



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

May 2025

Volume 7 Issue 5

President's Message



Brothers,

Hope all is well! The Ohio AOH/LAOH convention is fast approaching. Soon, State Secretary Pete Chrystal will be sending out the call to convention. All positions on the State Board will be up for election. I have received the following information from people who plan on running.

President:	Dennis Parks (re-election)
Vice President:	Bruce McPherson (re-election)
Secretary:	Pete Chrystal (re-election)
Treasurer:	Greg Brown (re-election)
Director:	Chris Schulte (re-election)
	Dale Norris

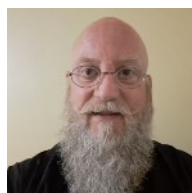
Per the Ohio AOH bylaws,

Section 2.6 All elected Officers except the Ohio State Secretary and the Ohio State Treasurer shall be limited to two (2) successive terms in the same office. This provision shall not apply to an Officer chosen for and completing the unexpired term of a previous office holder. Additionally, this does not preclude an officer, after a break in service, from serving in the same office.

If anyone in your Division is interested in running for an elected position on the Ohio State Board, please forward the information to Secretary Pete Chrystal. pvchrystal59@gmail.com

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments



I am a Quality Manager in a manufacturing facility that makes precision shims and spacers for the aerospace, automotive, locomotive industries as well as the military and defense applications. One of the tier one aerospace companies was on site performing a quality management systems audit at my facility for a week so I got to know the auditors quite well. During our time together we shared bits about our own lives and we discovered that we all ride motorcycles. One gentleman and I also shared many common hobbies and interests outside of work, so we really hit it off. After finding out I was a deacon, he shared a personal story of suffering and faith with me.

Although his father was a preacher, he was not a very religious man. He lived the biker lifestyle. He was run around with other bikers, drinking, womanizing and caring for little else than his own pleasure with little regards for anything else.

A visit to the doctor for a routine checkup changed all that. His blood work came back and his doctor asked him to come in to discuss the results. He was told that the test results showed that he had the genes that were found in people who have prostate cancer. His doctor wanted him to get further tests to identify the type of cancer he had. He was told that about 98% of people who get prostate cancer have the kind that is treatable and go on to live fairly normal lives. The other 2% have a type that is terminal and little can be done to reduce the effects.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message, cont.

If you have any bylaw changes that you would like to propose, please send them to Secretary Pete Chrystal. Please submit them with the original bylaw and the proposed changes.

Convention registration can be found at: Ohio AOH & LAOH State Convention 2025

I am also attaching the Program Ad request form. See Page 5 .

Please let me know if you have any questions. It is important that all of us attend the convention to move our noble Order forward. I look forward to seeing all of you in June.

In motto,

Denny

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

After further testing, he found out that he was in the 2% group. He was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer and the prognosis was not good. He told his father, and his father simply said, "I will pray for you, son". He wanted to get a second opinion and received the same diagnosis from another laboratory independent from the hospital. They came back with the same results. He was scared now, and wanted to get the best treatment he could for the time that he had left, so he went to the Mayo Clinic. He didn't care what it cost. He wanted the best doctor's working for him.

The doctors asked for all the test results from the other laboratories and started doing their own testing. After several hours of waiting in the recovery room after a litany of tests, he was approached by a team of doctors and nurses. He was really scared now because they all looked very troubled. There was an awkward silence that went on for several minutes until the lead doctor finally spoke up. He said they were very perplexed by the test results and couldn't understand what was going on. They said that the new test which they had performed showed no sign of cancer. They even used the samples from the old laboratories and got the same results. They couldn't explain it, but he was cancer free and that was all they could say. His father spoke up and said, "See, I told you I would pray for you".

That was two years ago, and he is a changed man. He still rides his motorcycle, but he stopped the drinking and all the rest to spend time with his kids, his friends and his father. He gives of his time to share his experience with other who doubt the power of prayer and the power of God.

The power of prayer is not something to be taken lightly. Prayer is extremely powerful. Prayer is one of the greatest gifts we have been given. It unites us as a Church, unites us as Order, and unites us as a family. We also have intercessors in Mary Most Holy, the Angels and all the saints to help bolster and deliver our prayers to God. Prayer in numbers can be most efficacious. It is the most potent tool we have to use against Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls!

Brothers, pray for one another. Pray for your families. Pray for those who are sick and suffering. Pray for those who have died. Pray unceasingly. Please pray for the cardinals who are at the Vatican working together to choose a new pope. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides all their deliberations so they choose a pope who is rightly guided by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church in the proper direction and provide a model of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity for the world.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

2023 - 2025 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	John Myers johnmyers216@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.co
Franklin #1	Jerry Tracy Gbtracyjr@sbcglobal.net
Hamilton #1	Tim Oliver toliver33@live.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 #2	Ed Morrison edwardcmorrison@outlook.com
Summit #3	Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com
Trumbull	Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com
Washington	Patrick Kelly pkelly03@sprynet.com

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	Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Missions & Charities	Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com
Organizer	Joe Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Historian	Mike Finn FCoolavin@aol.com
Veterans Affairs	Doug Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Hibernian Hunger	Dave McLaughlin dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net
Immigration	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com

Jim Casey's New Email Address

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

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

AOH-LAOH Ohio 2025 State Convention

June 26th-29th, 2025

Sheraton Suites Akron - Cuyahoga Falls

1989 Front Street Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, USA, 44221-3811

Welcome to the AOH/LAOH Ohio 2025 Convention.

This is your one stop shop for important information about our convention.

You'll be able to find out about the hotel, register for our event, and other announcements as they come up.

We've got a lot of GREAT things planned and we hope you will enjoy coming to Summit County.

So as to comply with our State President's requests:

ALL delegates must have their own accounts and pay the appropriate delegate fees.

Everybody, regardless of being a delegate or not, is encouraged to set up their own accounts.

First order of business:

Our hotel, the [Sheraton & Suites - Akron/Cuyahoga Falls](#) has a special room rate of **\$145.00** for us!

Yes, there is a catch, you need to book your room reservation by **May 26th, 2025!**

Also, our registration is now **OPEN!**

A verified login is required to complete the registration.

Last day to register: June 11th, 2025.

Sheraton Inn & Suites Room Booking Special

[Click here for hotel booking.](#)

**Registration is now
open**

[Click here to register.](#)



Ancient Order of Hibernians
&
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
2025 Convention Program Book Request



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ad Size Desired _____ Amount Paid _____

Ad details and requirements are listed below. Please state the name of the buyer within your correspondence and submission form **MUST** be included with your ad, either mailed or e-mailed (electronic).

E-MAIL ALL FILES TO: Jim Meszaros at meszi01@neo.rr.com

Deadline for Submission:
June 9, 2025

AD Rates

Premium Add Space:

Outside Back Cover (color) \$150.00

Inside Front Cover (color) \$125.00 (sold)

Inside Back Cover (color) \$125.00

Full Page (B/W) (4.5w x 7h) \$80.00

½ Page (B/W) (4.5w x 3.5h) \$50.00

Business Card (B/W) (2w x 3.5h) \$25.00

One(single) line text on Patron name page \$10.00

Measurements are in inches.

AD REQUIREMENTS

Premium Ad should be submitted as CMYK color -OR- black and white for all others.

All ads must be camera-ready, no bleed, in PDF or .png format (high resolution). There will be an additional \$10 charge if artwork is not sent to specifications. Do not staple artwork to this form.

Make checks payable to:

AOH of America

Mail Ad Requests to:

AOH State Convention Program Ad

Attn: Jim Meszaros

2000 Brown St.

Akron, OH 44319

Pope Francis

(From National Chaplain Fr Martin O'Reilly)

It is with a sad heart that we learn of the passing of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis' legacy is one of boundless grace, simplicity, humility, and hope. He demonstrated a gentle spirit, offering solace and guidance to those in need. His words and actions were a testament to the power of faith and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

May he now rest forever in the loving arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let us quietly pray for the happy repose of his soul:

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be to the Father ...

Fr Martin O'Reilly
National Chaplain
Ancient Order of Hibernians

(From National President Sean Pender)

It is with profound sorrow that the Ancient Order of Hibernians mourns the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis. Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis embodied the principles of faith, humility, and service, offering a guiding light to millions around the world. His unwavering commitment to social justice, compassion for the marginalized, and advocacy for peace and reconciliation resonated deeply with the mission and values of the Hibernians.

Pope Francis led by example, reminding us all of our shared responsibility to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable among us. His dedication to the dignity of all people, his call for unity, and his tireless pursuit of a more just world will remain an enduring legacy.

As we reflect on his life and contributions, we offer our prayers for his eternal rest and the Church he so faithfully served. May his example continue to inspire us in our faith and in our commitment to charity and community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

-Sean Pender
National President
Ancient Order of Hibernians



State Historian's Report

The Curragh Mutiny

By: J. Michael Finn, AOH State Historian

In March of 1914 the British army officers stationed at the Curragh Camp in County Kildare, Ireland mutinied by refusing to obey the orders of the British Government. This has come to be known as the Curragh Mutiny (in British history, if it is mentioned at all, it is known as the Curragh Incident).

In 1914 the third Home Rule Bill had been passed by Parliament and was soon to be enacted. This bill proposed to establish a single Irish parliament in Dublin and it proposed to give Ireland a limited amount of autonomy to manage its own affairs, although under the watchful eye of the Empire.

The prospect of being ruled from Dublin did not sit well with the Protestant Unionist community in the north of Ireland. Over 450,000 Unionists under the leadership of Sir Edward Carson had signed the *Ulster Solemn League and Covenant* on September 28, 1912 (some signed in their own blood). The covenant pledged the signers to use "... all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a home rule parliament in Ireland." In the event a home rule parliament was established the Unionists would "refuse to recognize its authority."

On January 20, 1913 the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was formed to defend Ulster against the implementation of Home Rule. A Unionist civil war in the north was not what the British government needed, particularly with conditions in mainland Europe about to erupt into the Great War. In the north Ulster Unionists were preparing to fight the British in order to stay united with Britain.

In March 1914, Sir Arthur Paget, Commander-in-Chief of British troops in Ireland was sent to Ireland by Prime Minister Asquith. The British were fearful that conditions in the north of Ireland could be escalating. His orders were to re-supply arms and reinforce arms depots in the north in case of any attempts by the Unionists to seize them during an insurrection.

On March 20, 1914 orders were given to British troops stationed at the Curragh in County Kildare to be ready to march north, if necessary, to disarm Unionist dissidents and quell the anticipated rebellion. The British commander of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade at the Curragh, Brigadier-General Sir Hubert Gough said, "No" as did 64 of his fellow officers at the Curragh. They mutinied and unilaterally refused to participate in any actions against the Unionists in the north of Ireland. All of the Curragh officers threatened resignation if forced to comply with the government's order. They made this clear to Prime Minister Asquith and to Field Marshall Sir John French, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Chaos ensued at the War Office. General Gough was immediately summoned to "give an account of himself." He was supported there by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig who had come to the war office to warn of the strong support of his own officers for the stand taken by Gough.

Haig implied that his officers would also resign if General Gough were punished. Also supporting Gough's position was General Sir Henry Wilson, the Director of Military Operations. Field Marshall Haig suggested that the only way to calm the unrest in the army created by this order was for the government to issue a statement that the army would not be used in any effort to coerce Ulster to give up its guns. General Wilson threatened his own resignation if this was not done.

Faced with a mutiny of the majority of the entire general staff, Sir John French and the Secretary of State for War, Colonel J. E. B. Seely, provided General Gough with a written guarantee that his troops at the Curragh would not be used to enforce a disarming of Protestant citizens nor would they be used to facilitate the implementation of the Home Rule Act on the north.

Continued on Page 8

State Historian's Report, cont.

General Gough returned to the Curragh Camp as a conquering hero. The cabinet of Prime Minister Asquith strongly objected to the guarantee and, as a result of its issuance, both French and Seely were forced to resign their positions; however, the government never withdrew the guarantee.

Adding to the worries of the government, on April 24, 1914 the Ulster Protestants, fearing that Home Rule was soon to be imposed, illegally smuggled from Germany, through the port city of Larne, County Antrim, 35,000 rifles and 5 million rounds ammunition. The government was faced with a very scary possibility – civil war against the Unionist majority population in the north and an army refusing to disarm the dissidents of their illegally obtained arms and ammunition.

On August 4, 1914 England went to war with Germany. The Home Rule bill was passed and signed by the King on September 15, 1914. The Government then suggested that “due to the war” implementation of the bill would be “postponed” until after the war. Home Rule was never implemented.

Many of the participants in the mutiny, Generals French, Gough, and Haig would play major roles in England's bungling of World War I. Their performance in that war was so grossly incompetent that many historians have suggested that they should have been tried for war crimes (England lost over 600,000 men in the first 3 months of the war). It has been speculated that World War I actually saved the British Army from a significant constitutional and disciplinary crisis that resulted from the Curragh Mutiny.

The Curragh Mutiny and the illegal Larne gun smuggling proves that if Home Rule had been implemented the government would have not had the support of the British military in quelling any Unionist violence. Ironically, it was the Larne gun-running and the arming of the Ulster Volunteer Force that led to the formation of the Irish Volunteers in the south of Ireland. The organizing of the Irish Volunteers, of course, led directly to the Easter Rising of 1916.

It is likely that had the Protestants been disarmed in 1914 and Home Rule implemented by the British, there would have been no Irish Volunteers and likely no Easter Rebellion.

Once again, as throughout Irish History, the British had the opportunity to keep the peace in Ireland and they bungled it.

J. Michael Finn, fcoolavin@aol.com

Ohio AOH State Historian Mike Finn

Mike was recently hospitalized and is recovering well. He is able to receive visitors and the facility is very generous with visiting hours. Recommend stopping by between 9am and 7pm. Feel free to snail mail/email Mike a letter, call or stop by as he rebuilds his strength...his biggest ally is his true Irish stubbornness.

Mike Finn
Room # 104
First Community Village
[1800 Riverside Drive](#)
[Columbus, OH 43212](#)
Direct phone in his room: 614-488-2826
Email: fcoolavin@aol.com

Mark Your Calendars

2025 State Convention

June 26 - 29

Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls OH

2026 National Convention, Omaha NE

REST IN PEACE, POPE FRANCIS

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 29 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.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF MAY

Joseph the Worker	May 1	
Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor	May 2	Memorial
Philip and James, Apostles	May 3	Feast
Damien de Veuster (The Leper)	May 10	
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	
The Visitation of Mary	May 31	Feast

IRISH SAINTS OF MAY

Ultan, Abbot (d. 686) May 2

St. Ultan, along with his sainted brothers, Fursey 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 Fursey 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 Fursey 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

Continued on Page 10

Catholic Action, cont.

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.

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.

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 Lugid, 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.

Continued on Page 11

Catholic Action, cont.**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.

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

Faternally,

Patrick J. Lally, lally8404@hotmail.com 330-792-7135

Pro Life Report

Happy Easter brother Hibernians, may the joy of the risen Christ be with you all. With the passing of Pope Francis, I would like to thank him for his advocacy of protecting human life from conception to natural death. He often talked about the throwaway culture in which people look down on others and only use them for their advantage and when someone becomes a disadvantage, to ignore or terminate their life. Pope Francis has said nobody can be thrown out because every life is a unique and sacred gift no matter the age or condition. Our culture today has very much been influenced by this way of thinking, in which we ignore the most vulnerable, the unborn, elderly and disabled. Matthew 25:40 states that "whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me". Let's work to change the culture where the most vulnerable among us are protected and every human life is cherished.

Jacob Durda jacob.durda@gmail.com

State Organizer's Report

I hope everyone has received the information needed to attend the State Convention in June. Remember, you must log-in to be a voting delegate. This will be another great State Convention hosted by the county where BOTH the AOH & LAOH State Presidents reside. They have planned some nice social events to go along with the business needed to proceed for the next two years. Please plan on attending.

We are doing well in closing out our open applications. I need to report back to the National Organizer when an application is closed out, so be sure to send me that information.

Hopefully we will know more about the new application process by the time of our convention. If so, we can present it at that time.

Keep up the good work in promoting our Order. If your division has a Facebook page or other social media outlets, make sure you keep them up to date and giving the right information for potential applicants to be able to contact you.

Memorial Day will be on the 26th of May. Please keep in your prayers, all those who served in the military and are currently serving our country. Also pray for our law enforcement officers and first responders.

Joe Casey

A DOCUMENTARY:



PRESENTED BY BELFAST PRODUCER TREVOR BIRNEY AND

BELFAST SOLICITOR NIALL MURPHY

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH 7:00 PM

SHAMROCK CLUB OF COLUMBUS

60 West Castle Rd., Columbus OH 43207

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING

MODERATED BY JUDGE MICHAEL C. MENTEL

TICKETS AVAILABLE BEGINNING MAY 1st (FREE) ON THE SHAMROCK CLUB WEBSITE

www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

SPONSORED BY: THE GREATER COLUMBUS IRISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION

FFAI Report

Brothers,

We have started off strong this year with our Christmas Appeals program. Our state is now one of the national leaders in donations. Grants totaling over \$150,000.00 will be dispersed in Belfast in April. Watch "AOH 2025 Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) Grant Presentation" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/ByoBApg3mDA?si=mQvVe4akMFDTHguN>

I'm proud to say for the first time, Ohio donated over \$10,000. Outstanding. Thanks to all who donated and those divisions that really stepped up. I cannot emphasize enough what these donations mean to the groups that receive them. I've said many times that if you could listen personally to the people and groups we support it would move you. On that note, I will be in contact with the FFAI National Board asking if possible, grant applicants send a short video about the cause or work they lead.

I'll be reaching out to each Division President and FFAI Chairs on ways we can improve on working together. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas.

Let's keep Ohio moving forward and keeping in the forefront in the pursuit of Freedom for All Ireland.

State of Ohio FFAI Chairman

Patrick Williams

Veteran Affairs Report May 2025

1. VA rolls out new health record system in several areas, including Ohio.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2025/04/01/va-unveils-next-13-sites-for-electronic-health-record-rollout/>

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2025/04/01/ohio-veterans-affairs-medical-facilities-health-records>

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-names-nine-additional-facilities-that-will-deploy-federal-ehr-in-2026/>

2. Health care benefits at VA <https://www.choose.va.gov/health>

3. VA offers home loan refinancing options to eligible Veterans <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/cash-out-loan/>

4. VA ends the recently created home loan bail out program: 'Veteran Affairs Servicing Purchase Program', citing a lack of congressional authority in its creation:

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2025-04-04/veterans-home-loans-bailout-17366974.html>

5. VA to phase out treatment of gender dysphoria:

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-to-phase-out-treatment-for-gender-dysphoria/>

Doug Gerrard

513 615 7469

Dpgerrard@aol.com

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

Thank you for submitting the Hibernian Hunger Projects Award Application for your Division. We are pleased to inform you that your division was selected by the Hibernian Hunger Committee to receive a \$500 grant.

A check in the amount of \$ 500 will be sent to you in the next two weeks from the Chase Bank. Please keep an eye out for this check. The money supporting our grants came from the Hibernian Charity Board. We know that this check will be put to good use to further address the issue of hunger in your area.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Sean Pender

Sean Pender
National President
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Bill Sullivan

William J. Sullivan,
National Chairman
Hibernian Hunger Projects