



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

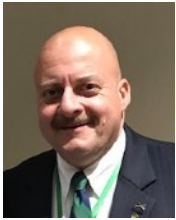
Ohio State Board

Newsletter

December 2022

Volume 4 Issue 12

President's Message



Brothers All,

Happy Christmas greetings to you all, my Brothers! Christmas is a time for fun and gathering to be sure, but more importantly, it's a time for remembering the reason for the season, and our faith.

It's **report and dues submittal season**. Brothers, you know what you have to do. Timely report submission is a critical administrative and leadership task. Your Division's leaders should take this responsibility seriously. To help with the work, we've already sent the End-Of-Year Checklist to all Divisions. As a follow-up, I'll be making phone calls to ensure completeness. No excuses, no reasons for failure to act in a correct, timely fashion. Let's just get it done. This includes:

- Your Form 9, which should be submitted soon after new officers are elected and installed.
- Your Form 11 and dues assessment checks.
- Your IRS reporting.

Recruiting and Retention: Remember our base 5% net growth expectation of all Divisions (with a 10% stretch goal!). What have you done lately to help your Division reach that goal?

Brothers, NOW is the time for you and your Division to start thinking about your support for our **FFAI Christmas Appeal**. Our support means so much to those who still struggle; the monetary assistance is so important, but just as important is the fact that we care, and we act, and they feel that support. Recent news items certainly underscore the fact that the work is not over, and much needs to be done. Please consider a generous contribution!

Missions & Charities and Hibernian Hunger Project: I know that many of you increase your efforts during these holiday seasons. As you continue to serve, PLEASE share your good news with all of us.

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments



Most of us have gone through periods in our lives when we have searched for meaning, for our identity, for a sense of mission or a goal in life. And, perhaps, some of us have tried to present ourselves as one thing when we knew deep down we were something or someone else. I think the real difficulty most of us encounter is when we try to define ourselves only in terms of our relationships with others, or events, or what we do for a living. But how many of us define ourselves primarily in terms of our relationship with God? How many of us are willing to look beyond appearances to see ourselves in relation to Jesus Christ, who came into the world, who died and rose again, specifically out of love for us?

Many things have been said over the centuries about John the Baptist—about his role in our salvation history, his wild clothing, his crazy diet. Let's face it—he ate bugs!! Many things have been said about his fearless, direct manner of speaking, in which he called the Pharisees a brood of vipers and hypocrites, and in which he deliberately provoked authority. Even Jesus himself weighed in on the issue, stating that there was no greater man born of woman than John. But no matter what else can be said about him, John knew who he was NOT. He knew that he was not the light of whom the Gospel writer speaks. He knew that he was not the Christ. He knew that he was not Elijah or one of the prophets risen from the dead. And because

Continued on Page 2

President's Message, cont.

Brothers, where and when you deem appropriate, **I'll be glad and grateful to attend your meetings and events.** Please feel free to send invites, and you can bet I'll attend if at all possible.

As we look forward to the Christmas season and the New Year, please remember the reason for the season. We're called to be Christ to all we meet, and we can make that come alive, both individually and as an organization, by living every day by our Motto of "Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity".

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



Chaplain's Comments, cont.

he knew who he was not, John knew exactly who he was: *a voice in the desert crying out, make straight the way of the Lord.*

John came into the world conscious that he was not the light, but conscious, as well, that he was called to testify to that light. He came into the world knowing that his entire life, his entire being, must somehow lead others to God. He came into the world knowing that his own particular role in the history of salvation was not to be the center of attention but rather to point others toward Christ. As he is quoted as saying elsewhere in the Gospels, his role was to decrease, so that Christ might increase.

As much as I might want to make this my own prayer, I know that I am not always ready to do the same. But how many of us are truly willing to empty ourselves of our egos, our passions, our desires, so that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and more fully give witness to Christ? How many of us are truly willing to set aside our own agendas, our own plans for the future, so that God's plan for salvation can become apparent to us? How many of us are even willing to admit that we don't have all the answers, and that we need to rely on God for guidance in a world filled with so many noises and distractions?

As we continue our journey through Advent, as we draw closer to our celebration of the Incarnation at Christmas, perhaps we need to take a long, deep look at how we see ourselves. Perhaps we need to take a long, deep look at how we see ourselves in relation to God. Perhaps we need to consider our own vocations, our own roles in the history of salvation, and how we can best give witness to the light that has come into the world in the person of Jesus. With John the Baptist as our example, let us allow ourselves, our egos, our agendas to decrease just a bit, so that we can learn to conform our wills to the will of God. In doing so, perhaps we will learn to see the world through the eyes of faith, so that we can understand how we ourselves can best give testimony to the light of Christ in a world so often darkened by sin and suffering.

Fr. John Keehner

Chaplain for the State of Ohio
National Chaplain



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
pvchrystal59@gmail.com

Treasurer Liam Lehn
liamlehn@gmail.com

Director John Myers
johnmyers216@gmail.com

Director Patrick Williams
karimewilly@gmail.com

Past President Ron Hagan
rhagan@hagancpa.com

OHIO DIVISIONS

<u>County</u>	<u>Division President</u>
Clermont	Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Cuyahoga Board	Dave McLaughlin dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net
Cuyahoga #2	Dan Berry (VP) danberry@ameritech.net
Cuyahoga #3	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
Franklin	Ken Stebleton kstebleton@live.com
Hamilton	Christopher Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Lucas	Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com
Mahoning	Ray Kelly IV aohrpk@gmail.com
Medina	Scott Manley scott.manley@assuredpartners.com
Montgomery	Steve Smith sesmith7@earthlink.net
Stark #1	Tom Fickes fic1424@aol.com
Summit Board	Chuck Allen Charles4684@att.net
Summit #2	Nick Jacobs njacobs@clashmore.com
Summit #3	Michael Namsick mpnamsick@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.**

Veterans Affairs Report

1) Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Veterans: www.va.gov/coronavirus

As of 11/23/2022: VA-Tracked Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 31,574; 975 Deaths; Active Cases: 246

2) Changes Upcoming to Federal Veteran Small Business Verification & Evaluation

The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act contained changes to Federal Government procedures related to the certification and evaluation of Veteran Small Business verification and evaluation, particularly as it relates to small business contracting and procurement with Federal Government agencies. First announced on September 23, 2022, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has ceased accepting new applications for Veteran-owned small business verification or reverification as of October 24, 2022. Authority for those functions will be transferred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on January 1, 2023. Both agencies are conducting transition requirements at the current time. SBA info on their veteran business support services can be found at the following link:

<https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses>

3) Wreaths Across America

Volunteers across the state of Ohio are working in support of national nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) as they prepare for National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 17, 2022. All locations registered to participate in National Wreaths Across America Day will take part in this national event that honors interred American veteran with a live, balsam veteran's wreath. Local volunteer groups and individuals give back to communities and help share the mission to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. To learn more about WAA events in Ohio or to sponsor a wreath you can find information on the WAA website: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>
Ohio Overview: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/173854/Overview>
Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/16751/Overview/>
Ohio Veterans Home, Sandusky: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/14925/Overview>
Oakdale Cemetery, Urbana: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/156899/Overview>
Ohio Veterans Memorial Park, Clinton: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166475/Overview/>
Ohio Veterans Home, Georgetown: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/16734/Overview/>
Reynoldsburg Historical Cemetery Project: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/16741/Overview/>

The next National VA Committee meeting will be on December 13 at 7pm ET. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. Also, be sure to visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at www.ohiovets.gov to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs for information about services around the country. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Danny Eakins
Veterans Affairs Chair
614-893-8833 | dannyeakins@hotmail.com

State Historian's Report

J. Michael Finn, State Historian

Lia Fáil, the Stone of Destiny



It is not uncommon for the mythology of Ireland and the actual history of Ireland to get jumbled together over time. This often occurs when explanations are sought for the existence of actual objects. The story of the Lia Fáil (*lee-ah foyl*) is an example of what happens when myth and history are mixed.

To begin the story, we have to start with the mythology of Ireland. According to Irish mythology the Tuatha Dé Danann (*too-ah-ha day dahn-nan*), the ancient magical people of Ireland, were owners of four magical objects, sometime referred to as the Four Jewels of Ireland. These were: the Claidheamh Solais (*kleeve solish*) or Sword of Light; the Sleá Bua (*slaw boo-ah*) or Spear of Lugh; the Coire Dagdae (*kor-eh dag-da*) or The Dagda's Cauldron; and the fourth item was the Lia Fáil or the *Stone of Destiny*.

When the Milesians (the Celtic people) arrived in Ireland and defeated the Tuatha Dé Danann, the Milesian poet Amergin was called upon to divide the land of Ireland equally between the Tuatha Dé Danann and his own people. Amergin cleverly allotted the portion above ground to the Milesians and the portion below ground to the Tuatha Dé Danann. The Four Jewels of Ireland were buried around Ireland when the Tuatha Dé Danann went underground.

Of the four magical objects only the Lia Fáil was ever found. The stone was thought to have magical powers. When the rightful High King of Ireland sat or stood upon it, the stone was said to roar in joy. The stone is also credited with the power to rejuvenate the king and also to endow him with a long reign. In legend, all of the kings of Ireland were crowned on the stone up to Muirchertach Mac Muiredaig about 500 AD. The coronation occurred at the Hill of Tara.

Where is the stone today? Well, this is where the history gets messy. There are at least two accepted versions of where the Lia Fáil is today. Some Scottish historians, such as John of Fordun and Hector Boece from the thirteenth century, say that the Lia Fáil is the same as the Stone of Scone (*skon*) in Scotland. According to the Scottish version of the story the Lia Fáil left Tara in 500 AD when the High King of Ireland Muirchertach Mac Muiredaig loaned it to his great-uncle, Fergus for his coronation in Scotland. Not long after Fergus's coronation in Scotland, he and his inner circle were all drowned in a freak storm off the County Antrim. The stone remained in Scotland which is why Muirchertach Mac Muiredaig is recorded in history as the last Irish King to be crowned on it.

The Lia Fáil which then became the coronation stone of Scottish kings was held at Scone Castle in Scotland. It was confiscated (the English word for stolen) by the English King Edward I in 1296 and placed under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey in London. All of the English kings and queens up to Queen Elizabeth II were crowned, seated over the Lia Fáil/Stone of Scone, symbolically indicating that they were also considered king or queen of Scotland.

In 1996 in response to growing dissatisfaction among Scots at the constitutional settlement, the British Conservative Government decided that the stone should be kept in Scotland when not in use at coronations. After a handover ceremony at the border between English and Scottish representatives, the stone was transported to Edinburgh Castle. It arrived in the Castle on November 30, 1996 where the official handover

Continued on Page 6

State Historian's Report, cont.

ceremony occurred. Prince Andrew, Duke of York, representing Queen Elizabeth II, formally handed over the Royal Warrant transferring the stone into the safekeeping of the Commissioners for the Regalia. It currently remains alongside the crown jewels of Scotland in the Crown Room.

The second and the most agreed upon version by Irish historians is that the Lia Fáil of Irish kings never left Ireland and has always been located at Tara. Tara is the ancient archaeological site in County Meath of great significance associated with the sacred kingship rituals, and it was from here that the Ard Rí (*ard-ree*), or High King of Ireland ruled his land.

Originally, the pillar stone stood before the Mound of Hostages, a burial chamber located on the site. Presently, it resides atop the hill of the Royal Seat, also known as Cormac's Hill. It was moved to its present position in 1798 following the death of four hundred rebels in the Battle of Tara during the 1798 Rebellion. They are buried in a mass grave near the mound.

The stone itself is a weathered column of grey granular granite standing approximately 3 ft. 3 in. above the ground. It is speculated that it must have originally reclined on its side in order to facilitate a man standing or sitting upon it, rather than standing tall as it does today. There are no marking on the stone, although it bears some marks from being vandalized with a hammer in 2012.

And there are other legends about the stone. Some claim that the Lia Fáil was originally the stone known as Jacob's Pillow in the bible. Some say it was brought into Ireland by Egyptian Queen Nefertiti. It is also claimed that the true stone lies hidden by Scottish monks, possibly beneath the River Tay or at Dunsinane Hill, and that it remains there to this day. Until proven otherwise we may have to be satisfied that the true Lia Fáil sits atop the Hill of Tara.

Mark Your Calendars

2023 State Convention

June 23 - 24
Cincinnati OH

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

State Organizer's Report

It doesn't seem possible, but another Christmas season is upon us.

We have done a good job with recruitment and retention this year and we want that trend to continue into the new year. Some divisions fared better than others in 2022, but as long as we continue to try, our hard work will reap the benefits.

I noticed more and more "young Hibernians" at the National Convention, an area that we all need to work on in 2023. We have to be welcoming to them and open to the differences between "we've always done it this way" and "maybe if we try something different". This was brought out at the National Convention and it makes a lot of sense. If we don't open our arms and our thinking, we will not survive for very long. This would be a good focus for our division organizers to study and work on.

That being said, it is my wish that all of us have a blessed and Merry Christmas; enjoy the season with our friends and loved ones.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

Division News

Patrick Pearse, Div. #1, Franklin County

Division members gather before marching in the Veteran's Day Parade in Columbus on November 10th.



Ohio AOH license plate

Brothers, I am working on a project to possibility have an AOH license plate in Ohio but to do that I need to get 100 licensed drivers to sign the attached petition to be considered. By signing the petition does not commit you to get the plate but hopefully if it is successful, you would get the plate.

What we are asking is that each of you to get 7 people to sign the petition and if possible, scan and email it to me.

Liam Lehn, 134 Maple Leaf Drive, Austintown, OH 44515

liamlehn@gmail.com 330.518.9917



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

PETITION TO ESTABLISH ORGANIZATIONAL LICENSE PLATE

We the undersigned do intend to support the production of specialty license plates designated to the _____ by purchasing the _____

Specialty License Plates from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. We understand there will be an additional cost to the standard license plate fee and also understand a portion of the proceeds will go to the designated fund.

Please do not sign this petition unless it is your present intention to purchase this plate if and when it is issued.

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (Duplicate this form as necessary)

(PRINT or TYPE)

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PETITION, PLEASE CONTACT			
CIRCULATOR OF PETITION INFORMATION		TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES	
NAME		PHONE	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PETITION DRIVE

Catholic Action

All of December is taken up with Advent and the Christmas season. Advent represents the time of preparation for the coming of the Savior. The liturgical color, representative of repentance and humility, is violet, except on the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday, when the color rose represents the joy of approaching the Christmas season. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, is the patronal feast of the United States, and a holy day of obligation. The Christmas season begins with the vigil Mass of Christmas. The liturgical color is white.

FROM THE *CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH*

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF DECEMBER

December 3	Francis Xavier, Priest	Memorial
December 6	Nicholas, Bishop	
December 7	Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial
December 8	The Immaculate Conception	Solemnity
December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Feast
December 13	Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	Memorial
December 14	John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor	Memorial
December 25	Christmas	Solemnity
December 26	Stephen, Martyr	Feast
December 27	John, Apostle and Evangelist	Feast
December 28	Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Feast
December 30	Holy Family	Feast

IRISH SAINTS OF DECEMBER

Finnian of Clonard (c.470-c.549)

December 12

One of at least three saintly Finnians, this Irish saint may have been born at Myshall, Carlow, Ireland. He may have spent some years in Welsh monasteries. Later he founded several monasteries in Ireland, including Clonard, in Meath, which for many centuries was renowned for Biblical scholarship. Though often referred to as a bishop, there is not solid evidence of his consecration, but certainly Finnian served as a mentor and teacher to many who in turn spread the faith throughout Ireland and beyond.

Continued on Page 10

Catholic Action, cont.

Flannan (7th century)

December 18

Son of an Irish chieftain, he received a monastic education. On a pilgrimage to Rome, he was consecrated bishop by Pope John IV. Upon returning, he settled at Killaloe and is considered its first bishop.

Ursicinus (d.c. 625)

December 20

Probably an Irishman, he was a disciple of St. Columban on the Continent, founded a monastery at St. Ursanne in present-day Switzerland, and evangelized the local people.

Aileran the Wise (d. 664)

December 29

Nothing is known of Aileran's early life. We know that St. Finian induced him to enter the monastery at Clonard, where Aileran became known as one of the most erudite scholars of this erudite group of monks. He knew Greek as well as Latin, and studied the Eastern and Western Fathers. Aileran's works include lives of Sts. Patrick and Brigid and a commentary on the genealogy of Jesus which was popular in the Middle Ages.

NEWS AND ISSUES

The new head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is Archbishop Timothy Broglio, a Clevelander. The Archbishop spent many years in the Vatican diplomatic service, but his most recent job was as head of the Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS), which shepherds the Catholic members of the chaplain corps of the armed forces, as well as contract priests for the Departments of Defense and the VA. Once a year at least, the Archbishop has been back in Cleveland, for a Mass and fundraising event for the AMS at the seminary in Wickliffe, an event often attended by yours truly. Perhaps some good signs: the Archbishop has worked to boost vocations to the military chaplaincy by instituting a joint effort with a number of dioceses. He has also not been shy about speaking out against threats to religious liberty and available worship opportunities in the armed forces, problems which have grown in the last few years.

LOCAL NEWS

As they have done for a number of years, Hibernians of Joseph Nalley Sr., Division 6, Youngstown, will aid the Salvation Army bell ringers in the local interfaith effort to brighten Christmas for local people in need.

Do you have local news? Please send it along for inclusion in this report. A Merry Christmas to all.

Fraternally,

Pat Lally lally8404@hotmail.com

National Secretary Ed Halligan

Brothers,

National Secretary Ed Halligan suffered a stroke Friday night (November 25th.). Please keep Ed and his family in your prayers.

We will keep everyone posted as more information becomes available.

“O Eternal God have mercy upon all who have suffered a stroke. Remove the sudden fear that befalls them. Endow them with courage in the struggle to recover what has been lost. Grant them strength and hope to envision new days ahead and a spirit of faith to take the risk of living fully once again.”

God Bless,

Danny O'Connell

President

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Past State President Dan MacDonald



Daniel Joseph MacDonald, age 84, of Hudson, passed away Thursday, November 24, 2022. Dan is the beloved husband of Martha (nee Brunner); loving father of Mary Elizabeth "Beth" (Robert) Roussel, Christopher William (Rhonda) MacDonald and the late Daniel Patrick MacDonald; cherished grandfather of Mallory & Ellen Roussel, Cohen MacDonald and Gwen & Devin MacDonald; dear brother of James Edward (Irene) MacDonald.

Dan grew up in Muncie, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1960. After college, Dan proudly served his country in the U.S. Army before he met Martha in New York City. They married in 1966 and started their family in Chicago. Dan had a successful sales and management career in the automotive coatings industry and enjoyed dividing his retirement time between Ohio and Marco Island, Florida. Throughout his life, Dan was active in a variety of organizations, both social and philanthropic. He was a member of the Ohio State and St. Brendan's Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, serving as State President in 2001-2003 and for two terms as Division President. Also was chairman of the long-running Riverside Irish Festival in Cuyahoga Falls, the St. Mary Men's Club and the Sorin Society of Notre Dame. Dan was devoted to God, country, family, and Notre Dame.

A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Dan's life will be held 2-4 PM Sunday, December 4 at JOHNSON-ROMITO FUNERAL HOME, 19 E. Main St. (on the square), Hudson, OH. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 AM Monday, December 5 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 340 N. Main St., Hudson, OH. (Everyone please meet at church.) Private interment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society: <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/campaign/MacDonald-Family>.