



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

May 2026

Volume 8 Issue 5

President's Message



Brothers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Spring State Board meeting at Tara Hall last month. A great deal of valuable information was shared, and your participation made it a productive gathering. These meetings are

among the most important things we do as an organization—they give us the opportunity to come together as Division leaders from across the state and exchange ideas. If something is working well in Cincinnati, we want our brothers in Youngstown to benefit from it.

That said, several Divisions were not represented at our last meeting. If we are to remain a strong and growing organization, we need full participation. While we are a volunteer organization, leadership comes with responsibility. Division Presidents, if you are unable to attend a State Board meeting, please ensure that someone from your Division is there in your place. Meetings are intentionally scheduled in Columbus for central access, so every Division should be able to have representation.

Our next State Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 24, 2026, at Tara Hall in Columbus. With both Ohio State and Notre Dame on a bye week, travel should be easier. Please make every effort to ensure your Division is represented.

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Chaplain's Comments



April showers bring May flowers!

We have all heard this and we can see the flowers popping up everywhere. We see the trees blossoming, the birds returning, squirrels are out of hibernation and running around digging up their nuts; we can see activities of re-birth and new life all around us. The Easter Season is a time of rebirth not only for the Church, but in nature as well.

Brothers, this is a time for us to be reborn as well. As we are reborn in the Spirit through the Resurrection of Christ which we are celebrating during the Easter Season, we can be reborn in faith and service to others. As Hibernians, we are called to celebrate our faith and our heritage through Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

This Easter Season, let us see a rebirth of our commitment to our organization, our parishes, and our fellow man. We each have particular talents and gifts that God has blessed us with to help the Church in its mission to save souls. We do this as Hibernians through our service projects, charitable events and providing examples for others to witness faithful men living their faith in their everyday lives.

Let us take the time to evaluate our commitment to our division. Let us look at what we spend our time doing other things and see if we can carve out a few more hours to attend meetings, participate in groups activities and bring our gifts and our talents together with the members of the division who are

Continued on Page 2

President’s Message, cont.

The AOH National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska is quickly approaching. If you plan to attend, please make your reservations as soon as possible and notify State Secretary Pete Chrystal. He will need to submit Ohio’s delegate count to National Secretary Ray Lynch in the coming weeks. You can book your hotel and register for the convention at www.omahairish2026.com. Division Presidents, your Division should help to offset attendance costs. I would like to see a full Ohio delegation this year.

Project St. Patrick is now underway. Donation forms can be found at www.aoh.com/forms. Please scroll to the bottom to locate them. Every Division is encouraged to contribute, as this initiative is one of the four pillars of the AOH. In addition to the donation form, there is a Division Diocese Form that must be completed and submitted to National Project

St. Patrick Chair Kevin Delaney later this summer. This form includes information about your Diocesan Vocations Director and ensures that funds raised are directed back to your local Diocese. Please be sure to complete and submit both forms. The AOH was founded to protect the clergy—let us continue that mission.

Finally, as many of you know, Worthy National President Sean Pender has appointed me Interim National Treasurer following the resignation of Dan Devinney due to health reasons. Most of you have known Dan from his time as our National Director. Please keep him in your prayers. I will be running for a full term as National Treasurer in Omaha, and I sincerely appreciate your support during this transition and moving forward.

In Motto
Denny

Chaplain’s Comments, cont.

always at the meetings and at all the events, to make them better and help the division’s work increase in quality and effectiveness to help more people in need.

Reborn in the Spirit through our experience of the risen Lord, let us go about as the Apostles did after the resurrection. Let us proclaim the good news with conviction and surety, and let other experience Friendship as they see us together around town. Let them experience the Unity that we share in faith, work, and life. And let them experience our Christian Charity that flows forth from God’s love and can be seen in the many good works that we do.

It takes each and every one of us to make these things happen. It is a lot easier and more fruitful if

we all can give a little time to use the gifts and talents God gave us together. If you haven’t been to a meeting or participated in any events for a while, please consider coming out and spending some time with the rest of your division.

God Bless,
Deacon Bruce



2025 - 2027 Officers

Chaplain	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
President	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com
Vice President	Bruce McPherson hilliardmcperson@gmail.com
Secretary	Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Brown Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com
Director	Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com
Director	Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Past President	Bob Harper harper.bg@pg.com
National President	Sean Pender paddyspeed@yahoo.com
National Oversight Committee Chairman	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

OHIO DIVISIONS**County/Division Presidents**

Clermont	Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Cuyahoga Board	Tom Ginley tgbigbass@gmail.com
Cuyahoga #2	Jim Kilbane jjk5755@hotmail.com
Cuyahoga #3	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
Franklin #1	Gerard Tracy Gbtracyjr@sbcglobal.net
Hamilton #1	Patrick Ryan patrick.ryan.300@gmail.com
Lucas	Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com
Mahoning #6	Joe McCormick macman23.jm@gmail.com
Medina	Jacob Durda jacob.durda@gmail.com
Montgomery	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
Stark #1	Tom Wolf tomwolfcpa@msn.com
Summit Board	Jim Meszaros meszi01@neo.rr.com
Summit #3	Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com
Summit #2	Ed Morrison edwardcmorrison@outlook.com
Trumbull	Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com
Washington	Bernard Lyons bernardalyons@att.net

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action	Patrick Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
Pro Life	Jacob Durda jacob.durda@gmail.com
FFAI	Patrick Williams karimcwilly@gmail.com
PEC	Mike Cosgrove irish.mick213@gmail.com
Project St. Patrick	Nick Jacobs njacobs@clashmore.com
Missions & Charities	Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com
Organizer	Joe Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Historian	
Veterans Affairs	Joe McCormick macman23.jm@gmail.com
Hibernian Hunger	Dave McLaughlin dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net
Immigration	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com
WebMaster	Marc Wolnitzek marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com

Jim Casey's Email Addressjjcasey973@icloud.com**Newsletter News**

If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at

jjcasey973@icloud.com

The Editor requests that articles be submitted by the 21st of the month preceding the month of publication.

State Organizer Report

The following was sent out recently, from our National Organizer:

As many of you may have noticed, our Order has had a recent surge in applications. This is the result of the investment by the National Board in a partnership with Davy Holden. If you are not yet aware, Davy is a (if not “the”) leading creator of social media content on Irish culture. This surge in applications is clearly a positive, but it is now incumbent upon all of us to work more efficiently to process applications. The expectation of the National Board is as follows:

- 1. Applications received by State leaders should be forwarded to the appropriate Division leaders within 24 hours of receipt. This requires each of us to consistently monitor our email accounts.*
- 2. When forwarding emails to Division leaders, the message should be clear and concise - Division leaders are to make a contact the applicant without delay. This should be done by text, email, phone, or all three.*
- 3. Division leaders must understand that it is a requirement that they report back to State leadership with regular updates until the application is closed.*

I think we have been following this format very well. I received a new list of open applications from the National Organizer last week and I thank those divisions who have responded. Since January, we have received 28 applications, which is great news for Ohio! Please continue to work on these. Once new members are sworn in, be sure to fill out the Form 9 on-line, then send his membership number and name to our National Secretary, Ray Lynch so his card can be generated.

Thank you all for your hard work and assistance.

Joe Casey

Ohio State Organizer

qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Four Past Presidents

The Ohio State Board gathered on April 25th for their Spring State Board meeting at Tara Hall in Columbus. Attending were four Ohio State Board Past Presidents who are all now National Life Members. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Pictured l-r Mike McKenzie, Joe Casey, Ron Hagan and Danny O’Connell.



Ancient Order of Hibernians in America (“AOH”) 2026 “America 250 Essay Contest”

The AOH is pleased to announce the revival of an old tradition, the AOH Irish History Essay Contest.

This contest, which is designed to stimulate an interest in the study of the history of Ireland and the global Irish Diaspora, is open to students who are enrolled in grades 11 or 12 during the 2025/2026 Academic Year.

OFFICIAL RULES

TOPIC: Write an essay on the contributions of men and women of Irish heritage to the founding of the United States of America. All essays should be aligned with, although not necessarily about, the mission, charities, values, and traditions of AOH. Essays should be based on documented historical evidence and primary sources where available. Submissions will be evaluated on historical accuracy, quality of research, and effectiveness in illuminating Irish contributions to the founding of the United States.

ELIGIBILITY: All Grade 11 (Junior) and 12 (Senior) students enrolled in a parochial, public, or private school in the United States or its territories during the 2025/2026 school year, including or those who are home schooled are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. Each participant may submit only one entry.

LENGTH: 1000 to 1,200 words, excluding titles, citations and references.

FORMAT: Essays must be typewritten or word processed in Times New Roman 12-point font. Essay must be submitted in Word format – Google Docs or Drive links will not be accepted. Visually impaired students may utilize adaptive formats/technologies, in which case the submission should include a written transcript and a letter from a teacher or physician attesting to the need for accommodation. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers and should include a bibliography. Criteria include: Proper citation of sources; Correct formatting of the list of works cited; and following MLA rules for margins and indentation.

Each essay must include title page/cover, with the following information:

- 1) Title;
- 2) Contestant’s full name, mailing address, telephone number and email address, if available. (Parent/Guardian or Teacher contact information may be substituted for applicants under 18 years of age);

3) Name of contestant’s school and 2025/26 grade level;

4) Essay word count.

RESOURCES AND ATTRIBUTION: All entries must be the original work of the Student/Contestant and plagiarism in any form is strictly prohibited. Submissions that include copied, paraphrased, or unattributed material from any source, including published content, online content, or artificial intelligence tools will be disqualified. Essay must include a bibliography listing all references utilized. The bibliography should be cited in a standard, recognized citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.). Internet resources, if used, should be cited in the same style, including the electronic address used to access the document and most recent date accessed. Essays should draw from a variety of sources such as academic publications/journals, government documents, books and newspapers/journals. The use of primary sources – original documents and objects created at the time under study, is encouraged. The use of general encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, is prohibited.

ENTRY FORM: All submissions must be accompanied by a fully executed official entry form, signed by the Student/Contestant and their parent or legal guardian, when required.

PRIZES: Two submissions will be selected as prize winners. The author of the First-Place winning essay will receive a monetary prize/scholarship in the amount of three thousand (\$3000.00) dollars. The author of the Second-Place winning essay will receive a monetary prize/scholarship in the amount of one thousand, five hundred (\$1500.00) dollars.

JUDGING: Essays will be judged based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, originality, organization of material, grammar and spelling.

DEADLINE: Submissions, including a fully completed **Entry Form, must be received by June 15, 2026 11:59 P.M., EST to be eligible for consideration.**

SUBMISSION: Entries may be submitted by email to dmtaylorjr@gmail.com

AOH HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM on Page 6.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American





AOH HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM (REQUIRED)

1) Essay Title: _____

2) Contestant's full name: _____

Mailing Address 1: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Parent/Guardian/Teacher name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Teacher email address: _____

3) School and 2025/26 grade: _____

4) Essay word count: _____

Contestant Representations/Acknowledgments:

I, the undersigned Contestant, represent and acknowledge that I have read and will be bound by the Official Contest Rules, that the submitted essay is an original work created solely by me, that the essay does not infringe on the copyrights or intellectual property rights of any person or entity. In consideration of my entry in this contest I grant an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide non-exclusive license to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of my essay, including, but not limited to: Reproducing my essay, together with my name; likeness and school affiliation, online, in print and/or otherwise.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Consent for Minor (under 18) Contestant:

I represent that I am the Parent/Guardian of Contestant _____(name), that I have read the Official Contest Rules and the foregoing Contestant Representations /Acknowledgments and that I give my consent for _____(name) to participate in the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America History Essay Contest under the terms and conditions as described.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

1 Parent/Guardian or Teacher contact information may be substituted for applicants under 18 years of age.



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newsmagazine

April 2026 | Volume 20 - Issue 4

POBLACHT NA h ÉIREANN
THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.



LET THE IRISH HAVE THEIR SAY.

In 1916 the leaders of the Easter Rising, with the support of their "EXILED CHILDREN IN AMERICA," declared a free, sovereign and United Ireland.

In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed, with the support of Irish-America. It provides a peaceful and democratic pathway to Irish Unity.

In 2025 the Irish Parliament unanimously called on the Irish Government to plan and secure a date for the Unity Referendums provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

This Easter, we call on the Irish government to **establish Citizens' Assemblies** to encourage the conversation on the shape of the New and United Ireland.

We urge the Irish and British governments to honor the commitment in the Good Friday Agreement and **set a date for Unity Referendums.**

IT'S TIME FOR THE PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY.



Paid for by Friends of Irish Film, Inc., which is registered with the Department of Justice, Washington D.C. under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of Irish Film. Our website is www.FriendsOfIrishFilm.com.

Catholic Action

The Easter season encompasses the month of May this year. May is also traditionally a month dedicated to Mary. Is your diocese or parish offering any special opportunities to honor the Mother of God? May 14 would be the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord and a holyday of obligation, but all the bishops of Ohio (and most other American bishops) have transferred the solemnity to the following Sunday (May 17).

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF MAY

Joseph the Worker	May 1	
Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor	May 2	Memorial
Our Lady of Fatima	May 13	
Matthias, Apostle	May 14	Feast
Bernardine of Siena, Priest	May 20	
Philip Neri, Priest	May 26	Memorial
Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop	May 27	
Pope Paul VI	May 29	

IRISH SAINTS OF MAY

Ultan, Abbot (d. 686) May 2

St. Ultan, along with his sainted brothers, Furse and Foillan, crossed over to East Anglia together. The East Anglian king, Sigebert I, gave them land at Burgh Castle, near Yarmouth, upon which they founded an abbey. The land was harried by raids from the pagan Mercians, and Furse decided to leave for the Continent, where he died. Years later, Ultan and Foillan stopped at their brother's tomb at Peronne, on the way back from a Roman pilgrimage. They were encouraged to remain in Gaul by Blessed Ita and her daughter, St. Gertrude, who offered them land for a foundation at Fosses. Ultan became the abbot of Fosses, but was later abbot at Peronne, where he died. The saint received a revelation of the death of his brother Furse at the hands of bandits, and he predicted the death of St. Gertrude.

Gibrian (d.c. 515) May 8

Late in the fifth century, an Irish family group consisting of seven brothers and three sisters emigrated to Brittany, looking for an opportunity to serve God there. Gibrian was a priest and the eldest, their leader. They adopted an heremetical life near the Marne, close enough to each other to remain in contact. St. Gibrian died there after a life of prayer and austerity, and a chapel was erected at the site of his hermitage. His relics were removed to Rheims to save them from the Vikings, but they did not survive the destruction wrought by the French Revolution.

Catald, Bishop of Taranto (d.c.685) May 10

Also known as Cathal, this man was a scholarly monk who taught at Lismore. Catald resigned his post and went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On his way home he was somehow chosen as second bishop of Taranto (Tarentum) in Italy, where he remains titular saint of the cathedral.

Conleth, Bishop of Kildare (d.c. 520) May 10

Conleth is also known as Conlaed, and is one of a number of early Irish saints who were said to be skilled workers in metal. He was living as a hermit at Old Connell on the Liffey when he made the acquaintance of St. Brigid. Brigid gave him an avenue for his artistic talents, and later his pastoral skills as well, after he was chosen bishop of Kildare. Conleth is considered by some the fashioner of a crozier presented to St. Finbar, which is preserved to this day. There is an odd story about his being devoured by wolves, but scholars consider it a legendary attempt to explain his name in Gaelic.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Comgall, Abbot of Bangor (c. 517-603)

May 11

St. Comgall, born in Ulster, is considered one of the founders of Irish monasticism. After some years of tutelage under St. Fintan in the monastery of Cloneenagh and his ordination as a priest, Comgall retired to an island in Lough Erne with a few followers. The life of this community was so severe that Bishop Ligid, who had ordained Comgall, prevailed upon him to relax the rule in force there. Later, Comgall founded the great abbey of Bangor, which came to have about 3 thousand monks there and at daughter houses during Comgall's reign. Many sought his spiritual mentorship, including St. Columban, who later carried many Bangor traditions to the Continent. The saint ventured overseas at least once on a missionary journey to the Picts of Scotland in the company of St. Colmcille. A metrical version of a monastic rule attributed to Comgall still exists.

Carthach, Bishop and Abbot (d. 637)

May 14

St. Carthach seems to have adopted his name from his mentor, St. Carthach the Elder, to whom he was known as "Mochuda," or "my Cuda," the last evidently being his given name. He is also known as Carthage. He was a swineherd of Castlemaine, Kerry, till coming under the tutelage of his mentor, who trained him as a monk and ordained him. Carthach lived for a time as a hermit at a place named Kiltulagh, but local ecclesiastical rivalries led him to remove to Bangor where he was directed by St. Comgall. After visiting a number of other monasteries, Carthach eventually settled at Rahan in present County Offaly, c. 595, establishing an abbey which is said to have eventually grown to 800 monks. Carthach's rule for that house is extant, though not likely in its original form. The saint may also have held the bishopric of Fircall. The life at Rahan was very austere, a fact perhaps supplying the motive of two unhappy inmates who attempted to drown Carthach. In 635, the community was broken up when the monks were expelled by Blathmac, a hostile chieftain. After some wandering, Carthach and his followers settled on the banks of the Blackwater, where, on land donated by a local prince, they established the great abbey and school of Lismore. Here again, Carthach is said to have served as abbot-bishop, and is regarded as the founder of the see of Lismore. The saint at some point withdrew from the business of construction of the abbey to a cave in a nearby glen--Mochuda's Inch--where he died in 637.

Brendan, Abbot of Clonfert (d. 577 or 583)

May 16

Despite the fact that St. Brendan is one of the best known of Ireland's saints, the true story of his life is so embellished with legend that it is hard to arrive at very many undisputed details. He was probably born near Tralee. Brendan was under the tutelage of several different spiritual mentors in his youth. He was probably ordained a priest before he became a monk. There is little undisputed evidence to support the story of his far-flung adventures at sea and across the North Atlantic; he probably did voyage to Scotland, and possibly Wales. The most reliable fact about him is that he established the abbey at Clonfert, about 559. Brendan supposedly established a rule for Clonfert, which was dictated to him by an angel. Brendan reputedly died at Enach Duin, where he had gone to visit his sister, Brig, who led a religious community of women there. One thing that is unquestionable about Brendan is that he made an enormous spiritual impression upon his contemporaries.

Madelgisilus (d.c. 655)

May 30

This saint, also known as Mauguille, was a companion of St. Fursey, and accompanied him first to Britain, then to Gaul. Following the death of his friend, Madelgisilus joined the monastic community of Saint-Riquier, later withdrawing to a hermit's life. He had fallen seriously ill when he was discovered in this state by an English recluse named Vulgan, who nursed him back to health. The two became great friends and lived a solitary life not far from each other, dying around the same time.

Continued on Page 10

Catholic Action, cont.

NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

In the sainthood department, two events of interest should stir American Catholics, especially those of Irish extraction. First, on March 23, Pope Leo announced that Boystown founder Father Edward Flanagan has been declared “Venerable.” Second, the Vatican also has announced the beatification of Bishop Fulton Sheen, to be held in St. Louis September 24.

Ohio holds a primary election May 5. Our Catholic faith requires us to vote an informed Catholic conscience, and our bishops continue to stress that the pro-life issue is the preeminent one. For guidance on candidates, see the website of Ohio Right to Life: www.ohiolife.org.

Do you have local news? Please send for inclusion in this report.

Patrick J. Lally

330-792-7135

lally8404@hotmail.com

Pro Life

Just last week, Trumbull county probate judge David Engler has filed a lawsuit to stop the abortion amendment because it eliminated his jurisdiction over judicial bypass proceedings for underage girls to obtain abortions without parental consent. Article I was amended to state that abortions are allowed for any individual, yet article IV of the Ohio constitution states that probate judges have a duty to provide judicial bypass for minors. Because voters were not aware of this conflict, the only way to solve the discrepancy is to halt enforcement of the amendment and create a new ballot initiative without any discrepancies.

A bill was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives advocating for a legal pathway for assisted suicide. In places with legal assisted suicide, people with disabilities often feel coerced with insurance companies covering lethal drugs but not life saving treatments. In Canada, over 100,000 people have died through assisted suicide in just 10 years, including many people with mental illness and disabilities. The suicide rate of a country increases when assisted suicide is legalized.

Jacob Durda,

jacob.durda@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

2026 National Convention

July 16 - 19

Omaha, NE

2027 State Convention

June 24 - 27

Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark OH

Project St. Patrick: A Record Year, and a Bigger Ask Ahead

By Nick Jacobs, Ohio State Chair, Project St. Patrick

Brothers,

Project St. Patrick is one of our oldest and most meaningful mandates — supporting the men preparing to serve us as deacons and priests. The numbers from this past year tell a story worth sharing, and one worth acting on.

In the 2025 cycle, AOH and LAOH together funded a record 119 grants — every applicant who applied received support. Nationally, applications were up 63% year over year, while donations rose only 18.9%. Demand for this program is growing faster than the funds behind it. That is the gap Ohio can help close.

The 2026 Easter Appeal

The 2026 Appeal is underway now, having launched on Ash Wednesday. Donation forms are available on the National AOH website, and there is still plenty of time for your Division or Board to participate before the cycle closes. A few things to keep in mind:

- Make checks payable to Hibernian Charity (not AOH), and use the updated 2026 form — division number and contact info are required.
- One-time and recurring online donations are accepted through the AOH website and Hibernian Charity portal.
- Name Recognition Grants of \$500 or more allow a Division to honor a specific person — a deceased brother, a past officer, or a priest who has served the Division. It is a meaningful way to mark an anniversary or memorial, and the recipient (or their family) receives a recognition certificate.

What I'm Asking of Every Division

Bring the 2026 Appeal to your next meeting. Discuss what your Division or Board can give — no donation is too small — and submit it using the new form. Ohio has the membership and the organization to be one of the leading state boards on this appeal. Let's make 2026 the year we show it.

In our motto,

Nick Jacobs

Ohio State Chair, Project St. Patrick

Email: njacobs@clashmore.com Cell: 330-760-1238

Project St. Patrick Certificate



At the State Board Meeting, President Denny Parks presented our State Chaplain, Deacon Bruce Dobbins, the Project St. Patrick certificate.

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.



Spicy Irish Balls

The Sixth Annual Patrick Pearse Division 1 Freedom for All Ireland Road Bowling fundraiser was held on April 18, 2026 on the Deer Creek Park Beach Road. Our best yet, record attendance of over 120 people, 29 teams, and over \$5,000 raised for Freedom for All Ireland. First Place to Team Spicy Irish Balls (nice name) and Last Place to Team Green Lasses. It rained on and off, so we even felt like we were in Ireland.

Many thanks to our all our participants and sponsors.



Green Lasses.

Our next event will be in April 2027, date to follow. You (really) don't want to miss it!

The Ladies will hold their annual Derby Day Party at Tara Hall on May 2nd. Bets on the horses, silent auction and awards for the best Derby Day hat. They're also selling pins to support our 2027 State Convention at Cherry Valley Hotel. Very distinctive, and only \$5 a pop.

Bluestone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co.

SAVE THE DATE

Hibernian Mass at Immaculate Conception "The Mac" Catholic Church, 4129 Superior Avenue, Cleveland Ohio the mass begins at 10am on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Arrive early and we will process prior to the start of mass. This is the last mass for Immaculate Conception Parish, which was established to support the expanding Irish community in Cleveland 150 years ago. The Cleveland Diocese has decided to merge and acquire assets of Immaculate Conception Parish into St John Evangelist Cathedral Parish, 9th and Euclid.

Robert M. Fitzgerald Golf Outing! Friday, July 17, 2026, Shotgun Start at 1PM Briardale Golf Course, Euclid

A four-person scramble. It is time to pick your foursome More information will be provided in the June Schanachie.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Francis McGarry Reverse Raffle on February 1, 2026 See picture of Bluestone Hibernians. The raffle supports 8th grade students entering Catholic High School and Seminarians in college and Seminary.

FFAI

A few things from Martin Galvin:

Patrick Williams, karimcwilly@gmail.com

Ohio State FFAI

A chairde

Yesterday's in Belfast representatives of 17 FFAI Christmas Appeal grant recipients each spoke about the important work they do for Freedom for all Ireland and how much AOH grants mean to them. The Youtube of yesterday's event will answer all questions about where does the money go.

It will make you proud to be a Hibernian!!!!

<https://aoh.com/2026FFAIgrants>

Martin

AOH MEMBERS WILL MEET FAMILY OF GAA OFFICIAL MURDERED IN 1997

Former Noraid publicity director Martin Galvin is leading a 43-member Ancient Order of Hibernians delegation on a "fact-finding mission" around Northern Ireland. In a 10-day visit, the group will hold talks with campaigners for Irish unity and be briefed by those lobbying on justice issues.

Mr Galvin is now the AOH's Freedom for All Ireland chair. The delegation will meet the family of murdered GAA official Sean Brown. The Government is appealing to the Supreme Court a court ruling that ordered it to hold a public inquiry into his murder.

The 61-year-old was attacked by an LVF gang as he locked the gates of the Wolfe Tones GAA club in Bellaghy in 1997. He was bundled into the boot of his own car and driven to Randalstown where he was shot six times. Nobody has ever been convicted of the murder of the father-of-six. The Browns have asked that the Government's appeal be abandoned, and have called on Secretary of State Hilary Benn to "do the right thing" and hold a public inquiry.

Mr Galvin claimed the Government's actions "in trying to prevent families like the Browns from getting even a gist of truth about collusion" raised serious doubts about how it would "interpret any new legacy legislation". He said: "Irish America has a critical role to play on issues like legacy justice and Irish reunification. We are bringing a high level AOH-Ladies delegation to the north to highlight American support for those like the Brown family, and so many others still fighting for legacy truth. "It is crucial now more than ever that we bring the facts back across America and do more nationally to support those still denied justice and freedom. "We will be visiting the sites where Sean was abducted and murdered. Belfast High Court and the Court of Appeal upheld the coroner's actions in acknowledging that intelligence reports linked multiple British agents to the murder, and ordering a public inquiry. "The family is now deeply concerned that Hilary Benn's approach will end their hopes for truth and force them to seek justice in the European Court."

In Belfast, the AOH delegation will meet Relatives for Justice's Mark Thompson and Amnesty International's Grainne Teggart to discuss legacy issues and be briefed on the Springhill-Westrock massacre inquest, with the verdict due soon. Five civilians, including three teenagers and a priest, were killed in the massacre on July 9, 1972.

In Derry, the AOH delegation will receive a briefing from SDLP MP Colum Eastwood. They are also set to meet the Bloody Sunday families and relatives of former Sinn Fein leader the late Martin McGuinness at the Museum of Free Derry before a tour of Bogside Murals with the Bogside Artists.

The AOH is also presenting nearly \$150,000 in Freedom for all Ireland grants which will be broadcast live to the US from the grounds of Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne on Saturday. The 17 successful applicants include the Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, the Bloody Sunday Trust, Relatives for Justice, and the EALU Centre for its work with former republican prisoners in Tyrone.

Other recipients include Ireland's Future, Ardoyne Youth Club, Belfast National Graves and Tyrone National Graves, Bridges Beyond Boxing, and the Martin McGuinness Foundation.