month at the Dikeman Firehouse in Goshen to encourage attendance at meetings. They look forward to initiating a new member in December. The Brothers from the Msgr. Sheahan Division in Dutchess County took applications at a festival in October, and initiated four new members at their November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Division #1 in Ulster County welcomed a new member in September.

## ***ORGANIZER TIM WEKLAR***

As we head into the Christmas season, division presidents and their executive boards are getting ready to be installed along with 2022's appointed chairmen throughout the state. I strongly urge our leaders at the local level to make recruitment and retention a priority in the upcoming year. This starts with appointing a capable and motivated division organizer and setting a recruitment goal at your first officers meeting for the year. You will want to set a goal that is achievable and discussed at your monthly meetings (like 10% increase of the total

division). From there the organizer and the committee should start planning recruitment events, whether it is an open house at your hall, a recruitment table at your parish's pancake breakfast or using a recruitment tent at a cultural festival in the fall. Ultimately our general membership is our best recruitment tool. I bet most of you reading this were brought into the Order by a family member or close friend. Presidents, after the gavel is placed into your hand, challenge your general membership to sponsor a new member this year and remind your membership at your meetings and in your emails. As always I am available to help in your organizing efforts.

Recruitment Tents: As stated at the Fall Board Meeting, a pricing list from the tent company will go out to shortly to state directors. We hope to have a bulk order of tents ordered by mid January so the tents will be ready for March events. Currently we have three AOH entities interested in purchasing tents.

Good news: At the Fall State Board National Director/National Organizer Tim McSweeney reported that membership is up in NYS over 1%. Furthermore, many state directors mentioned in their reports increases in membership in the divisions and counties they serve along with many candidates that will be joining the Order before the end of the year. Thank you for your efforts in growing our Order!

## ***FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND VINCE TYER***

**Legacy Issues** - In September I sponsored a memorializing resolution in the Rockland County Legislature outlining the legacy issues and calling on US elected representatives to hold the British government to their previous commitments before the US offers the UK any preferential trade deals. [Click here to read](#). Please feel free to use it as a template for other Local, County and State Resolutions to focus more attention on this and create more support among US elected officials.

**Congressional Support** - On October 27<sup>th</sup> myself and Neil Cosgrove (National PEC Chair) and Lawrence Garvey (Rockland County GOP Chair)



immigration into the United States and provides many sobering statistics showing how Ireland and Northern Ireland only received 32 visas in the 2020 Diversity Lottery citizens, a rate of one visa for each county in Ireland.

I strongly encourage every Hibernian to read *Unintended Consequences* to better understand the nearly insurmountable obstacles facing the Irish who are seeking to emigrate to the United States and reflect upon the various perspectives of resolving these issues from different voices within the Irish Immigration reform movement. We will be working with our County Boards to organize events to invite Ray O'Hanlon to speak online and in person on immigration issues to the broader Irish-American community throughout New York State.

To order a copy of *Unintended Consequences*, please visit:

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0913JDMYW/ref=dp-kindleredirect?\\_encoding=UTF8](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0913JDMYW/ref=dp_kindleredirect?_encoding=UTF8)

### ***EDITOR***

***TOM MCKENNA***

Deadlines for The Empire State Hibernian are:  
February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 for the March 2022 issue  
And May 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 for the June 2022 issue.

If possible, please send photos as separate attachments. *Please submit all information through the appropriate officer, chairman or your district director.*

### ***PUBLICITY***

***JOHN O'CONNELL***

Brothers, just a reminder about how important it is to publicize the good works of your division and to let your broader community know about the fundraising and charity events you hold. As more division activities are planned, e.g. a feis, golf outings, communion breakfasts, holy Masses, donation-check presentations, a music festival, an FFAI or Hibernian Hunger Project event, etc., it's essential for the good of the Order to let everyone in your parish, village or town about what you are doing. Why?

One, it helps in recruitment. When other Irish Catholics see what Hibernians are doing it might ignite in them a desire to be part of the organization. If you keep your events or good actions quiet you deny the Order the opportunity to grow.

Second, publicizing your good works dispels stereotyping and defamation. When people who are ignorant of our proud heritage and penchant for Christian Charity see what good we do they will learn about our Order's value in the community.

Third, publicizing events and good deeds — before they happen and after — informs office holders and politicians about the strength of the Irish-American community within their constituencies. Public officials respect power, and when we let them know the good we do and the unity we project we will be letting them know we have influence deserving of respect.

So don't hide your good deeds under the proverbial bushel basket. Let our light shine!

### ***SCHOLARSHIP***

***DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE***

All applications and materials will be available on our website by December 31<sup>st</sup> and applications will be accepted commencing January 1<sup>st</sup>. Scholarships will be awarded based on the results of the judges' ratings of the applications as well as the scores on a heritage exam.

All deadlines and instructions will be published on the website and via email so please watch out for them.

### ***FUND RAISER CALENDAR***

***CY HUGHES***

The calendar program starts January 1, 2002, if you have a calendar make sure you sent in the payment so you will be eligible from the first day.

The calendars are \$25; you have 365 chances to collect \$25. On Wednesday you can win \$75; on St. Brigid's and St. Patrick's Day the prize is \$10. If you can't get a calendar call me at 914 804-7162.

## ***BUY IRISH CLIVE CRONIN***

Our State Webmasters are working on creating a dedicated Buy Irish Webpage for our State website. I have been working on providing them with content; this Webpage will continue to be a work in progress. Over the coming weeks and months we will be adding more businesses to promote, not only businesses based in the United States, but also based in Ireland.

Once the Webpage is up and running please check it out and share the information with your family, friends, and on your social media, we can all do our part to help promote these Irish businesses and business owners. I will also be working with our State social media chair on this.

Seeing as Christmas is around the corner, one of the organizations that I think you would be very interested in, that we are partnering with to promote is called, "[NACTA](#)". Click on their website and you will see vendors selling everything from Irish food products to Jewelry and Clothing. You can find stores near you by putting your zip code into a Google maps Geotagging search bar on their website. Obviously you can also shop online; some of the vendors are based in Ireland.

Now more than ever we have to do everything in our power to keep our Irish Heritage and Culture alive, that especially includes supporting Irish businesses. Please Buy Irish when possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. C: 646-491-2665 E: [clivecronin@gmail.com](mailto:clivecronin@gmail.com)

## ***COMMODORE BARRY WILLIAM FLYNN***

Honoring a great and heroic Irish-American; "Commodore John Barry Day" was proudly commemorated by Hibernians throughout New York State on September 13, 2021. AOH Divisions remembered the many accomplishments of

Commodore Barry throughout September at public events, local TV news segment and division meetings. Commodore Barry is also known as the



"Father of the American Navy".

Msgr. James A Ruddy Division 1, Jefferson County, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Watertown NY, the Irish Flag and US Navy Flag being raised in honor

of "Commodore John Barry Day" at Watertown City Hall.

Front row Lisa L'Huillier, City Council Member, Bill Flynn, AOH Division President, Sarah Compo Pierce, City Council Member, Ed Wallace, Past National AOH President,



George Sheehan, AOH Member, Sean Hennessey, Past NYSAOH Director District 3, Past AOH Division President, Back row Hank McCarty, Division Member, Mark Loftus, Division Member, Tim Sweeney, Division Vice President.

## ***SPORTS MICHAEL BYRNE***

The New York AOH State Annual Bowling Tournament will be held on Sat, Jan 22, 2022. The tournament will be held at the AMF Babylon Lanes, 430 Sunrise Hwy West Babylon NY 11704.

We will be running a two-person team competition. Registration will start at 3 pm; the bowling competition will start at 4 pm sharp. A buffet dinner and presentations will follow at Hibernian Hall, 85 Grand Ave, Massapequa, NY 11758. The cost of the event is \$40 per bowler. This includes 3 rounds of bowling, bowling shoes, and admission to the reception at Hibernian Hall.

You do not have to be an experienced bowler or Hibernian member to participate. If you cannot bowl and wish to come to the reception only, it is \$20 per person (starting at 7 pm) this is designed to be a fun, social event. This event is open to both ladies and men. Mixed teams are welcome. We depend on all our sponsors to make the event a success: Entertainment Sponsor \$200, Dinner Sponsor \$200, Gold Sponsor \$100, Silver Sponsor \$50. [Click here to download](#) registration and sponsorship forms

We realize it is unfair to ask people to attend the bowling from across the state. This year, as discussed at the semi-annual board meeting, we are looking for each district to run a tournament, and have the top teams in each district have a playoff, possibly in the fall at a central location. We are depending on our district directors to make this happen. I am available to assist with anything they might need.

I would like to thank everyone who played in this year's James F Hayes Golf Classic. Thanks to all the counties, divisions, and members who supported and contributed to the Austin V Carew Scholarship Fund. Please mark your calendar for Friday April 29, 2022. We are looking for all counties and divisions to sponsor this year. We have a weekend of exciting events planned. If you have not been to the Catskills for our spring weekend before, please consider it in 2022. The weekend is casual, relatively inexpensive, and a great way to interact with other Hibernians from across the state. More information to follow.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

## ***CATHOLIC ACTION*** ***JAMES RUSSELL***

A Blessed Advent to All!

Church Vandalism: I continue to be vigilant regarding the various acts of Church vandalism that have taken place in NYC and surrounding metropolitan area. My office will continue to issue press releases which are sent out to almost 2 dozen media outlets in the metropolitan New York area. As I have previously mentioned, some of our press releases have been published by Irish Echo and Irish Central.

We continue to call upon our elected officials to do more when it comes to these acts of hate. We also encourage our membership to contact their elected officials to express their displeasure of what is going on.

Articles for Website/Social Media (In Process):

- Article about Advent (4 Sundays of Advent)
- Article about Feast of the Immaculate Conception

My email address is [russe340@aol.com](mailto:russe340@aol.com) and my cell phone # is 845-300-2930 should you or a member of your county/division need to reach me.

Let us continue to pray for one another!

## ***PRO-LIFE*** ***EDWARD J. WALLACE***

Many thanks go out to New York State Brother & Sister Hibernians who participated in some way during October's Pro-Life month and throughout the year. A special thanks to New York County for hosting the Pro-Life Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Cardinal Dolan. Breakfast and brotherhood at Connolly's following the Mass was very enjoyable. I would like to see a similar Pro-Life Mass organized in the Capital District and in Central/Northern NY so that more brother and sister Hibernians can participate, pray for the life of the unborn and support the anti-abortion movement.

These could be staggered at different times. **Directors take note.** I encourage all AOH divisions to actively plan on at least one Pro-Life (Respect Life) activity sometime during the year. This should be a part of the Hibernian calendar – whether it’s a designated Mass for the unborn, vigils, life-chains, prayer groups, silent-protest gatherings at abortion mills, reciting the rosary, signing anti-abortion petitions or letters to politicians in support of constitutional right to life or personhood for the unborn or in opposition to abortion practices.

We expect a huge turnout in Washington, DC on January 21, 2022 for the annual March for Life. Let’s show our logo and our colors with banners, sashes and signs shouting loud and clear that Hibernians are Pro-Life. There is strength in numbers. We are encouraged to see Students for Life marching in larger numbers each year. We as Irish-American Catholics need to do the same.

## ***HISTORIAN***

***PATRICK S. MILLER, PHD.***

### **On Every Front, Every Facet**

First and foremost, my fellow Hibernians, I wish you Peace in this, our cherished Christmas Season. May you and your families kindle the great Love we profess in the world and in our own hearts; Happy Christmas!

We Hibernians must, with all available vigor, rekindle our organizational and community activities. In doing so, no matter what aspect of our collective work, we create opportunities to grow and have positive effect on all our organizational efforts. We Historians are no exception. In fact, as our beloved bard, Mike McCormack, said recently, “...let the Historians show the way.”! To that end, with the approval of Worthy NYS President Manning, I have commissioned the NYS AOH History Council. The council is a state level committee that will not only produce articles and social media content, but will work with the division historians to produce even more stewarded

content and assist in the local organization of events and communications.

The council is made up of 2 historians from each of our 8 State Districts. Nominees are vetted / nominated by their District Director. There are positions open in District 1 (1), District 4 (2), District 5 (2), District 6 (1), District 7 (2), and District 8 (1). If you are one of our many historians and are interested in serving on the council, please contact your District Director or me at [psmiller@gmail.com](mailto:psmiller@gmail.com). Keep an eye out for new articles on our NYS website and social media over the holidays by History Council member and acclaimed author Brother Michael McCarthy and History Council member, and our Bard, Mike McCormack. Lastly, we will also be re-publishing some material by our dearly departed brother and historian, Colonel Bob Bateman. Requiesce in pace, Frater. Beir Bua!

## ***SNOWBIRD SOCIAL***

The 5th annual AOH Snowbird Social will take place, Thursday Feb. 17, noon -3pm at Tim Finnegan’s Pub 2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, FL. Join Fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun, food and music benefiting Hibernian Charities. Hot lunch and one drink \$25.00. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Contact Tim Myles [Timtam614@aol.com](mailto:Timtam614@aol.com) or 516-660-7456, Jim Sullivan [Jim@brooklynirish.org](mailto:Jim@brooklynirish.org) or 347-224-4822.

## ***CHARITIES AND MISSIONS***

### ***TIM TOBIN***

Greetings Brothers! I hope this finds everyone in good health and looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season. While we still face challenges from the pandemic and economic uncertainty, this is the time for us, as Hibernians, to continue our charitable traditions by helping those in our communities in need of assistance.

As we move closer to Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus, I encourage all to do an additional act of kindness and charity this time of year. As his birth brought hope to the world, we can all try to

find time to provide hope for others in this busy season. Volunteer at the local food bank, community kitchen, sponsor a holiday food basket drive or clothing drive. Reach out to our local churches, community agencies, and local schools to support their social outreach.

One suggestion is to provide, “Bags of Hope” full of much needed personal items. Those who receive SNAP and other public assistance are often prohibited from using benefits to purchase needed personal items, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, paper products, cleaning supplies, and laundry detergent to name a few. I encourage each of us to gather a Bag of Hope for those in need and donate it to your local parish or community outreach program.

Kudos to the Monsignor John J. Lee Division, Chemung County, for assisting with a fundraiser to help with the expenses of a local health care worker challenged by glioblastoma. The division offered the use of their hall, manned the kitchen and prepared the meals to support the fundraising event. The fundraiser raised close to ten thousand dollars. Well done brothers.

Your assistance is needed to share the good work of our order. It is helpful to hear about the charity work divisions across the state are doing. Please help to spread the word of our work by contacting me at: 607-742-2723 (cell) 607-734-1178 (home). E-mail me at [nyaohcharity@gmail.com](mailto:nyaohcharity@gmail.com) or [timothyjtobin1@gmail.com](mailto:timothyjtobin1@gmail.com)



Elmira Hibernian Kitchen crew hard at work prepping for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Pictured are John Thompson, Ken McCort, Gene McNulty, PJ White and John Donahue.

### **Hibernian Charity across New York State at Thanksgiving**

Hibernian Charity across New York State is in abundance this Thanksgiving season. We are proud to share a few examples of “Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity” this Thanksgiving season. To quote from the Utica AOH, “feeding the hungry holds a special place in the hearts of Hibernians.” May we give thanks for the blessings in our life and reach out to help others.

Babylon Junior Division, St. Patricks Division #2, Suffolk County



The AOH, Division 2, Babylon, NY Junior Boys and Junior Girls are to be commended for their charitable work. Supported by the division

membership, the Juniors provided thirty-two turkeys and created baskets full of trimmings for local distribution.

ELMIRA AOH, Monsignor John. J. Lee Division #1, Chemung County

The Monsignor John J. Lee Division, Chemung County, Elmira, NY



donated and delivered turkeys to the Samaritan Center of Catholic Charities. The division provided turkeys to fill the Catholic Charities waiting list for Thanksgiving assistance. In addition, they donated complete Thanksgiving dinners to area families in conjunction with school social workers



In addition, they presented a \$1,500 check to Tunnels to Towers. Funds were raised through a car wash, pancake breakfast, and t shirts sales; Great work by all. Thank you to Division 2 AOH Vice President, Dennis Harty, and LAOH Division 2 Vice-President, Jeanne Lambert for your leadership.



UTICA AOH, John C. Devereux Division #1,  
Oneida County

The Utica Hibernians, in cooperation with several local organizations, came together to provide 5,000 pounds of potatoes. They divided these into five-pound bags to distribute along with 1,000 turkeys and trimmings for area families for Thanksgiving. The division gives thanks for their partnership with Oneida County Farm Bureau, Utica College Pioneers, Utica Food Pantry, Irish Cultural Center of Mohawk Valley, Oneida County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Foundation, Utica Sports Alliance and Simmons Farm in Vernon Center. Great work all.



## **LEGAL COUNCIL**

### **A.J. SMITH**

I want to take a moment to thank our State Vice-President, and long time State Legal Counsel, Tom O'Donnell, for all the work he did over many years as our legal counsel. He is doing a great job for the Organization as an elected officer and did a great job as State Counsel. I also want to publicly thank him for all his help in the transition: thank you Tom.

Since taking over this position, I have been involved in various tasks for the Organization. Currently, I am working closely with the State Board as preparations are ongoing for our next State Convention in Rochester. I will be part of the team to review the accommodations and negotiate the details of our stay. The Convention at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in 2023 promises to be a very special event and I hope all Brothers are already planning ahead for this event.

On a personal level, it has been several years since I have served on the State Board. My last position was as an elected District Director. I had served in a leadership position in my seaside community during and after Super storm Sandy, and, admittedly, I was not as active in the A.O.H. as I had been over the years. After that, all of us lost the ability to gather because of the COVID situation.

I say this because I thought it was great to see so many Brothers at the Syracuse Convention. Renewing old friendships and telling tall tales from years ago, while making new memories, this was very special for me. I once again urge all Brothers, if possible, to make plans to get to the Rochester Convention. It is a great way to fully appreciate how important our Organization is in preserving our heritage, and it's a great way to catch up with, and make new, friends.

Finally, I would like to thank our State President, John Manning, for appointing to the position of State Legal Counsel.