



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*February 2024*

*Volume 6, Issue 2*

## President's Message



Brothers,

I hope this message finds you well. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for any assistance. As we move into February, keep in mind a couple of dates.

**February 15** – Assessments are due to all superior boards (County, State and National.) It is especially important to have your National dues in by this date. National dues are \$20.00 per member but a discount of \$4.00 will be given if your assessments are in by this date.

Missions and Charities forms are also due to the National Missions and Charities Chair. The forms can be found under the forms section at [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).

**February 23** – State of Ohio Freedom for all Ireland fundraiser at the Akron AOH Hall (2000 Brown St., Akron, OH 44319.) Please see flyer in newsletter.

A lot of events leading up to St. Patrick's Day will be held in February. Please remember that all eyes will be on us during this time and that we are the "voice of Irish America." This is a great time to recruit new members and showcase what the AOH is all about.

Division Presidents, please make every effort to appoint someone to each chairmanship of AOH committees. In reviewing our Ohio rosters, I noticed that a lot of the chairs are not filled.

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## Chaplain's Comments



The clock turns from 05:59 to 06:00, Sony and Cher's song "I got you, Babe" starts playing on the radio, and its Ground Hog Day. Again, again, again, and again... If you haven't seen the movie starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell, I am sure somebody has told you about it. If not, check it out. You won't be disappointed.

With Ground Hog's Day at the beginning of the month, I couldn't shake the idea that we have all probably have had similar experiences where, as in the movie, every day seems like we are living out the same day over and over and over. We get in a rut and need a push to get out. We need help from our spouse, our friends, or even an encounter with a stranger who puts us back on track. Well, our spiritual life can feel like this at times, too. We go to Mass each week and it seems like each week it's the same old faces, sitting in the same old pews, each week blends into the next, and we can't remember the readings after we leave the church parking lot. It happens to all of us, and it takes a little doing to get us back into the swing of things.

We are all called to a life of conversion. Our faith journey is comprised of conversion experiences that move us forwards, backwards, and sometimes sideways on our path to God. This is normal, but we must always keep moving. Our conversion experiences vary in number and degree. Sometimes they are positive and allow us to grow closer to God, and sometimes they are negative and

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**President’s Message, cont.**

These committees are core to the AOH. If you do not have a Freedom For All Ireland chair or a Veterans Affairs chair, please appoint someone. When information is disseminated from the National or State Board chairs, we need someone to send that information to. It is imperative that these positions be filled. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about each chair. Once a chair has been filled, please make an update to the online roster.

For those who are attending the 2024 AOH National Convention, the convention website is up and running. Hotel reservations and registration are available at [www.orlandoirish2024.com](http://www.orlandoirish2024.com).

I am looking at late April, early May to schedule the next State Board meeting. Information to follow.

In Motto,  
Denny

**Chaplain’s Comments, cont.**

we move away from God. The sideways movements are like the Ground Hog Day experiences when we are not experiencing much of anything and neither move closer or away from God. The movement we encounter in our conversion experiences depends on our response to the experience. If we respond to the experience by seeing God in the experience and acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit, then our experience will foster our relationship with God and one another as members of the living body of Christ.

If you find yourself in a rut, one way out can be to get more involved in spreading the Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity of the AOH. We come together as brothers in Christ and share our faith, our heritage and our love with others. Serving others and one another in the AOH allows Christ to be seen at work in our midst. The work of the fraternity is the work of God. It helps us and others see God in our midst. With God in our lives, we can experience conversion in a positive manner and move closer to God and one another.

Brothers, if our response to all things in life is positive, as described above, then how could we not move closer to God. We need to look for God in

everything. By recognizing His presence and acknowledging His work in our lives, we can ensure that our conversion experiences will keep us moving in the right direction and will allow us to not see every day as a repeat of the previous day. We will not experience the Ground Hog Day effect. We won’t have to wake up each day dreading what we know is coming because we have seen it before.

Welcome God into your day each morning as you wake up. Let a prayer on your lips be the song you hear every day when your alarm goes off. If we do this each day and look for God in all that we experience, how can any day be the same as the next? If you get in a rut and need a push to get back on the path, remember that God is always there for you, see God in all things and picture Him looking down at you and whispering in your ear, *I got you, Babe!*

God Bless,  
Deacon Bruce



**2023 - 2025 Officers**

<b>Chaplain</b>	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
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<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>
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<b>National Project St. Patrick</b>	Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
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<b>National Oversight Committee</b>	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

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<b>Trumbull</b>	Marty McQuaide <a href="mailto:emcqu@aol.com">emcqu@aol.com</a>
<b>Washington</b>	James W. Farley <a href="mailto:jameswfarley04@gmail.com">jameswfarley04@gmail.com</a>

**Appointed Officers**

<b>Catholic Action</b>	Patrick Lally	<a href="mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com">lally8404@hotmail.com</a>
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<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>	Doug Gerrard	dpgerrard@aol.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@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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

### State Organizer's Report

Presidents and Financial Secretaries, are you preparing your year-end assessments? Be sure to get them in the mail by February 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid having to pay the extra amounts to National and State!

We still have a couple open applications to work on. When you do follow-up on the applications you get from National, our worthy State President or me, please let us know so we can keep our records updated.

For recruitment aids, access the National website (aoh.com), then go to "About the AOH", then scroll down to "Organizer Resources". You'll find several flyers and aids you can download and personalize. This will assist you, especially as we move forward to the Green Season.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

### Veterans Affairs Report

1. The AOH National website has listed the roles and responsibilities of the Veteran Affairs Chairman ( [www.aoh.com/veteran-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veteran-affairs) ). Our past Ohio Veterans Affairs Chairman , Danny Eakins, excelled in the billet.

I thank him for all of his outstanding work, and also thank Jim Casey for this exceptional newsletter , that keeps us informed. I have had recourse to look at the old Veterans Affairs Reports,( found on the Ohio AOH website: [www.ohioaoh.com](http://www.ohioaoh.com) ), and will use those reports as templates, and standards.

2. I request that all AOH Veterans check their most recent membership card , to confirm that the word VETERAN is on the front of the card. If the card is in error, it means that your status needs to be updated in the National data base. Your Division Financial Secretary can correct the error.

I bring this up because my status as a Veteran , in the AOH data base, recently changed.

3. National VA Committee meetings are held online on the Third Tuesday of the month, at 7pm ET. Contact current National Chair ,Patrick E Flaherty, at: [p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com](mailto:p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com). To be sent a link to the zoom call. It is my understanding that links are set out a couple of weeks prior to the meeting.

4. If there are Hibernian members that are deployed, or will be deployed, I request that their contact information be emailed to me.

5. Visit [www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov) or AOH National website [www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs) for a litany of organizations and websites that assist Veterans.

6. A Reinforced Platoon of Marines from Lima Company 3/25, (Reserve Infantry Company out of Columbus) returns on 9 February from a deployment to Cuba.

7. Any suggestions or recommendations for information to be passed in future reports would be welcome.

Thank you,

Doug Gerrard

Veterans Affairs Chair

513-615-7469

[Dpgerrard@aol.com](mailto:Dpgerrard@aol.com)

## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### Michael Joseph O'Rahilly



The least remembered leader of the 1916 Easter Rising is Michael Joseph O'Rahilly was the only leader of the Rising to die in the actual fighting.

He was born April 22, 1875, the son of a wealthy County Kerry family. He was educated in the national schools and attended Clongowes secondary school. In 1893 he entered the Royal University of Ireland where he hoped to study medicine, but a bout with tuberculosis in 1894 and the death of his father ended his medical plans. In 1898 he left Ireland for the United States where he married Nancy Brown. They were married in April 1899. Together they would have six children.

He was in the US for over 10 years, returning to Ireland in 1909. He became a nationalist and protested the 1911 visit to Dublin by King George V by erecting a banner across Grafton Street that read, "Thou art not conquered yet, dear land." It was eventually torn down, but not before it gained some publicity.

He spoke the Irish language loudly, and, some say, badly. That did not stop him from speaking it, however. He would often enter a pub and address everyone in his "murdered" Irish, to insure that the language of the Gael was heard.

He called himself "The O'Rahilly" (in Irish Ua Rathghaille) using the Irish custom of assigning the definite article before his last name indicating that he was the leader of the clan. This self-assigned title stuck and even his friends referred to him by that name.

He joined Conradh na Gaeilge (the Gaelic League) in 1912 and soon became a member of An Coiste Gnotha, its governing body. He was editor of its newspaper, *An Claidheamh Soluis*, (The Sword of Light) in 1913. He worked on a project translating Dublin street names into Irish. O'Rahilly provided many of the bi-lingual translations seen today on Dublin street signs. He was an admirer of Arthur Griffith and soon became a member of Sinn Fein.

He was the co-founder along with Eoin MacNeil of the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and was appointed its Treasurer and Director of Arms. He, along with Erskine Childers, directed the first major arming of the Volunteers, the landing of German Mauser rifles at Howth on July 26, 1914.

He reluctantly agreed with Eoin MacNeil and the Volunteer's Chief of Staff Bulmer Hobson that the 13,000-man force should be used only for defensive purposes. Despite his support for militancy, he was not a member of the secret Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). By 1915 the Irish Volunteers had been infiltrated by the leadership of the IRB who intended to use them for an armed rising against British rule in Ireland.

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### State Historian's Report, cont.

The O'Rahilly discovered that the IRB had kidnapped Bulmer Hobson in order to prevent his interference with their Easter plans. On Good Friday 1916 O'Rahilly burst into the office of Patrick Pearse at St. Enda's School. Brandishing a pistol he shouted to Pearse, "Whoever kidnaps me will have to be a quicker shot!" Pearse was able to calm him down by assuring him that Hobson was unharmed and would be released after the Rising had begun.

The IRB leadership issued orders for the Irish Volunteers to march on Easter Sunday 1916, the planned date for the Rising to begin. MacNeil did not agree with going forward, so he sent The O'Rahilly west to Cork, Kerry and Tipperary to countermand the orders for an Easter march. After a great deal of confusion, caused by the conflicting orders, Patrick Pearse and James Connolly took charge. They began assembling the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army at Liberty Hall in Dublin on Easter Monday, April 24. The group was to march to the General Post Office (GPO), occupy it, and establish it as the headquarters for the rising.

The O'Rahilly arrived back in Dublin on Monday just as the force was preparing to leave Liberty Hall. He drove up in his green dust-covered touring car (a 1911 De Dion-Bouton). The O'Rahilly was the only member of Sinn Fein with a car.

Pearse and Connolly knew that he did not support the rising and for that reason they were reluctant to let him participate. But The O'Rahilly insisted on going with them. He said, "I've helped wind up the clock. Might as well hear it strike." Pearse agreed, and The O'Rahilly began loading his car with rifles, ammunition and homemade bombs. The car was later burned, the wreckage becoming part of a street barricade.

Upon capturing the GPO, The O'Rahilly was assigned as aide-de-camp to Patrick Pearse and given command of the top floors. The fight went on for a week. On April 29, 1916, as the GPO was being burned down around them, the leaders decided upon a plan of escape. The O'Rahilly would lead a column that would find an escape route out of the GPO and set up a new headquarters.

The O'Rahilly gathered an advance party of thirty men. Realizing that there was little chance of success he said to his friend, Desmond Fitzgerald, "The only thing that grieves me is that so many of my lads are Gaelic speakers." Quickly thinking of a solution, he then said with a big laugh, "When it comes to the end, I'll say 'English speakers to the fore, Irish speakers to the rear.'"

The O'Rahilly ordered his men to fix bayonets and they charged out of the GPO and up Henry Street. When they crossed onto Moore Street they ran head-on into a British Army barricade. In one of the most brutal confrontations of the Rising the unit charged the barricade. The O'Rahilly was hit several times by machine gun fire but made his way to a doorway on Moore Street. Bleeding badly, he made a dash across the road to find shelter in Sackville Lane (now O'Rahilly Parade). This exposed him to more fire. Hit several more times, he died in a doorway on the side of Moore Street off Sackville Lane. His last act was to write a good-bye note to his pregnant wife and family.

His men were not able to break through the barricade and were forced to fall back. Twenty of the original thirty men that left the GPO had been killed. An ambulance driver later reported that after the skirmish his attempts take the still living O'Rahilly to the hospital was prevented by British officers.

Michael Joseph O'Rahilly is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery in the Republican Plot alongside the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

## **Ohio AOH Missions & Charities**

**Chris Konik**, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair

### **February Deadline: Division Event Forms**

State President Denny Parks has made this a priority for all statewide divisions. Reminder that all divisions are required to complete the Single Event Form and Annual Event Report Form listed below by February 15<sup>th</sup>. (Just happens to be the same date division per capita is due to National)

### **Missions & Charities Single Event Form**

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Single-Event-form-1.pdf>

### **Missions & Charities Annual Event Report Form**

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Annual-Event-form-1.pdf>

\$31.80 is considered the value of volunteer time per hour 10 volunteers working for 2 hours = \$636.00 The forms are very straightforward, but please feel to reach out to me directly at [chriskonik@mindspring.com](mailto:chriskonik@mindspring.com) with any questions.

### **2024 Catholic Men's Conference**

The 2024 Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 in Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio. Join your fellow Hibernians and Knights of Columbus brothers for a day full of faith, food and fellowship.

Patrick Pearse Div #1 will have a booth at the conference to spread the word about our Order and often provides a boost to our membership recruitment. As is our tradition, we will sponsor exhibit space for the Dead Theologians Society. Check the Catholic Men's Ministry website for updates and registration info:

[www.catholicmensministry.com](http://www.catholicmensministry.com)

### **Aid to Ukraine: UNICEF IRELAND**

Join the fundraising campaign through Hibernian Charities, a 501c3 organization owned and operated by the AOH. Make your division check out to **Hibernian Charity**, with **UNICEF Ireland** in the memo section. Mail payment to: Hibernian Charity, P.O. Box 694, Austin, TX 78767

### **Project St. Patrick**

Click link for PSP forms [Project St Patrick Forms](#) Click link to make [Individual Donations](#) Please send all correspondence to: **National Project St Patrick Chairman Ron Hagan**

*7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512, Mt Gilead, OH 43338-9336*

## Freedom For All Ireland

### AOH ROLE IN FIGHT FOR LEGACY JUSTICE <sup>1</sup>

The front page headline in the prominent Belfast weekly paper the *Andersontown News* said it all-*IRISH AMERICAN SUPPORT PIVOTAL* in getting historic move by the Irish government to take Britain to the European Courts, on behalf of Irish victims' relatives and fight Britain's gambit to shut down any chances to get the truth about the murders of their loved ones.

We are being contacted by victims' family members who have been fighting Britain to get justice for decades. They say this action by the Irish government is the best Christmas gift they could wish for, and are deeply grateful to the AOH for playing a major role in making it happen.

The AOH of course has a longstanding relationship with victims' campaigns like the Bloody Sunday and Ballymurphy Massacre Families, and Relatives for Justice.

When the British used their Queen's Speech to announce their planned amnesty injustice, within 3 days the AOH hosted a webinar with relatives of the Ballymurphy Massacre explaining how such proposals would deprive others of hopes for justice.

When more than 3,500 family members, signed a "Time for Truth" letter appealing for truth about loved ones murdered during the conflict, the launch was scheduled around an AOH webinar where Poinin Quinn and Jim Clinton, were joined by Sinn Fein Policing and Justice Spokesperson Gerry Kelly, and Relatives for Justice Director Mark Thompson.

When the British government announced a new legacy proposals, Congressman Brendan Boyle, Irish Consul General Ciaran Madden, and representatives of Irish and British political parties, joined with Irish Americans across the country, to hear victims' relatives **Jacqueline Butler**, daughter of a **Springhill Massacre** victim, **Steven Travers** a survivor of the **Miami Showband Massacre**, and **Martin Mallon**, whose aunt Roseann Mallon was one of 17 collusion murder victims killed with the same weapons, describe how the new British legacy plans would remove their legal path to truth.

When Fergus O'Dowd, **Chair of the Irish Committee for the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA)** made a formal request to the Irish Attorney General to bring an action, he appeared on an AOH broadcast, also highlighted by a biting analysis of the amnesty bill joined by from House of Lords member **Nuala O'Loan**, and two victims' family representatives.

AOH representatives on prominent Foreign Policy groups like the National Committee for American Foreign Policy and Ad Hoc Committee for the Protection of the Good Friday Committee, led the way in making legacy justice a key issue for them.

AOH representatives met with and challenged British officials like Brandon Lewis. Chris Heaton-Harris and British Lord Caine. We were the driving force behind a number of Congressional briefings and initiatives. We met with and lobbied key Irish officials. Other Irish American organizations followed AOH leadership.

In motto

Patrick Williams

Ohio FFAI State Chair

1. Hibernian Digest-FFAI-January 2024



## Catholic Action

In mid-February we move from Ordinary Time to the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 14. The liturgical color changes from green to violet. Lent is a time of penance leading up to the great feast of Easter. Check with your parish or diocesan sources for Lenten regulations on fast and abstinence and for opportunities to grow in our faith during Lent.

### MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF FEBRUARY

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

### IRISH SAINTS OF FEBRUARY

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

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

**Ia, Virgin (6th century)** February 3

Little reliable evidence exists regarding St. Ia. She is reported to have been a hermitess who lived in Cornwall, having been miraculously transported there from Ireland after missing travel connections with her companions.

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

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

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

February 5

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

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

February 6

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

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

February 9

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

**Marianus Scotus (d. 1088)**

February 9

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

**Ludan (d. 1202?)**

February 12

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

**Modomnoc (6th century)**

February 13

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

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

February 15

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

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**Catholic Action, cont.****Fintan, Abbot (d. 603)**

February 17

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

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

February 17

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

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

February 18

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

**ISSUES AND NEWS**

On Dec. 29, Governor DeWine vetoed a measure that would ban transgender surgery and “gender-affirming” care for minors in the state of Ohio, and would ban transgender athletes from participation in female sports. As his veto message indicates, the Governor appears to be under the impression that not allowing “gender-affirming care” contributes to elevated suicide in the population afflicted with “gender dysphoria.” He did say that he was planning to administratively ban transgender surgery till age 18—something which he did on Jan. 3--but presumably not other “gender-affirming” care, and that he planned to position the state to better regulate and track such treatment for adults and children. He did not address the plight of woman and girls who may have to share locker rooms and compete against biological males. The Governor’s veto has since been overridden by both houses of the state legislature, controlled by members of his own party, so that the original measure will be going into force.

On January 9, a federal District Court placed a temporary restraining order on a new Ohio law requiring children to have parental consent to use some social media. This follows a suit brought by a trade group representing TikTok, Snapchat, Meta, and other tech companies.

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

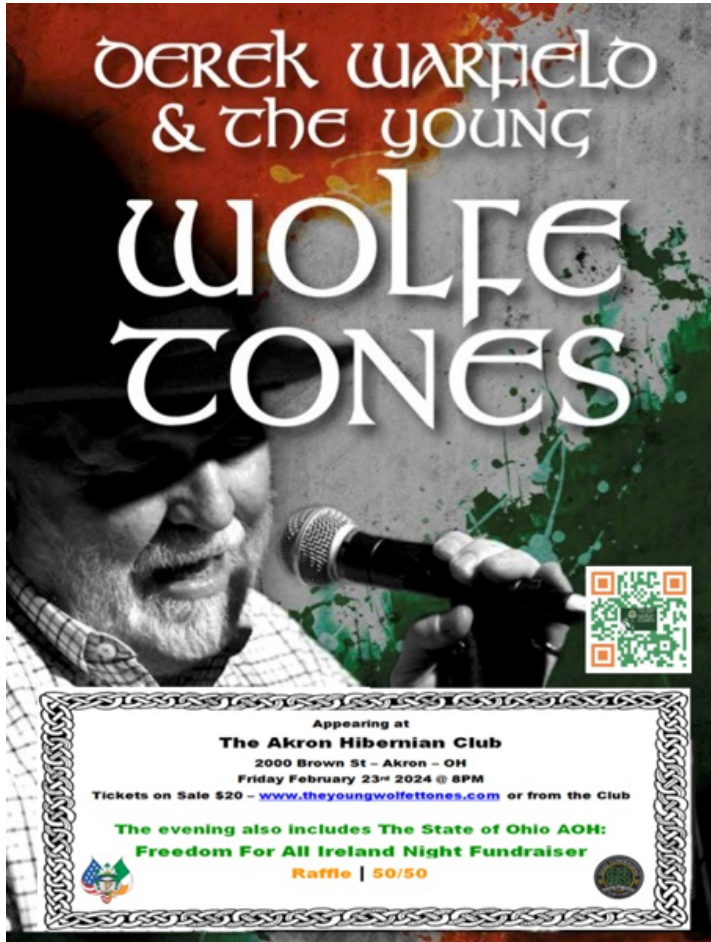
Fraternally,

Pat Lally

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

330-792-7135

### Ohio State Board Freedom All Ireland Fundraiser



Friday, February 23, 2024, at 8pm  
Akron AOH Hall  
2000 Brown St.  
Akron, OH 44319  
(The Mark Heffernan Division will be holding their weekly Lenten Fish Fry from 5pm – 7pm if interested.)  
Make sure to have your AOH membership card if you wish to purchase alcoholic beverages.

### Stark County AOH Hibernian Charities Fundraiser

The Stark County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is hosting an "I Can't Wait for Saint Patrick's Day" Party on Saturday, February 10, at the Saint Paul Parish Hall, located in the basement of the Church, at Saint Paul Parish, 241 South Main Street, North Canton, Ohio. The evening will feature the music of County Mayo and also a presentation by local Irish Stepdancers.

Admission is \$5 at the door, with beer, soda, and food available to purchase. Proceeds will go toward the local Hibernian Hunger Project and Project Saint Patrick, which supports Church Vocations.



2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention August 7 - 11, 2024

You are invited to Orlando, Florida



For online **ROOM RESERVATION** (\$125 + taxes) and **EVENTS REGISTRATION** please go to <https://orlandoirish2024.com>

**Events Registration through the Mail:**  
 This Form is for Convention events only. **Please print neatly.**  
*(Does not include Hotel Registration.)*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (*circle either AOH or LAOH*)

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Division # \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Registration: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Full Events Package: **\$215** if reserved by June 15, 2024.

Full Events Reservation made after June 15, 2024 and thereafter: **\$235. Options:**

- **Full Package** encompasses **all of the following choices below**. *Includes \$25 Registration Fee.*
- **Icebreaker** (*Wednesday, August 7th*) **\$60**: Casual Attire, Buffet, complimentary draft beer and signature drink. Served 7pm - 9pm. *Includes \$25 Registration Fee.*
- **Irish Night** (*Friday, August 9th*) **\$85**: Business Casual Attire, Choice of one entrée - A combo of Chicken & Sliced Pork Loin / Vegetarian. Served 6pm - 10pm. *Includes \$25 Registration Fee.*
- **Final Banquet** (*Saturday, August 10th*) **\$90**: Formal Black Tie Optional, Choice of one entrée - Pan Seared Salmon / Sliced Sirloin of Beef / Vegan. Served 6pm - 10pm. *Includes \$25 Registration Fee.*
- **Registration Only: \$25**  
 \* Please consider making all reservations and payment online to streamline the process.
- \*\* If registering through the mail, please remit this form and payment to:  
 AOH National Secretary, PO Box 1742, Jensen Beach FL 34958-1742.  
 \*\* If paying event registration by check, make payment payable to: "The AOH/LAOH National Convention"



### Division News

#### Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

**FOURTH ANNUAL PATRICK PEARSE DIV. 1 FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND ROAD BOWLING FUNDRAISER**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2024. REGISTRATION 10:00AM, EVENT STARTS 11:00AM

DEER CREEK STATE PARK BEACH ROAD . \$60.00 PER TEAM,

4 PLAYERS PER TEAM, LIMIT OF 36 TEAMS .

\$10.00 DEPOSIT ON CANNONBALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND AND OTHER CHARITIES

CONTACT STUART @ (614) 207-2457 OR PEARSEFFAI@GMAIL.COM FOR DIRECTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION



During the division December general meeting, Patrick Pearse Division #1 presented Diocese of Columbus Seminarian Anthony Whelan with a check for \$500, to aid him on his journey to the priesthood. Pictured here with President Bruce McPherson and proudly wearing his baldric. Completing the Shamrock Degree at the meeting, he is now officially a fellow Hibernian.

#### Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Div. #1, Washington Co.

2023 AOH Christmas Gathering Photo, Lafayette Hotel



(l-r) Fr. David Gaydosik, James Farley, Dan McLaughlin, Erin Rogers, Nancy McLaughlin, Bernie Lyons, Brynn Riordan, Pat Kelly, Robert Riordan, Jim Gorman, Judy Gorman, Jim Udell, Chip Rogers, Will Rathbone, Grace Anne Gasperson

*Continued on Page 15*

**Division News, cont.**

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

The Irish Brigade Division #1 of Medina County collected donations of diapers and money at their Christmas party in December. They recently donated the diapers and a check for \$300 to BirthCare of Medina County. BirthCare is a non-profit agency supported by private donations and Catholic Charities. Their mission is to provide emergency assistance and sympathetic support to families with young children to help assure their safety, warmth and health.

Photo shows Medina County and State Chaplain Bruce Dobbins presenting the check to volunteer, Becca Hobbs. With the deacon is Division Financial Secretary, Joe Casey and Division President, Joe Gill.



**2024 AOH National Convention**

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

**For additional information, See**

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

### 2023 Assessments

The 2023 assessments will be due on or before February 15, 2024, per the Ohio State Bylaws see below.

#### **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.

Please have your Financial Secretary complete the attached Ohio AOH Worksheet and mail with the assessment check to me at;

7370 Fayette Blvd

Chippewa Lake, OH 44215

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.

Each Division is required to file the IRS 990N postcard by May 15, information on filing is attached..

For more information about Official AOH forms use the link below.

<https://aoh.com/official-aoh-forms/>

Please reach out to me with any questions.

Thanks,

Pete Chrystal

Ohio AOH State Board Secretary

Cell 440.725.8053

[Pvchrystal59@gmail.com](mailto:Pvchrystal59@gmail.com)