



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*December 2023*

*Volume 5 Issue 12*

## President's Message



Brothers, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our Catholic faith is a cornerstone of our Order. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, please don't forget to remember the reason for the season.

As we wind down another year, I would like to thank you for your leadership and the time you've invested in making this Order what it is today. We've accomplished a lot in the past several months and I'm looking forward to 2024. Thank you again for the opportunity to lead this State Board into the future. There are a few end of year items that I wanted to touch on:

### **Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal**

The forms for the annual Christmas Appeal should be coming your way. If your Division does not participate in this appeal, please consider a donation this year. The monies generated for this appeal enable the AOH to provide financial help to groups that assist in our goal of achieving complete and absolute independence, peace, and unity for all of Ireland. The defined categories of Hibernian support include support for former Republican political prisoners, truth and justice groups, cross-community and local community groups, Irish culture and heritage groups, preserving Irish Republican history and cross border groups. Please consider making a generous donation this year. The people we give to count on the support of Irish America.

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## Chaplain's Comments



Brothers, Advent is a season of preparation. A time when we are preparing ourselves to receive the gift of the Incarnation of the Lord; Jesus Christ, our salvation. How can properly prepare ourselves to receive such a wonderful gift? We are called to make a conversion of the heart in order to receive the gift of salvation. How can we experience this conversion in our lives?

We can turn away from temptation and sin. This creates a rift between us and God. Let us strive to make everything we do in our daily lives give praise and glory to God.

We can learn more about our faith. We can study the Catechism so we can better understand what the Church teaches and know why it teaches it.

We can celebrate the sacraments, most notably receiving the Most Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. Let us get in a right relationship with God. Repair the brokenness of our hearts and heal the wounds we created by our sins and prepare ourselves to worthily receive the Eucharist.

We can work on creating a more robust prayer life. We can celebrate the Liturgy more than once a week, pray the Divine Office daily, and take time out of our busy schedules for contemplative prayer.

We can spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration. There are many parishes who offer holy hours and/or perpetual adoration. This will allow us to enter into a more personal relationship with God as we pray before the Eucharist, talk to God and listen to God speak in our hearts.

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**President's Message, cont.**

**Rosters and Assessments**

As you know, we collect dues money throughout the year and pay it the next year. The number of members on your roster as of December 31, 2023 is what you will owe by February 15, 2024. Please keep in mind that there was a National dues increase starting in 2024 to \$20.00 per member. If your dues are received on or before February 15, 2024, there will be a \$4.00 discount per member for a total of \$16.00 per member. Please take advantage of this discount and have your corrected roster and dues in by February 15, 2024. State assessments are still \$6.00 per member. These are due to State Secretary Pete Chrystal with updated rosters by February 15, 2024 as well. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pete.

**Missions and Charities**

During this time of year, many Divisions will be making donations to different groups or volunteering at different places. Please take a moment to not only record these holiday season donations but, your donations throughout the year. The National Missions and Charities forms are due on February 15, 2024 as well. On the National website [aoh.com](http://aoh.com),

under the forms section, there are forms available to record your Division's donations for the whole year. Not only are you able to record a monetary contribution but, you can record the hours volunteered. Currently, a donated volunteer hour is worth \$31.80. If you have 10 members who donated an hour each to an event, you can record this time as \$318.00. By sending these forms in to National Board, they can aggregate what our organization did across the Country. Please make sure to send these forms in to the address listed on the form by February 15, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Ohio Missions and Charities Chair Chris Konik.

Brothers, as we move forward into 2024, please make every effort to contribute to the State Board. We need collaboration across the State. If your Division is successful at something, we need to know about it and try and duplicate it across all of our Divisions. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Once again thank you and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Denny

**State Organizer's Report**

We received another update from our National Organizer concerning our open applications in Ohio. We are doing well and at last count, we only have seven open applications. Some of these are probably already being addressed and I'm thinking they should all be closed by the end of the year. Thank you to all of the divisions who have responded. If you know contact has been made, whether the applicant has joined or not, please let me know.

Many of our divisions will be celebrating soon by hosting their Christmas parties. An idea might be to reach out to those brothers who have not been active recently and to those former members in an attempt to bring them back.

We will soon be into our new year, so this is a good time to make sure all dues are up-to-date and the divisions' books are in order. February 15 will be here before we know it and we want to be ready.

Here's hoping all of our brothers and their families enjoy this season of Christmas. Please remember "the reason for the season" and keep Christ in Christmas.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

**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:hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hilliardmcpherson@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>	Daniel J. O'Connell djoconnell@ysu.edu
<b>National Catholic Action</b>	Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
<b>National Project St. Patrick</b>	Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
<b>National Deputy Organizer</b>	Joseph M. Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
<b>National Oversight Committee</b>	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

**OHIO DIVISIONS**

<u>County</u>	<u>Division President</u>
<b>Clermont</b>	Douglas Gerrard <a href="mailto:dpgerrard@aol.com">dpgerrard@aol.com</a>
<b>Cuyahoga Board</b>	Ben Neylon <a href="mailto:BNeylon@yahoo.com">BNeylon@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Cuyahoga #2</b>	Charles O'Neill oduffy317@aol.com
<b>Cuyahoga #3</b>	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
<b>Franklin #1</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hamilton #1</b>	Christopher Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lucas</b>	Robert McMahon <a href="mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com">aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mahoning #6</b>	Ray Kelly IV <a href="mailto:aohrpk@gmail.com">aohrpk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Medina</b>	Joe Gill <a href="mailto:wildirishjoe@icloud.com">wildirishjoe@icloud.com</a>
<b>Montgomery</b>	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
<b>Stark #1</b>	Tom Fickes <a href="mailto:fic1424@aol.com">fic1424@aol.com</a>
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<b>Summit #2</b>	Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.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>	Will Rathbone <a href="mailto:Willrathbone@gmail.com">Willrathbone@gmail.com</a>

**Appointed Officers**

<b>Catholic Action</b>	Patrick Lally	<a href="mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com">lally8404@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Pro Life</b>	Dave Manley	<a href="mailto:ruthannanddavid@gmail.com">ruthannanddavid@gmail.com</a>
<b>FFAI</b>	Patrick Williams	<a href="mailto:karimcwilly@gmail.com">karimcwilly@gmail.com</a>
<b>PEC</b>	Mike Cosgrove	irish.mick213@gmail.com
<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>	Vacant	
<b>Immigration</b>	John Myers	<a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>

**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@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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

## Chaplain's Comments, cont.

We can actively and consciously participate in the Liturgy of the Mass. Instead of sitting in the pews at Mass and listening and watching the Mass, we can sing all the songs, the responsorial psalm and the Gospel acclamation. We can be more involved in the life of the Church, in AOH, other charitable activities with family and friends. We can live the Gospel.

We can perform a good examination of conscience. The Advent Examen that Joe Gill shared with us last week is a wonderful guide for doing a good examination of conscience. I recommend everyone sit down with it and go over it before you try to do it. It is very comprehensive. You can plan it out over several days if you wish. Get familiar with it and let it work for you.

Brothers, the message of hope, glory and salvation is the message underlying our entire faith. All that we believe to be true about God, his relationship with us, and his plan of salvation for the world are what we should be preparing ourselves to receive.

Sometimes, we get misdirected, and either forget what we were doing or forget to get back to what we were doing. That is why God gave us the gift of the Church. He knows that we cannot do it alone, that we need one another, and with God's guidance, together we can stay on the right path, stay in right

relationship with God, and be prepared to receive the gift of salvation.

As we prepare ourselves to receive the greatest gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ, we must turn away from our selfishness and sin, repent for our sins and receive the gift of reconciliation. We are called to look into our hearts, identify the brokenness of our sins, ask God for His mercy and forgiveness, and properly prepare ourselves to receive the graces he bestows on His faithful. As we come forth to receive the gift of the Incarnation in the Most Holy Eucharist, let us contemplate the hope we receive from our faith, come to understand the glory which God wishes to share with us, and prepare ourselves to receive the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas brothers and don't forget to share the love of God with everyone you meet through Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity that we share as Hibernians.

God bless,

Deacon Bruce



## Brass Monkey

As I was putting together this Newsletter this morning it was 20 degrees here in Columbus and felt like 8 degrees. With the weather getting colder, you may hear someone say "It's cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." I always felt sorry for that monkey. The following tells you where that phrase originated.

On old warships it was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a **Brass Monkey**.

## Division News

### Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.



On Sunday November 19th the **Hinckley Historical Society** planted a Red Bud tree on the Historical Society grounds in remembrance of our past Vice President, Ray Schulte. Ray, who was also a Hinckley Township Trustee, passed away in January of 2021 from COVID.



L to R: Joe Gill, Joe Casey, Emma Schulte, Dcn. Bruce Dobbins, Pete Chrystal, Melissa Augustine, Tony Manley, Dave Manley

### Hibernian Hunger



This past year, the Irish Brigade of Medina County won an award for our work in Medina County, to help feed the needy. With the award recognition a \$500.00 prize was sent to our Division. With this in hand, an equal donation was presented to the St. Martin of Tours Food Bank, accepted by Fr. Daniel Reed and to the Feeding Medina Organization, in which our Division works with throughout the year., accepted by Katy Forest, Executive Director. We have much to be thankful for and more ahead of us.



## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### The Gallarus Oratory



*Corca Dhuibhne* (the area that makes up the Dingle Peninsula in western County Kerry) has been inhabited for a very long time. The first settlers in the area arrived about 2000 BC and were those who erected megalithic pillar stones, which are plentiful throughout the area. Next to arrive (about 1500 BC to 400 AD) in southwest Ireland were the *Corca Dhuibhne*, a people who left positive proof of their presence in the name which still attaches to the district today. *Corca Dhuibhne* means “tribe of Duibhne.” It takes its name from the túath (clan) of *Corco Dhuibhne* who occupied the peninsula in the Middle Ages.

Next came the Celts, the Vikings and finally the Normans. Each wave of immigrants or invaders left their mark on the land. The people in the area of *Corca Dhuibhne* today still speak the Irish language and they continue to foster the native Irish culture despite the incursion of so called ‘modern’ ideas.

We have very little written record of the early people of the area, but they have left behind a great number of physical remains. In the area are the greatest collections in the world of clocháns or bee-hive huts, of the stones with unique Ogham writing, of ring forts, and other ancient artifacts. The area continues to have an almost magical effect on visitors. The locals speak of visitors “getting struck by the black saucepan.” In other words, the visitor is so struck by the beauty of the area that they want to keep returning.

One of the most unique sites on the Dingle Peninsula is the Gallarus Oratory. Ireland has a history of early Christian settlement dating as far back as the 6th century when monastic settlements were developed as centers of the faith and learning in the remote Irish countryside. The Dingle Peninsula is no exception. The Gallarus Oratory is the oldest and best preserved example of an early church and is probably one of the oldest intact buildings in Ireland. Amazingly, at this remarkable site you can experience something that has not changed significantly from the day it was built.

An oratory is a small Christian chapel. Some also believe that the oratory may have also been used as temporary housing for pilgrims arriving for visits to holy sites nearby. The oratory is located near the village of Ballydavid on the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry. It is near the harbor at *Ard na Caithne*, also known as Smerwick Harbor.

In Irish, the Gallarus Oratory is called *Séipéilín Ghallarais*, meaning literally “*Small Chapel of the Place of the Foreigners.*” The reference to foreigners (*Gall*) is a reference to someone foreign to the Dingle Peninsula. It has also been translated as “rocky headland.” The oratory was once the centerpiece of a monastic settlement, the only remnant of which is the stone wall that surrounds the area.

Estimates of its age vary (the Gallarus Visitor Center quotes an estimated building date of 700 AD). The building is believed to have been built between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Century, although there are some who propose a

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### State Historian's Report, cont.

later date. Shaped like an upturned boat, this remarkably well-preserved building is built entirely without mortar and uses corbel vaulting, a technique developed by Neolithic tomb builders. It is built with the stones

being laid at a slight angle, lower on the outside than on the inside, allowing rainwater to run off. Often a corbelled roof of this design collapses in the middle, its weakest point, unless its masons were exceptionally skilled. Today it remains dry on the inside even during the Atlantic gales and storms sometimes experienced on the peninsula.

There is only one small window on the east gable, about 3 feet high and directly opposite the entrance. The sandstone walls are almost 4 feet thick, and the small cell-like space inside the oratory measures approximately 15 feet by 10 feet. The oratory itself is only about 14 feet tall.

It can be entered and explored. On the inside near the doorway there are two projecting stones over the lintel, each with a hole used for fastening a door. The small stone cross atop the east gable was placed there in modern times, inserted into an ancient socket stone.

Like most ancient places in Ireland, the oratory is not without its legends. A giant is supposedly buried on the property. The grave is marked by an ancient standing stone.

The stones of the oratory have always been held in great reverence. In another local legend, the people tell of a young boy who was playing near the oratory and thought he would take home one of the stones. Soon after arriving home with the stone the boy began to grow in size until he became too large to fit through the door of his cottage. His mother realized what the boy had done and returned the stone to its proper place. The boy soon returned to his normal size.

It is also said that if you climb through the window in the oratory your soul will be cleansed of sin. Well, at least that's the story. The window in the east wall happens to be so small that no average sized person could get through it. To fully experience the power of the oratory you have to go inside. Although the inside is barren of any furnishings, the feeling of going back in time is still there. Something very close to the feeling one gets when entering the ancient site at Newgrange.

*Corca Dhuibhne* has many more interesting and historical sites to visit and explore. This ancient area is one of the richest areas in archaeological remains on the west coast of Europe. It has much to offer both the tourist and the historian.

**2024 AOH National Convention**

**Orlando FL, August 7 - 11, 2024**

**For additional information, See**

<https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>

## **Political Education Report**

Unrest exists across the world at the present time. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, expanding conflict in the Middle East, and Congress' own efforts to organize itself into a functioning legislative body have been dominating the attention of our lawmakers.

Which makes it all the more important that we not fall silent regarding political issues impacting Ireland and Irish America.

From National's website...

“The purpose of the Political Education Committee is to support the initiatives of the Ancient Order of Hibernians through political action. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is non-partisan and is willing to work with all parties to achieve the goals of the Order; we can work in common cause with political figures on some issues while maintaining the right to respectfully disagree on others.”

How do we stay informed on those initiatives? By visiting National's website. Specifically, follow the “Call to Action” banner and the secondary banner “Irish American Advocacy (Political Education)” for information on the issues of current importance to the Order.

<https://aoh.com/political-education-2/#/>

House Resolution 596, calling for restoration of power-sharing in Northern Ireland is currently in committee, and is a “Call to Action” issue. Requesting your Congressional Representative become a member of the Friends of Ireland Caucus is another. Using the link above and 5 minutes of your time, you can create and send a request to your representative(s) to support the resolution and join the caucus. Please do so.

Currently, the UK is in process of doing an “end run” around their inability to sign a trade deal with the United States since Brexit, and has been pursuing “trade deals” with individual states. These are not actual trade deals, but memorandums of understanding aimed at building momentum toward an actual enforceable trade deal with the United States. Which, with many Good Friday Agreement promises unfulfilled, the US is in no mood to pursue, in part as a result of the work of the Order in bringing attention to the issue.

The UK has signed agreements with Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington. They are actively engaging with other states including Florida, Texas, California, Colorado, and Illinois.

We need to keep an eye on Ohio, and stop this cynical public relations strategy at our border.

Michael Cosgrove

Political Education Chair

614-935-6765 | [irish.mick213@gmail.com](mailto:irish.mick213@gmail.com)



**Catholic Action**

To All Hibernians:

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.

**THE O ANTIPHONS**

Around this time of year, we may hear reference to the “O Antiphons,” and perhaps you have wondered what those might be. These are prayers spoken or sung before and after the Magnificat of Mary in Evening Prayer—Vespers—of the Liturgy of the Hours, from 17 to 23 December. They are thought to date from the eighth century and incorporate Messianic titles of the Savior from Scripture: “O Wisdom,” “O Adonai,” “O Root of Jesse,” and so forth. Our medieval forebears seem to have been fond of acrostics, word puzzles, and the like, and we find an acrostic imbedded in these antiphons. The first letters of each antiphon in Latin, when read from the last antiphon to the first, spell out “Ero cras,” that is, “I will be here tomorrow,” a reference to the imminent arrival of the Savior.

**MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF DECEMBER**

December 4	John Damascene, Priest and Doctor	
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 31	Holy Family	Feast

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**Catholic Action, cont.**

**IRISH SAINTS OF DECEMBER**

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

December 12

One of at least three saintly Finians, 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.

**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**

It is encouraging to hear, in the wake of the victory of the pro-abortion forces in our recent election, that the pro-life leaders in the state legislature have not thrown in the towel. Both Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) have vowed that the fight is not over.

Would you like to find out more about the National Eucharistic Congress to be held this coming July in Indianapolis? Check out [www.eucharisticcongress.org](http://www.eucharisticcongress.org).

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](mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com)

330-792-7135

**2024 John F Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations**

**To: All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, all Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America State Boards, and all Divisions in meetings assembled.**

**From: Sean Pender, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America National Vice President/John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations Chair**

**Re: John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations**

**In accordance with Article XXVI of the National Constitution of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, we are sending this letter to all eligible members to request nominees for the 2024 John F. Kennedy Award. This award will be conferred to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. We require (1) that the nominator provide a typed biography of the nominee, not to exceed 500 words, and (2) that the nominator also ascertain that, if elected, the nominee will accept the award on Saturday August 10, 2024 at the 2024 AOH-LAOH National Convention at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Florida. Nomination shall explain how the individual is outstanding in his or her field of endeavor.**

**To be accepted, all nominations must be returned to Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President**

**(1) Via Mail 13 Scullin Dr. Yardville, NJ 08620, and postmarked no later than January 15, 2024, or (2) Via email to Sean at [paddyspeed@yahoo.com](mailto:paddyspeed@yahoo.com) no later than January 15, 2024.**

**2024 Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations**

**To: All officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, all officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America State Boards, and all Division in meetings assembled.**

**From: Sean Pender, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America National Vice President/ Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations Chair**

**Re: Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations**

**In accordance with Article XXVIII of the National Constitution of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, we are sending this letter to all eligible members to request nominees for the inaugural 2024 Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award. This award will be conferred to an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment, or other forms of societal neglect.**

**We require (1) that the nominator provide a typed biography of the nominee, not to exceed 500 words, and (2) that the nominator also ascertain that, if elected, the nominee will accept the award on Friday August 9, 2024 at the 2024 AOH-LAOH National Convention at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Florida. Nomination shall explain how the individual demonstrates their defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment, or other forms of societal neglect.**

**To be accepted, all nominations must be returned to Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President**

**(1) Via Mail 13 Scullin Dr. Yardville, NJ 08620, and postmarked no later than January 15, 2024, or (2) Via email to Sean at [paddyspeed@yahoo.com](mailto:paddyspeed@yahoo.com) no later than January 15, 2024.**

### 2023 Assessments

Brothers,

The 2023 assessments will be due by on or before February 15, 2024, per the Ohio State Bylaws see below. Please have your Financial Secretary complete the attached Ohio AOH Worksheet and mail with the assessment check.

Also, the Financial Secretary needs to update the AOH Membership roster whenever there is a change of officers. Form 9 needs to be printed and sent to me.

Please reach out to me with any questions.

#### **ARTICLE VIII    ASSESSMENTS**

- Section 8.1            The Board shall levy an annual assessment on all Divisions of six dollars (\$6.00) per year for each member in good standing as of December 31. Two dollars (\$2.00) of this assessment amount shall be earmarked to offset expenses for the hospitality room at the National Convention. The assessment shall be submitted with the Division's annual report and corrected membership roster, on or before February 15.
  
- Section 8.2            Annual reports received later than February 15 shall include an additional ten percent (10%) levy not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00.)
  
- Section 8.3            During their first year of their existence, newly organized Divisions shall pay assessments of twenty-five (\$.25) per each month the Division has been in existence, not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) per member, per year.
  
- Section 8.4            Annual reports and assessments shall be sent to the Secretary by Certified Mail.

Thanks,

Pete Chrystal  
Ohio AOH State Secretary  
440.722.8053  
[Pvchrystal59@gmail.com](mailto:Pvchrystal59@gmail.com)

**Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Ohio State Board**

**Division Financial & Membership Report**

- Step 1 Complete Form 11 (Division Financial & Membership Report)
- Step 2 Enter the number of Members Initiated this past year (Line 2)
- Step 3 Enter the number of Members Reinstated this past year (Line 3)
- Step 4 Enter the number of Members Subject to the Per Capita Tax (Line 16)

Ohio State Board Assessment Worksheet

LINE 2	_____	*	\$3.00 =	_____	(INITIATION)
LINE 3	_____	*	\$3.00 =	_____	(REINSTATEMENT)
LINE 16	_____	*	\$6.00 =	_____	(PER CAPITA DUES)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

Late Assessment (after 2/15) \_\_\_\_\_ (LATE ASSESSMENT)

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED TO OHIO: \_\_\_\_\_ Only One Check

The check (payable to AOH-Ohio State Board), along with Form 11 & Form 9 needs to be mailed to the State Board Secretary.

Send to:

Pete Chrystal  
7370 Fayette Blvd  
Chippewa Lake, OH 44215