



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*February 2025*

*Volume 7 Issue 2*

## President's Message



Happy St. Brigid's Day. February 1st is the start of Celtic spring. Let's hope that warmer weather is on the way. The month of January was a busy month across Ohio. New Division and County President's were installed and events were held across the State.

I was able to attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. along with FFAI Chair Pat Williams and Catholic Action Chair Pat Lally. I was proud to represent Ohio at all of the events I attended there. The Top Four (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) continue to meet monthly via Zoom. These meetings allow us to chart a course for the Ohio AOH and are invaluable for sharing information.

Division President's and Financial Secretaries, please remember to have your assessments in to all superior boards by February 15. Please also submit your Missions and Charities and Hibernian Hunger forms in to the National Board by that date as well.

Brothers, if you are appointed as a committee chair on the Ohio State Board, you are ex-officio an member of the National Committee. Please make sure that you attend the quarterly meetings of the National committee that you are a part of. The point of these calls is to have you disseminate to the division chairs what you learn at these meetings. If you need email addresses for your committee's division chairs, please contact me.

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## Chaplain's Comments



Recalling images of Pope Francis, the one thing that strikes me is the expression of expectation on the faces of the people as they encounter the Pope. It appears as if they are all expecting to see Christ in his person. They desire to see Christ because that is what they need; people are starving for an encounter with Christ. They want an encounter with Christ, and they look to the Pope to find it. They do because Pope Francis also has the same expression on his face. He is expecting to see the face of Jesus in the people he meets. He always has a smile on his face because he is overjoyed. He is overjoyed because he recognizes Christ in them, and his reaction is to serve the body of Christ in love and charity. It is in his response that satisfies the hunger of the faithful as they recognize Jesus in his actions. The encounter with Christ is reciprocal. "Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound." (Hymn: Ubi Caritas, tr. Omer Westendorf (1961), Tune:

CHRISTIAN LOVE, CM, by Paul Benoit (1961)).

We are bound by Christ in familial relationship. As members of the living body of Christ, we are made brothers in Christ and sons of God through adoption. We are called through our baptism to share in God's plan of salvation, which is fulfilled in Christ. We are each created with particular talents and gifts. God created us in a particular way to serve in a particular faculty. We are called to serve the Church, by using our God given talents

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**President's Message**

If you cannot make the quarterly meeting, please let me know.

If you have a parade or an upcoming event around St. Patrick's Day, please send the information to State Webmaster Marc Wolnitzek to be added to the State Board webpage calendar.

Thank you again brothers for all of your hard work.

In motto,

Denny



**Chaplain's Comments, cont.**

and gifts in a manner which is most efficacious for its members. Meaning, we are to help each other get to heaven.

We each have a particular role to play in God's plan of salvation. We have been provided with a role model; Jesus Christ. His life on earth provides examples of how we should conduct ourselves in service to others. We have the opportunity to share with others the love we have for the Lord. In sharing of ourselves, we share Jesus with others. In faith we are bound to one another in Christ. It is the love we have for God, and the love he extends to us,

that we are given to share with others. In charity, we freely give of ourselves for the benefit of others.

As we continue our works of charity, brothers, let us look expectantly on the faces of those we serve. Let us look to them to recognize the face of Christ in the world. Pray my brothers that as we serve others through our charitable works in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, they will recognize Christ in us. Remember, "Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound."

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

**March for Life**

On January 24, 2025, members of the Ohio State Board joined Hibernians from across the United States to march in the annual March for Life. Pictured in front of the National Archives building are State FFAI Chair Patrick Williams, State President Denny Parks and State Catholic Action Chair Pat Lally.



## 2023 - 2025 Officers

<b>Chaplain</b>	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
<b>President</b>	Dennis Parks <a href="mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com">dparks121@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hilliardmcperson@gmail.com">hilliardmcperson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Greg Brown <a href="mailto:Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com">Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	John Myers <a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	Chris Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Bob Harper <a href="mailto:harper.bg@pg.com">harper.bg@pg.com</a>
<b>National President</b>	Sean Pender paddyspeed@yahoo.com
<b>National Oversight Committee Chairman</b>	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

## OHIO DIVISIONS

### County/Division Presidents

<b>Clermont</b>	Douglas Gerrard <a href="mailto:dpgerrard@aol.com">dpgerrard@aol.com</a>
<b>Cuyahoga Board</b>	Tom Ginley tgbigbass@gmail.com
<b>Cuyahoga #2</b>	Jim Kilbane jjk5755@hotmail.com
<b>Cuyahoga #3</b>	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.co
<b>Franklin #1</b>	Jerry Tracy Gbtracyjr@sbcglobal.net
<b>Hamilton #1</b>	Tim Oliver <a href="mailto:toliver33@live.com">toliver33@live.com</a>
<b>Lucas</b>	Robert McMahon <a href="mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com">aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mahoning #6</b>	Joe McCormick macman23.jm@gmail.com
<b>Medina</b>	Scott Manley scott.manley@assuredpartners.com
<b>Montgomery</b>	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
<b>Stark #1</b>	Tom Wolf tomwolfcpa@msn.com
<b>Summit Board</b>	Jim Meszaros <a href="mailto:meszi01@neo.rr.com">meszi01@neo.rr.com</a>
<b>Summit #2</b>	Ed Morrison edwardcmorrison@outlook.com
<b>Summit #3</b>	Michael Namsick <a href="mailto:mpnamsick@gmail.com">mpnamsick@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trumbull</b>	Marty McQuaide <a href="mailto:emcqu@aol.com">emcqu@aol.com</a>
<b>Washington</b>	Patrick Kelly <a href="mailto:pkelly03@sprynet.com">pkelly03@sprynet.com</a>

## Appointed Officers

<b>Catholic Action</b>	Patrick Lally <a href="mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com">lally8404@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Pro Life</b>	Jacob Durda <a href="mailto:jacob.durda@gmail.com">jacob.durda@gmail.com</a>
<b>FFAI</b>	Patrick Williams <a href="mailto:karimcwilly@gmail.com">karimcwilly@gmail.com</a>
<b>PEC</b>	Mike Cosgrove <a href="mailto:irish.mick213@gmail.com">irish.mick213@gmail.com</a>
<b>Project St. Patrick</b>	Chris Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Missions &amp; Charities</b>	Chris Konik <a href="mailto:chriskonik@mindspring.com">chriskonik@mindspring.com</a>
<b>Organizer</b>	Joe Casey <a href="mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com">qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Finn <a href="mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com">FCoolavin@aol.com</a>
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Doug Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
<b>Hibernian Hunger</b>	Dave McLaughlin <a href="mailto:dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net">dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Immigration</b>	John Myers <a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>

### Jim Casey's New Email Address

[jjcasey973@icloud.com](mailto:jjcasey973@icloud.com)

## Newsletter News

Just a reminder. 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](mailto:jjcasey973@icloud.com)

The **deadline** for articles is the **24th of the month**.

**Ohio AOH Spring State Board Meeting and Convention site walk through**

Earlier in January, I sent you a save the date for a Spring State Board meeting and State Convention site walk through for April 12th, 2025. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date needed to be changed. The new date of the Spring State Board meeting and State Convention site walk through is **Saturday, March 29, 2025**. The walk through is scheduled to start at 11am and the State Board meeting will start at the hotel immediately following the walk through. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. We usually have our Spring meeting in mid to late April but, Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup> and Divisions are having events the following weekends. Please have your reports into State Secretary by March 22, 2025.

**When:** Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 11am.

**Where:** Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls, 1989 Front St. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Denny Parks

**State Organizer's Report**

The National Organizer will continue his quarterly Organizer Zoom calls on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will report out in the March newsletter any updates as far as the new application program is concerned and when we should expect it to roll out. We still have a couple open applications and the division presidents concerned are working on getting these finalized.

As I mentioned last month, I would like to see each division set a goal of 10% increase in membership during 2025. Every division should be close to finishing their 2024 year-end reports to submit to the State and National. It is easy to determine from these on how well we did with recruitment and retention. We are into the Green Season, a great time to increase membership and possibly bring back some members who have fallen away. Hopefully, all divisions have named an Organizer. This is a very important post that needs to be filled. New division presidents, please appoint your Organizer and send me an email with his name and contact information. My email is [qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com).

Remember, if you haven't submitted your division's assessments yet, be sure to do so by February 15<sup>th</sup> to reap the benefits of the lower amounts.

Thank you for your cooperation and let's make this a great year for the Ohio AOH.

Joe Casey

**Mark Your Calendars****2025 State Convention**

**Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, June 26 - 29**

**2025 Ohio AOH Spring State Board meeting and Convention site walk through**

**Saturday, March 29, 2025**

**Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls**

**1989 Front St. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221**

**2026 National Convention, Omaha NE**

## Spam Email

Brothers,

Thanks for alerting me to the scam email going around pretending to be me. This time, the user is using the following email: **italic in parentheses**.

*(From: Dennis Parks <vinitha04@virginmedia.com>)*

They are getting better and better at trying to scam us. I think they get the names, officer positions and email addresses from our State AOH website. This time, they sent an email pretending that our State Treasurer Greg Brown needs to pay someone. **See italic message below in parentheses.**

*(From: Dennis Parks <vinitha04@virginmedia.com>*

*I would like to know if you're available, Greg needs to pay a vendor today but doesn't have Zelle or PayPal. Please let me know if you can help pay with either of this payment platforms. It's a program expenses for the association and it's urgent, Greg will send you a reimbursement check if you can help, Please get back to me as soon as you get this.*

*Best Regards!*

*Dennis Parks)*

Please remember, to check the email address when you receive an email claiming to be me. My email address is [dparks121@yahoo.com](mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com). If it's not from that address, please discard it.

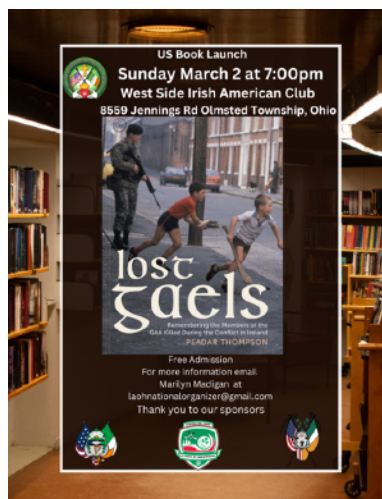
Thank you for your vigilance.

In Motto,

Denny

## Lost Gaels.

On Sunday March 2, 2025, at 7pm the Ohio AOH and LAOH are sponsoring a book launch at the West Side Irish American Club in Cleveland. Author Peadar Thompson from Belfast will be discussing his new book, Lost Gaels. The book details the members of the GAA who were lost during the Troubles. Cleveland will be the 9<sup>th</sup> stop in a 10 city US tour.





### **AOH Genealogy Work Group**

Brothers,

Happy New Year! Please see the attached message from our National Director Ed Dougherty. Brother John Caufield from Rochester, NY is interested in creating an Irish Genealogy workgroup. If you or anyone in your division is knowledgeable about Irish records or immigration records and has an interest in genealogy, please contact Brother Caufield.

In Motto,

Denny

Brothers,

I am interested in creating an Irish Genealogy workgroup/committee within the AOH to assist our brother Hibernians who are researching their families and ancestors. I have spoken with AOH President Pender; he supports my proposal and gave me a “go-ahead” to proceed. Given that the AOH already has an established group of historians, and the close connection between Irish and Irish-American history and our individual family histories, it makes sense for a genealogy group to align with our historians.

Briefly, I envision that our genealogy group, initially comprised of a group of us who are somewhat knowledgeable about Irish records, immigration, and the like, could advise and counsel our brothers as they seek out their family lineage. Second, I suggest that it would be very beneficial to create a network of brothers who have genealogical experience working in “Irish” research. From this network, we can collaboratively learn from each other’s knowledge base and identify libraries and societies that have repositories and collections of records relating to Irish immigration and history. In summary, I believe that creating a genealogy working group would: provide service to our brothers, increase our collective awareness regarding our shared history, and allow us to share our knowledge with one another. This proposal was discussed and well-received during the most recent AOH national Directors' Zoom meeting earlier this month. The general path forward is for the Directors, their respective state historians and division presidents to identify brothers with genealogical experience who may be able to assist in getting this initiative started.

I am asking for your assistance in identifying any brothers who have genealogical experience, especially in Irish-related research, or those who have provided genealogical research for clients. Second, it would be helpful to identify those who may have some organizational skills that will be needed to get this group up and running. Finally, to identify and solicit interest among any brothers who may be interested in joining us, regardless of their genealogical experience level. The upcoming edition of the Hibernian Digest will include a short article announcing this initiative and for volunteers. I trust that the Hibernian Digest article, combined with discussions at the state and division level will lead to a robust and committed group of brothers leading to an organized work group.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could encourage any interested members to contact me by email. I hope to commence our initial organizational planning by February 28, 2025. I have provided my personal contact information and am happy to answer any questions or consider your thoughts.

Yours in the Brotherhood,

John D. Caufield

AOH Division 7, Rochester, New York

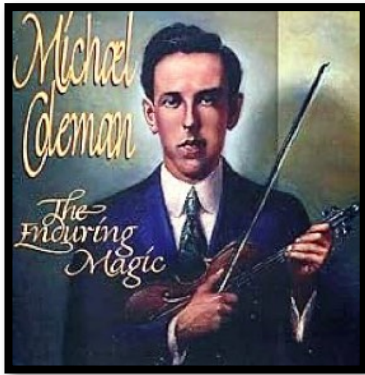
Jcaufield83@gmail.com

585-402-2597

## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### The Savior of Irish Traditional Music



Michael Joseph Coleman was born on January 31, 1891, near Kilavil in County Sligo, Ireland. His father James “Jamesy” Coleman was a farmer and accomplished flute player. His mother was Beatrice Gorman. After the Colemans were married in 1872 they settled on 3 acres of land in the townland of Knockgrania, which is near the town of Kilavil on the road between Tobbercurry and Gurteen. It was in the townland of Knockgrania that the Coleman children were born and raised. This area of south Sligo was then and is still well known for its traditional music.

Michael was the youngest of seven children born to Jamesy and Beatrice. Michael was a twin, but his brother died at birth. He attended the national school and left school when he was 17. From infancy Michael grew up with music. He

heard it played at home by his father and his older brother James. His father often invited local and traveling musicians into his home. This happened so frequently that the Coleman home was known as, “Jamesy Coleman’s Music Hall.”

Michael took up the fiddle at a young age. He had many opportunities to learn his craft. Many famous fiddle players lived near his home. Mattie Kiloran, John O’Dowd, Paddy Curley and P.J. MacDermott were just a few of the Sligo musicians who lived near the Colemans and influenced Michael.

It is generally reported in the area, however, that Kipeen Scanlon taught Michael’s brother James to play and James taught Michael. A story is also passed around locally that the Coleman brothers got lost one night returning from a house dance and wandered into an ancient ring fort where they fell asleep and the fairies taught them both to play.

Whoever it was that taught Michael, he learned his lessons well. He learned to play the fiddle in the highly unique and ornamented Sligo style. He was much in demand in the area at house dances and on other special occasions. He was also an accomplished step dancer and often combined the two talents. The traveling piper Johnny Gorman had a major influence on Michael’s playing style. Coleman is said to have incorporated many of Gorman’s piping techniques into his fiddle playing.

The opportunities for Michael to earn a living from his music were small. After trying his hand at some part time jobs and after a brief stay with one of his brothers in England, Michael decided to leave Sligo. He sailed to America in 1914 arriving at Ellis Island on November 1, 1914. Initially, Michael stayed with his aunt in Lowell, Massachusetts.

In the United States Michael found that bands and orchestras dominated the Irish-American music scene and that musicians earned much more money than Michael could have imagined. Michael began playing professionally and soon developed an association with the Keith Circuit, the largest and most reputable traveling vaudeville

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### State Historian's Report, cont.

chain of its day. They performed in towns and cities across America. Michael joined the show as a solo artist and for many years traveled with it as one of the acts. In September 1917 Michael moved to New York City and married Marie Fanning, a young immigrant from County Monaghan. For a short time he had his own orchestra that played in and around New York City. In 1918 their only child, Mary, was born.

The early U.S. recording industry was expanding its production of ethnic music. The record companies of Victor, Edison and Columbia had for some years sold recorded Irish music; however, Irish imitators and "stage Irish" comedians often performed the music.

In New York, Ellen O'Byrne and her husband managed the O'Byrne DeWitt Grafonola and Victor Shop. It was Ellen's belief that Irish music performed by real Irish musicians would sell, if companies would record them. Through an association with Columbia, Ellen began making records of traditional Irish music in 1916. These early recordings were successful and other record companies soon joined Columbia. Michael Coleman found himself in the right place at the right time with the right skills. Early in 1921 he made his first records for the Vocalion Company and Shannon Records. He made over 80 78-rpm records for several record labels.

During the years he was recording a very unique thing happened. Irish-Americans purchased Michael's recordings and sent them back to their families and friends in Ireland. As a result Michael became extremely popular in Ireland. Capitalizing on his popularity, the record companies began marketing the records directly in Ireland.

Traditional music had just about died out in Ireland and Michael's records revitalized the interest in Irish traditional music. The records influenced an entire generation of Irish fiddle players. These Irish players imitated Coleman's Sligo style of playing and soon everyone wanted to play the fiddle like Michael Coleman.

In addition to his considerable number of recordings, Michael Coleman taught many fiddle players in the U.S. Many modern players mention Michael's name as their prime influence.

Michael Coleman's last recording was made in 1944, only a year before his death. Michael Coleman died on January 4, 1945 in the Knickerbocker Hospital, Manhattan at the age of 54. He is buried in St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx.

Coleman's popularity in his home area in Sligo remains strong. In 1974 the Coleman Traditional Society erected a monument near his birthplace. The monument bears the following inscription:

"To the memory of Michael Coleman, master of the fiddle, savior of Irish traditional music. Born near this spot in 1891. Died in exile 1945. To the traditional musicians of an older generation who, in this area, inspired his genius – Too those of a later generation who, after his passing, fostered and preserved that tradition for posterity."

There are plenty of opportunities to learn about Michael Coleman and his music in south Sligo. Coleman's fiddle is on display in the County Sligo Historical Museum in Sligo town. Near the site of his original home in Kilavil is the Coleman Heritage Center and Music Archive. In the village of Gurteen is the Coleman Irish Music Visitor Center and Theater. It houses a music school, a performance area and large audio/visual display on Coleman and the music of Sligo.

If you go to south Sligo and visit any of the many traditional pubs around Gurteen the regulars there will tell you that Michael Coleman was the "Greatest Irish fiddle player who ever lived." "But," they will promptly inform you, "His brother James was better."





### Catholic Action

The month of February this year is taken up with Ordinary Time, with the liturgical color being green. Sunday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

#### MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF FEBRUARY

Brigid, Abbess	February 1	
The Presentation of the Lord	February 2	Feast
Blaise, Bishop and Martyr	February 3	
Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	February 6	Memorial
Scholastica, Virgin	February 10	Memorial
Ash Wednesday	February 14	

#### THE COLLECT OF THE MASS OF SAINT BRIGID

Merciful God, origin and reward of all charity, you called Saint Brigid to teach the new commandment of love through her life of hospitality and her care of the needy; give to your people, by her intercession, a generous spirit, so that, with hearts made pure, we may show your love to all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

#### IRISH SAINTS OF FEBRUARY

**Brigid, Abbess (c. 450-525)** February 1

Brigid's name is also spelled Bridget and Bride. She was born near Dundalk, Louth. By legend, her father was Dubhthach, a chieftain of Leinster, and her mother Brocca, a slave. Her parents were baptized by St. Patrick. Even as a child, Brigid aspired to the consecrated life. Besides Patrick himself, with whom she always held a close friendship, Brigid was mentored in her early religious life by St. Macaille of Croghan and St. Mel of Armagh. After earlier establishments under the mentorship of the latter two saints, she founded a double monastery at Kildare about 470, the first in Ireland, and was abbess of the female convent. This foundation developed a reputation for scholarship and sanctity and was the kernel of the cathedral city of Kildare. Brigid's learning and sanctity are reflected in the numerous legends that have grown up around her. She was the inspiration of the many consecrated virgins of the Irish Church. The "Mary of the Gael," her tomb is at Downpatrick, with Sts. Columba and Patrick, with the latter of whom she shares the title of patron of Ireland.

**Indractus and Dominica, Martyrs (c. 710)** February 5

Little is known of these saints, who were brother and sister. They were reportedly murdered by Saxons near Glastonbury, England, on their way to or from Rome. Their relics were venerated at Glastonbury Abbey during the Middle Ages.

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**Catholic Action, cont.****Vodulus (d.c. 720)**

February 5

This saint, also known as Voel, was either an Irishman or a Scot, who went to Gaul to preach and lived as a hermit near Soissons.

**Mel and Melchu, Bishops (5th century)**

February 6

An unreliable legend makes these two brothers nephews of St. Patrick who accompanied him on his return to Ireland. The two were said to be bishops, though of what sees is not certain. Mel was cleared by St. Patrick of a rumored scandalous relationship with an aunt, though Patrick ordered them to live apart.

**Alto, Abbot (d.c. 760)**

February 9

Alto was probably an Irishman. He took up the life of a hermit near Augsburg, in Germany, in about 743. Impressed by his holiness, the local Germanic king gave him a parcel of land near Altomunster, Bavaria, where he constructed a monastery.

**Marianus Scotus (d. 1088)**

February 9

Marianus, or Muiredach mac Robartaigh, seems to have been born in Donegal. After assuming monastic garb and being ordained a priest, he and some companions departed for the Continent, apparently intending a pilgrimage to Rome. What started as a temporary stop in the diocese of Regensburg ended up being a lifelong commitment, when this band of Irish pilgrims took up residency in a double monastic community there. Marianus came into his own there as a skilled copyist and calligrapher, and a poet and theologian as well.

**Ludan (d. 1202?)**

February 12

Ludan was either a Scot or an Irishman. He used an ample inheritance to construct a hostel for travelers and the infirm, and then set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On his way home, passing through Alsace, he received an intimation of his imminent death, which was itself heralded by miraculous events. His relics were venerated in the area till they were evidently destroyed during the Thirty Years War.

**Modomnoc (6th century)**

February 13

Modomnoc was an Irish monk who went to Wales, where he studied under St. David and also served as beekeeper for the saint's monastic community. According to legend, he introduced bees to Ireland, when a swarm followed him there upon his return. He settled at Tibraghny, Kilkenny, and reportedly was later bishop of Ossory. Also known as Mainboeuf, he was an Irish missionary on the continent, slain in Alsace by hostile pagans.

**Tanco, Abbot and Bishop (d. 808)**

February 15

Also known as Tatto, this man was an Irish monk who went to Amalbarich Abbey in Saxony, where he eventually became the abbot. He evangelized in Cleves and Flanders and was eventually a bishop in Saxony. Tanco was martyred, though accounts differ as to the circumstances of his martyrdom.

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**Catholic Action, cont.****Loman, Bishop (7th century?)**

February 17

Unreliable legends identify Loman as a relative of St. Patrick who accompanied him to Ireland. It is more likely that he is a 7th century bishop of Trim, about whom little is known.

**Fintan, Abbot (d. 603)**

February 17

One of a number of sainted Fintans, this man was a monk trained by St. Columba. He led an eremetical life at Cloneenagh, eventually becoming abbot of the community which grew up around him. He was known for his gifts of prophecy and clairvoyance and had many miracles attributed to him.

**Finan, Bishop (d. 661)**

February 17

Finan was an Irish monk of Iona. He succeeded St. Aidan as second bishop of Lindisfarne, a diocese which at the time encompassed all of Northumbria, Durham, and York. Finan opposed the adoption of Roman liturgical practices to replace the Celtic usages. He was a friend of King Oswy of Northumbria, and did much to evangelize the kingdoms which lay to the south as well.

**Colman, Bishop (d. 676)**

February 18

There are a number of sainted Colmans, but this one was an Irishman and the third bishop of Lindisfarne. He reigned only three years, but his reign was a momentous one, since during it the controversy between the Celtic and Roman usages, especially over the date of Easter, came to a head in the British Isles. Reportedly, King Oswy of Northumbria sought a solution when he found, to his consternation, that members of the royal household did not agree on when to celebrate Easter. The English monastic historian Bede relates the debates at the ensuing Synod of Whitby (663), the winning argument being that the pope, as successor of Peter, had received the power of the keys, whereas the followers of St. Columba had not. Colman found that he could not accept the Roman usage, resigned his bishopric, and returned to Ireland, where he founded a monastery on Inishbofin. Rome chose not to press the issue of Easter with many of the Irish congregations, reasoning (correctly) that time would bring a resolution.

**ISSUES AND NEWS**

In company with our National Pro-Life Chairman, Larry Squires, I traveled to Washington to march with other Hibernian brothers in the 2025 National March for Life. As always, it was an inspiring event. During our Hibernian breakfast that morning at the Irish Channel, our President Sean Pender urged all of our divisions to support our local women's centers and pregnancy help centers.

Please go online and listen to or read Vice President J.D. Vance's inspiring remarks to the rally which always precedes the march.

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

Fraternally,

Pat Lally

[lally8404@hotmail.com](mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com)

### **iIrish Website**

Brothers,

We are adding a new category on the [www.iIrish.us](http://www.iIrish.us) website, simply titled, Hibernians. We already carry the content of iIrish monthly columnists who are Hibernians: Marilyn Madigan, Mike Finn, John Myers, Lisa O'Rourke, Francis McGarry and myself.

We are hoping to add Hibernian activities, especially media - videos, and pics, brief blurbs about the media content being submitted - these can be past, present or future activities, or events or items of interest.

My hope is that this will share and celebrate with our readers all that the Hibernians do, giving kudos for impact, raising awareness, and memberships across our community.

Hibernians can submit their media to us at [jobrien@iirish.us](mailto:jobrien@iirish.us). Of course, they must own the media they are submitting.

I appreciate everyone's help and will gladly answer any questions and improve on ideas to impact our Ohio State and National Hibernian brothers and sisters.

Thank you,  
John O'Brien  
[iIrish.us](http://iIrish.us)

### **Hibernian Hunger Project Awards**

Please see message below from National Secretary Ray Lynch. Please make sure to turn in your Hibernian Hunger and Missions and Charities forms to National along with your per capita by February 15. If your Division does a Hibernian Hunger project, this is a great opportunity to apply for a project reward. The forms for bother projects are at [AOH.com](http://AOH.com) under the forms section.

Denny Parks

Brothers,

The application deadline for the AOH National Board's Hibernian Hunger Project Awards is quickly approaching! The National Board will present a total of \$11,000 in Awards to Divisions who have implemented Hibernian Hunger Projects that have helped to alleviate hunger in their communities during 2024. The \$11,000 will be spread out over 17 Awards.

The National Board strongly encourages Divisions to assist those in need in their local communities by organizing and supporting ventures such as food pantries, soup kitchens, food drives, as well as donating and raising money for local hunger projects, and the National Board will assist Divisions in these endeavors through their Hibernian Hunger Project Awards.

Has your division submitted their application for our 2024 Awards? The clock is ticking, but you still have time to act! Every Division must fill out and submit an Official Hibernian Hunger Report and Awards Application to the AOH National Board Hibernian Hunger Project Committee. To be considered for the 2024 Hibernian Hunger Awards, all projects must have taken place between January 1 – December 31, 2024, and reports must be filed by February 15, 2025. An Application Form for these awards is posted on our national web page. Please feel free to contact AOH National Board Hibernian Hunger Project Chairman, Bill Sullivan, with any questions. His email address is: [williamjsullivan@verizon.net](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)

Stay Blessed,  
In Friendship, Unity, & Christian Charity  
Ray Lynch  
Ancient Order of Hibernians National Secretary  
(772) 289-2244

## Division News

### Bluestone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co.

The Bluestone Ancient Order of Hibernians Division #3 and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Deirfiur Division #11 in Cleveland Ohio came together for their annual Christmas Party and collected donations for local food banks as well as socks and t-shirts for the Veterans Home in Sandusky Ohio. The Christmas food drive by the Bluestone Division sets the stage for their 2025 Hibernian Hunger Project.



Bluestone Division #3 Cleveland Ohio congratulates 2024 Cleveland St Patrick's Day Parade honorees Chaplin Father Francis Walsh, Outside Co-Chair and FFAI Chair David McLaughlin, Inside Co-Chair. The United Irish Societies of Cleveland also featured their names on electronic bulletin boards around the city.



Submitted by David McLaughlin, Ohio Hibernian Hunger Project Chair and Bluestone FFAI Chair.

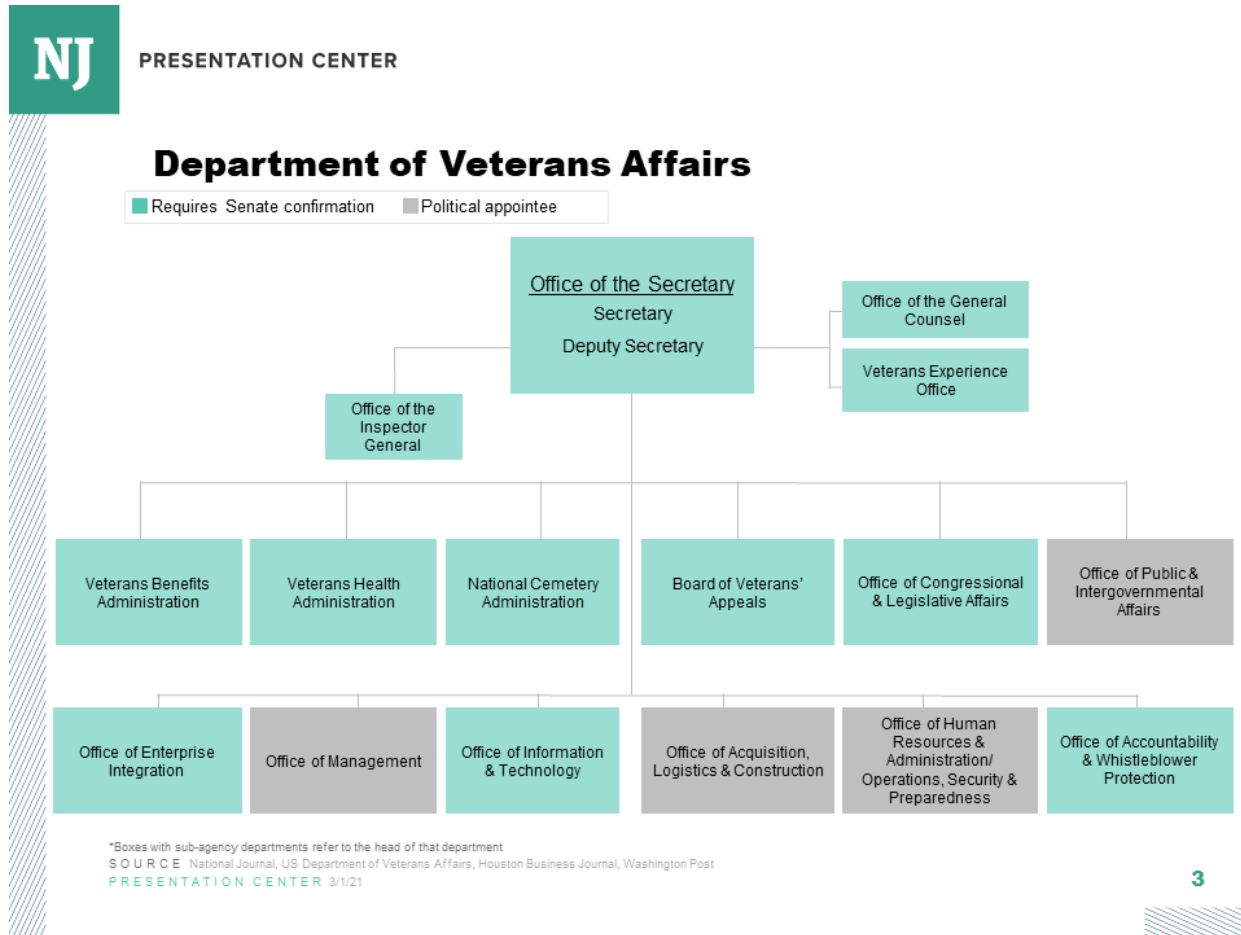


Major Degree ceremony for the Bluestone Division on Saturday, January 25th. Fourteen members received their Major Degrees.





## Veterans Affairs



1. V A Organization Chart , with info on political appointments :
2. The VA budget was over \$350 Billion last year ( \$350,000,000,000.00).
3. There are over 400,000 VA employees
4. Over 400,000 Veterans enrolled in the VA from March,2023 thru March 2024.
5. Over 9 million Veterans utilize the VA . ( There are nearly 18 million living Veterans )

Link to VA statistics: [https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)

Link to VA Utilization information: <https://department.va.gov/veterans-experience/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/05/veteran-trust-report-fiscal-year-2024-quarter-2.pdf>

Link to VA Organization Manual ( some light reading ) : <https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/va-functional-organizational-manual-volume-1.pdf>

Doug Gerrard Veteran Affairs Chair

5131-615-7469, Dpgerrard@aol.com

## The Ancient Order of Hibernians in American St. Patrick Centre Ambassador Program

### Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador

### Leadership Program 2025

### Members 19 - 25 should apply today!!

Up to 10 young Hibernians will have the opportunity to travel to Downpatrick for the first two weeks in June 2025. You must be 1 year out of High School up to age 25. *All Expenses except food and beverage will be covered by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America!*

The aim of the Young Ambassador Program is to establish a network of informed and influential individuals throughout North America who can actively represent the northern part of Ireland throughout their lives. Northern Ireland provides an incredibly diverse platform to learn about many social and cultural aspects of contemporary and historical life in Ireland as well as a developing model for community reconciliation which is relevant to many cities in North America. Young Ambassadors will develop a meaningful and on-going relationship with Chapters of the Friends of Saint Patrick, the AOH, the Saint Patrick Centre and organizations linked to the Program.

[Apply Now](#)

**Contact Danny O'Connell for more information**

[Dannyoaoh@gmail.com](mailto:Dannyoaoh@gmail.com) 330-518-4450

## "Big Chuck" Schodowski

State and Irish Brigade Div. #1 Chaplain Dec. Bruce Dobbin's father-in-law, "Big Chuck" Schodowski passed away recently. His obituary is below.

Charles M. Schodowski, age 90, peacefully passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, January 19, 2025. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 28, 1934, to Mitchell and Marie (nee Ruminski) Schodowski. Chuck's career included writing, producing/directing television, and on-air talent. He always included his family and friends in his work whenever possible. He was an honorable man, honest and hardworking. He would go visit fans in the hospital when they were "in need." He was an avid Cleveland Sports Fan, enjoyed hiking, being outdoors and walking his dogs. Chuck loved the holidays with family and spending summers at his home on Kelley's Island, boating and fishing. Above all, Chuck loved spending time with his family and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Left to celebrate Chuck's life is his beloved wife of 68 years, June; his loving children, Michael-dec (Claudia) Schodowski, Mark (Tama) Schodowski, Marilyn Schodowski, Michelle (Bruce) Dobbins and Melissa (Paul) Happel; his cherished grandchildren, Eric Schodowski, Evan Schodowski, Elaine (Peter) Tapolyai, Elyse (Joseph) Schodowski, Eve Schodowski, Jessica (Kevin) Schodowski-Shenker, Rachel (Brian) Hill, Jonathan (Hallie) Schodowski, Charles Dobbins, Angelina Dobbins, Shannon Dobbins, Justine Happel, Abigail Happel and Eva J. Happel; his adorable great grandchildren, Nora, Faye and Chloe; his sister, Maryann Gerbic. Chuck is preceded in death by his brother, Paul Schodowski.

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Chuck's honor to the APL - Animal Protective League, 1729 Willey Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. [www.WaiteFuneralHome.com](http://www.WaiteFuneralHome.com).