



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

April 2020

Volume 2 Issue 4

President's Message



Brothers All,

Well. That didn't work out as planned, did it? As Mike Tyson famously said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

And boy, did we get punched in the mouth, and everywhere else for that matter, and not just us (the AOH), but everyone, including our Church. Who would have dreamed of virtual Mass attendance for at least weeks on end, and who would have dreamed of pretty much every Irish Heritage Month celebration being cancelled? Or that our upcoming Ohio State Board meeting would be postponed?

As sad as we all are as we pick up the pieces of this season, I'm convinced we'll come out the other side the better for it. We'll be more appreciative, more thoughtful, more prayerful, and more dedicated. That's what adversity brings to good people – a determination to get up, smack the dust off our backsides, and wade back into the fight, more determined and dedicated than before.

I'm confident that this is precisely what we all will do, because of who you are, what you do, and how you do it.

As always, thank you for your commitment, passion, and leadership. God Bless you all, God Bless Ireland, and God Bless our great Nation.

Slan,

Bob

P.S. If you haven't done so and are at least tentatively planning to attend, don't forget to book your National Convention hotel room! The room block is filling up fast. Who knows what the summer will bring, but for now the National Board and Convention Committee are proceeding with plans as if we'll be having a doozy of a convention (goodness knows we'll all need it by then, if it happens!).

Chaplain's's Comments



We read in St. John's account of the Resurrection narratives that when Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb on the morning of the first day of the week, the tomb was empty. To a cynic, that means absolutely nothing. But to us who are believers, the empty tomb means everything. Mary Magdalene, of course, was no cynic.

But her first impression is that the body of Jesus has been stolen—taken from the tomb by the ones who had killed him. As we read later in the text, however, she sees the risen Lord and believes. Peter and another disciple, the disciple whom Jesus loved, run to the tomb upon hearing that it is empty. What do you suppose they are looking for? We do not know. But we do know that upon entering the empty tomb, the disciple whom Jesus loved sees and believes.

Every time we hear that phrase in John's Gospel of "the disciple whom Jesus loved", we are to read ourselves into the story. While tradition tells us that this disciple was John the Evangelist himself, we must read ourselves into the passage as he intended. We are the ones who are called to rest against Jesus at the Last Supper, when we are troubled of heart. We are the ones who are called to stand at the foot of the cross of Jesus with his mother Mary and to take Mary into our homes as our own Mother. We are the ones who are called to enter into the tomb, to see the burial cloths lying there and the tomb otherwise empty, and to believe that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead.

In this season of Easter, we are called to go forth from our own tombs, our upper rooms of isolation and fear. We are called to run to the empty tomb which is in our hearts and to see and to believe the impossible—that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. As Saint Paul reminds us in his letter to Colossians, we are called to seek not what is of earth but what is of above—for we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our life appears, then we too will appear with him in glory.

Fr. John Keehner—State Chaplain

State Board Meeting

April 18th

Tara Hall, 274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

Postponed

After much discussion between the two State Boards, we have come to the inevitable and unfortunate conclusion that we must postpone the **April 18th State Board meeting**, for obvious reasons.

We are hoping to convene a face-to-face, physical board meeting some time in May, and are working logistics to attempt a conference call between now and then. We definitely need a board meeting, because we have much to discuss, especially the upcoming convention, the hospitality room, and our native sons' candidacies.

We'll keep you all posted as we regroup and continue with plans, and we appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Thank you all for your leadership and dedication,

Slan,

Bob

Mark Your Calendars

State Board Meeting

April 18th

Tara Hall, 274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

2020 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

July 22-25

2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

Catholic Action

Since the Catholic bishops of Ohio have suspended all public Masses, many Catholics may feel cut off or lost during this Lenten and Easter season. A wise priest made this observation: while we can be dispensed from the Church's precept directing obligatory Mass on Sunday, we are not dispensed from God's command (See: Moses, *Third Commandment*) to keep holy the Lord's Day. Any day of the week, there are online sources for the Mass, as well as Eucharistic adoration, Stations of the Cross, and other devotions. We also have the opportunity to perform corporal works of mercy by checking up on shut-ins, elderly neighbors, etc. Perhaps we can use this time of enforced slow-down as an opportunity to get out of our daily rat-race for a while and have more time for reflection and prayer.

In April, we transition from the season of Lent into the Easter season. The liturgical color of violet (with the exception of red for Palm Sunday and Good Friday and white for Holy Thursday) gives way to Easter white. Do you have local news? Please submit it for inclusion in this report. By God's grace, may all of our families emerge unharmed from the current pandemic.

Pat Lally
330-791-7135
lally8404@hotmail.com

Officers

Chaplain Fr. John Keehner
jkeehner@youngstowndiocese.org

President Bob Harper
harper.bg@pg.com

Vice President Dennis Parks
dparks121@yahoo.com

Secretary Pete Chrystal
PChrystal@ta-petro.com

Treasurer Greg Brown
Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com

Director Liam Lehn
liamlehn@gmail.com

Director Patrick Williams
karimcwilly@gmail.com

Past President Ron Hagan
rhagan@hagancpa.com

OHIO DIVISIONS

Clermont Charles McCafferty
CMACMAC11@aol.com

Cuyahoga #2 Mike Dreamer (VP)
mpdreamer@gmail.com

Cuyahoga #3 Kevin McCluskey
spanky40368@yahoo.com

Franklin Scott Partika
spartika11@gmail.com

Hamilton Jack Looby
jlooby@woh.rr.com

Lucas Robert McMahon
aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com

Mahoning Ray Kelly
aohrpk@gmail.com

Medina Tony Manley
tonym92979@sbcglobal.net

Montgomery Steve Smith (VP)
sesmith7@earthlink.net

Summit #2 Chris Quinlan
jcquinlan1@gmail.com

Summit #3 Josh Arbogast
josh.hibernian@gmail.com

Trumbull Marty McQuaide
emcqu@aol.com

Washington Thomas Binegar
binegarth@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action Patrick Lally
lally8404@hotmail.com

Pro Life Dave Manley
ruthannanddavid@gmail.com

FFAI Patrick Williams
karimcwilly@gmail.com

PEC Scott Partika
spartika11@gmail.com

Missions & Charities Chris Konik
chriskonik@mindspring.com

Organizer Joe Casey
qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Historian Mike Finn
FCoolavin@aol.com

Veterans Affairs Danny Eakins
dannyeakins@hotmail.com

Immigration John Myers
johnmyers216@gmail.com

Newsletter News

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

jjcasey973@gmail.com

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

Division News

Irish Brigade Div. #1 Medina Co.

The 4th Annual Irish Brigade Charity Beer Tour has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 6th. Ray and I are hopeful the quarantine we are currently living under will be over. Should you have a conflict with this date, please do get back to me so that I can arrange for your refund.

Dave Manley at 330-273-3118

Patrick Pearse Div. #1 Franklin Co.

274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

Tara Hall Presents

Governor DeWine has issued an order to temporarily shut down all bars and restaurants in the State of Ohio as we prepare to face the spread of the Coronavirus in the US. Tara Hall will be closed for business until further notice.

Joseph T. Nally, Sr. Div #6, Mahoning Co.

5110 Southern Blvd., Youngstown, OH 44512

The Major Degrees scheduled for April 25, 2020 have been postponed. See pages 7 and 8.

Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey

jjcasey973@gmail.com

AOH/LAOH National Convention 2020 - Orlando

9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819, United States

Rosen Centre® Hotel

9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Tel: 1.800.204.7234 | Fax: 407.996.2659

Reservations: 1.800.204.7234

Contact Florida State President Ray Lynch

irishyankeenut@gmail.com for assistance

State Historian's Report

1894 Hibernian State Convention,

Columbus, Ohio

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

In June 1894 Columbus was the host for the annual Ohio State Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Early Hibernian state conventions were held annually, the same as National Conventions of the Order. The 1894 Ohio Convention was held in Columbus.

On Tuesday, June 12, 1894 the *Columbus Dispatch* reported, "Large delegations of visiting societies arrived last night and this morning, making the headquarters at the American House Hotel exceedingly animated." It was estimated that over 300 attended the convention.

The American House Hotel was the first building in Columbus constructed as a hotel. It was built in 1836, on the northwest corner of South High and State Streets. In 1925 the building was purchased by the S. S. Kresge Company. It became an S. S. Kresge retail store in 1925, and in 1986 it was demolished to make way for the Vern Riffe State Office Tower that was built on the site.

The American House Hotel was probably a last minute change of location. The AOH generally used the Chittenden Hotel at Spring and High Streets for its functions. The Chittenden had burned down on November 24, 1893 and was being rebuilt at the time of the convention.

The opening session of the convention was held at noon on June 12 at the Columbus Board of Trade auditorium on East Broad Street. This building was located on the site of the present Rhodes State Office Tower. The convention was called to order by State Delegate John H. Conway of Dayton, Ohio.

The State Delegate is the AOH officer known today as the State President. Past National Historian Gerry Curran has written: "Prior to 1894 the elected head of the AOH in America was referred to as the National Delegate. In theory, he represented the American AOH in Ireland at the national conventions held there. In 1894 the AOH in America severed its administrative ties to the AOH in Ireland and our national leader assumed the title President. Following the precedent of the AOH National Board the title State President was adopted by the states."

At the first session, State Delegate Conway appointed a Committee on Credentials which included 30 delegates. That evening, the Credentials Committee met in the parlor of the American House Hotel at 7:00 pm to prepare their report. They were assigned to report to the next day's session at 10:00 am on Wednesday, June 13.

John H. Conway was running for reelection as State Delegate. Although there were four candidates for the position, there were only two who were considered leading candidates, incumbent John H. Conway of Dayton and Patrick J. O'Connor of Springfield.

John H. Conway was born November 16, 1856 in Montgomery County, Ohio. He joined the AOH in September 1886 and was elected Vice President of Division #2 in Dayton the same year. Afterward he was elected as President of Division #2 and the following year he was elected County Delegate. At the State Convention in Cleveland in 1892 he was elected State Delegate for a two year term.

Continued on Page 6

State Historian's Report, cont,

Tuesday's meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm and despite the heat of the day, the convention attendees formed a large parade. The order of the parade march was as follows:

Platoon of Columbus Police, Fourteenth Regiment Band, Jerry O'Shaughnessy, Grand Marshal, Company A, Hibernian Rifles, Columbus, Ohio, AOH Division #1 from Marion, Ohio, Big Six Band, AOH Divisions, Springfield, Ohio, Visiting AOH Divisions, Knights of St. George Band, Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Columbus, Ohio, Clergy and Officers in Carriages.

The parade formed on North Grant Avenue and marched west on Broad Street to High, south on High to the Court House, then they counter marched north on High to Spring Street, east on Spring to Fourth Street where cars (streetcars) were waiting to convey them to Merkle Grove on North High Street. There, a grand picnic was held. Other than being located on North High Street, the exact location of Merkle Grove is presently unknown.

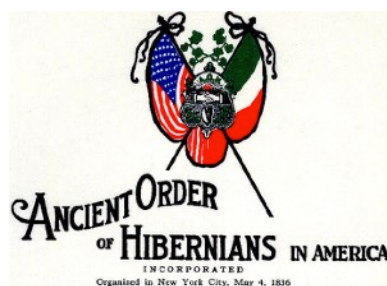
Upon arriving at the grove, the crowd found this "charming spot" transformed into an ideal picnic ground with all the trimmings of a county fair, including "a merry-go-round, cane racks, tin type gallery, rag baby stands, a large dancing floor and numerous refreshment booths." Speeches were made by State Officers and prominent members of the Order. There were also foot races and a tug-of-war competition conducted by the men. It was reported that a good time was had by all.

The next morning, Wednesday, June 13, at 8:30 a.m. the conventioners attended High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral where Columbus Bishop John A. Watterson greeted the visiting Hibernians and welcomed them to Columbus. Immediately following the Mass the Hibernians proceeded to the business session at the Board of Trade. At the conclusion of the business session, the convention was adjourned.

The convention reelected John H. Conway of Dayton as State Delegate and he would serve until 1896. Since the National Board changed the title, Conway was the last elected officer with the title of State Delegate to serve in Ohio. He was also the first State Delegate from Dayton.

Conway's successor, Michael Stanton of Portsmouth, Ohio, elected in 1896, became the first elected officer in Ohio to carry the title of State President. Brother John H. Conway continued to serve the Order faithfully. He died on September 8, 1921 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio.

Through sharing stories of our history we can remember those brother and sister Hibernians who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand today.



State Director's Report

With my planned event of a Major Degree Ceremony at Mahoning County Division 6 with the Tri Abhainn MDT of Pittsburgh on April 25th being cancelled (See page 8), I am focusing it as a temporary set back and will reschedule once this pandemic has passed on. My goal was and still is to develop some interstate Hibernian bonding and bring together the Divisions in Sharon, Pa, Erie, Pa, Trumbull County, and our Division 6 and put together events where we can both meet and have fellowship but also share best practices and develop the Order in the Mahoning/Shenango Valleys.

In these crazy times, it is easy to lose your way and fall into a depression over the worst of times scenario. Rather than that, try to focus on the works of St. Patrick and recite his Breastplate prayer.

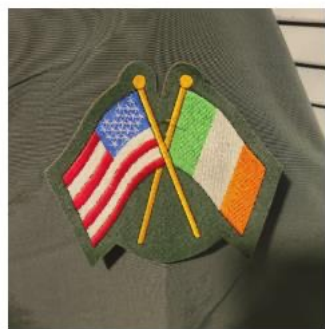
On a positive note, through my business travels, I met a fellow brother in New York last year and he turned me on to a guy in New Jersey that makes a sharp looking jacket. My home division, Mahoning County Division 6, just put in an initial order of 10 and we will be placing another order in the Spring.

Below are a few pictures of what it looks like. Our cost was about \$110 plus shipping. If you want to get more information on it, feel free to contact me at 330-518-9917 or liamlehn@gmail.com

In Motto,

Liam

Liam Lehn State Director





ANCIENT ORDER OF
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Joseph T. Nalley Sr. Division 6 | Mahoning County-Youngstown, Ohio

Exemplification of the Major Degrees of
the Order will be conducted by

The Celtic Warrior

aird a chaóháire
ar na
deartháireacha go
léir
(Attention All Brothers!)



SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
CRAC TO FOLLOW AFTER
MAHONING COUNTY DIVISION 6
HIBERNIAN HALL
5110 SOUTHERN BLVD.
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44512



PRE-REGISTER AT:
WWW.TRIABHAINN.OHIOH.COM
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
OHIO STATE DIRECTOR LIAM LEHN
330-518-9917 LIAMLEHN@GMAIL.COM

ALL BROTHERS IN GOOD STANDING WELCOME TO ATTEND
SISTERS AND FRIENDS OF AOH WELCOME AFTER CEREMONY

Postponed due to COVID-19

We will be doing them when the order is lifted and we can once again congregate.

Liam Lehn



AOH-LAOH National Convention Update

Friday, March 20, 2020

As we all deal with Covid-19, we must each do what is best for our families. We must also follow the directions of our local, state and national governments and health departments, and try to keep a semblance of normalcy in our daily lives. As cabin fever sets in, we are all looking forward to life beyond the virus.

As Hibernians, we will continue to work on our National Convention at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Florida, July 22 – 25, 2020. Our hope is, we will have the opportunity to celebrate our faith and Irish heritage together again during the convention. Also, that we will have the opportunity to celebrate St. Patrick and enjoy the music and traditions that come with being IRISH, CATHOLIC, AMERICANS.

We have faith in our national convention chairs, Danny O’Connell and Kathie Linton, to work with the Florida State Convention committee to keep the convention on track so we are ready for one of the best conventions in history. We have directed them to work diligently to keep everything moving forward during this time of uncertainty. Our commitment to the AOH and LAOH is to be prepared to host our convention as scheduled.

We know that it may be necessary to make changes to the convention just as we had to make changes to our St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations. Our goal however, is to celebrate together in Orlando. That being said, we have directed the committees to move forward with convention preparations.

Thank you for your support,

James F. McKay

AOH National President

Carol Sheyer

LAOH National President

A Year Without St. Patrick's Day

Neil Cosgrove, AOH Irish American Heritage Month Chair [@IrishCentral](#) Mar 16, 2020

History shows us that the Irish are nothing if not resilient, and the broader community needs that example of resiliency now more than ever.

Those of us of a certain age will remember a holiday children's special "The Year Without Santa Clause," a story about Santa, who has come down with a cold, and believing that no one cares about him anymore decides to cancel Christmas. As could be predicted in a holiday special, the children of the world convince Santa he is still cared for, he is miraculously cured, and Christmas is saved.

The story comes to mind as another virus, Coronavirus COVID-19, has many believing we are facing in 2020 "The Year Without St. Patrick's Day" as St. Patrick's Day parades and events around the nation are being canceled. Even the venerable NYC St. Patrick's Day parade will not march down 5th Avenue for the first time in 258 years. The NYC parade predates the formation of the United States as a country and Dublin's parade by more than a century and a half. The NYC parade has continued on despite a Revolution, a Civil War, Economic Depressions, two World Wars, and 9/11.

The safety of people and their lives must take the first precedence; the health of the general public can not be sacrificed for the maintenance of tradition, no matter how sad a pill that is to swallow. Yet, given what the parade has persisted through, its cancellation cannot help but cause anxiety.

Yet the impact of the cancellation of St. Patrick's Day activities should not be understated or treated as lightly as the postponement of a backyard barbecue. Many small businesses, and specifically those owned by Irish Americans, rely on St. Patrick's Day the way other businesses rely upon on "Black Friday." Many of these businesses are already under duress and may not survive canceled parades even if they are rescheduled. Sadly, many communities will realize, perhaps for the first time, how significant St. Patrick's Day is to the broader community. Traditional musicians, pipe bands, and Irish dance schools often use the monies raised from St. Patrick's day performances to "keep the tradition alive" throughout the year. Parades often publicly honor individuals who have quietly served their communities for years and it is often the first public recognition they have received.

However, we should not confuse the cancellation of parades with the cancellation of St. Patrick's Day. We need the real St. Patrick's Day, not the facepaint, funny hats, and tasteless t-shirts, more than ever. What better example for a world in crisis than St. Patrick? A man captured and forced into slavery as a youth, as the society he knew was collapsing into the dark ages, and taken to a land that was literally "off the map" of the known world. Yet, he persisted, survived, and turned a tiny remote island on the fringe of Europe into a bastion for the last flickering light of civilization that the Irish he inspired would return to the world.

(Continued on Page 11)

A Year Without St. Patrick's Day, cont.

History shows us that the Irish are nothing if not resilient, and the broader community needs that example of resiliency now more than ever. The Irish have persisted despite the penal laws, famine, and the Know-Nothings. We have seen our churches burned, and our loyalty questioned. The Irish have frozen at Vally Forge, the Bulge, and Chosin; they have sweated at Gettysburg, Okinawa, Viet Nam, and Afghanistan. It would be a tragedy if this St. Patrick's Day America were to forget the thousands of Irish who will wear their green on that day on their graves in service to America.

Amidst so much fear and uncertainty in the world, let us use St. Patrick's Day as an inspiration and remind the world that despite incredible odds that the Irish are still here in contradiction to all logic. Let us wear our green, fly our flags, and show our resolve. Let us support our communities in these trying times; perhaps, if we are able, by going to where we would customarily celebrate St. Patrick's Day and buying a gift certificate to use when normalcy returns to help that business survive. Let's use that time we would be at the parade that is now canceled to call that relative or friend that we haven't spoken to in a while who is now socially isolated.

It is fitting that in Irish American Heritage Month and at this trying time that we remember the motto of the Sullivan Brothers, "We stick together," a quintessentially Irish value. Amidst the bagpipe free silence of this St. Patrick's day, let us show our communities what it truly means to be Irish. If "everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's day," then we will all come back from these unprecedented events stronger than ever.

Neil Cosgrove

State Director/State FFAI Chairman's Report

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no Freedom for All Ireland report this month. At this time, there are 1,125 cases in Ireland with six deaths, while in Northern Ireland there are 148 cases with two deaths. As in the United States, Ireland is trying to increase testing capacity with 40,000 citizens currently awaiting testing. Fine Gael leader Leo Varadkar is to place Ireland on a national lockdown today. The lockdown is to include the complete closure of sit-down restaurants, a potential curfew and the closure of public parks, beaches and some roads. All schools, childcare and other public facilities were shut down as of March 12 with all St. Patrick's Day parades and festivals cancelled. Northern Ireland was placed on lockdown beginning today as well.

At this time of uncertainty, I wish you and your families health and safety.

Patrick Williams, State Director

Ancient Order of the Hibernian

Freedom For All Ireland State Chairman

Commodore Barry Medal



The AOH Ohio State Board is pleased to offer the Commodore John Barry medal to AOH Divisions for \$25. This medal is intended to be awarded to members for outstanding service or achievement. Each medal comes individually packaged in an attractive display case with a printed history of Commodore Barry.

Please see the order form below.

Yours in our Motto,

Mike McKenzie

Mike McKenzie Ohio State Board

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Ohio State Board Order Form for John Barry Medal

Division/County/State Information:

Division #: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Mailing Address to Send the Medal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Medals requested _____ @ \$25.00 each = \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: **(Ohio State Board of AOH)**

Please Send Checks to: Mike McKenzie 1190 South Ave Barberton, OH 44203

If you have additional questions, please contact
Mike McKenzie at: (330) 329 2652, tmmckenzie31@gmail.com