



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

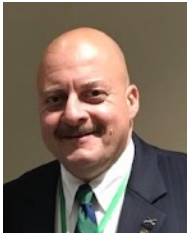
*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*June 2020*

*Volume 2 Issue 6*

## President's Message



Brothers All,

Welcome to June 2020, which will hopefully be the month in which we and our great Nation can start to open up and recover from the experience of the past few months.

As I mentioned last month, we've learned a lot, about a lot of things, including ourselves. But I truly believe that we as an Order, and we as state and local organizations, are coming out of this better and more agile than we were before. A great example is the May State Board meeting. For all who were able to join, I thank you all for your attendance and participation. I heard great feedback from out-of-state folks who joined the call for one reason or another. All of them unanimously remarked about how impressed they were with YOUR professionalism, knowledge, engagement, and passion.

Director Lehn is doing a great job leading our digital presence and is even coaching local Divisions on use of our state Zoom account to host local Division meetings, until we can soon meet in person. Again, we'll also use this and other platforms to enable and empower our appointed Chairs to do more and better outreach and collaboration with your local Division Chairs.

As for our Orlando National Convention, we're still in a bit of a holding pattern. Obviously, we all hope to meet in person, but there are a lot of moving parts from both the governmental, and the business angles that will drive decision making. Please know that as soon we have info, you'll know it as well.

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's Comments



When I was in high school, a friend gave me a poster featuring the Rock of Cashel. And ever since, it was one of my greatest desires to be able to visit this storied hill which dates back as far as is celebrated as having been the site where St. Patrick converted the

King of Munster in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century. It served for many centuries the political and ecclesiastical center of Ireland. During my first visit to Ireland in April of 2013, my cousin and I drove up to Cashel just as the gates were closing—the result of several stops along the drive that day for my beloved cousin to search the beaches for sea glass. (I'm not bitter).



*Continued on Page 2*

### Chaplain's's Comments, cont.

And so it was with great expectation that friends and I drove into Cashel in September of 2018, approaching from the south with a view that was breathtaking. And while the whole experience of visiting the Rock of Cashel was extraordinary, the true highlight was visiting Cormac's Chapel. Built in the twelfth century, this chapel was restored over several years. When I approached in 2013, it was under scaffolding. In 2018, it was newly reopened and featured previously forgotten frescoes.



(The door to Cormac's Chapel)

Standing in the chapel, I was overwhelmed at the thought of the religious fervor and devotion which prompted the construction of this truly beautiful edifice and at the countless prayers which had been offered there over the past eight centuries. I was reminded of a question I had often pondered over many years upon making various pilgrimages: Is a place holy just because of something that has happened there? Or is it holy because of the prayers of those who have come afterward out of love and devotion? I had first asked this question upon making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and visiting the two sites which are claimed to be the place where Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead. Both sites "felt" holy. But if one was, in fact, the site where these events so central to our faith, then other simply could not be. But I would posit that this does not render the other place any less holy. I would suggest, rather, that it is made holy by the prayers and devotion of those who have come over

the course of time to worship God. So it is, I believe with Cormac's chapel and the entirety of the Rock of Cashel. It is a space which "feels" holy—not just because of its grandeur, not simply because it was a place of conversion associate with the life of St. Patrick, but because of the prayers offered there over the course of time. And while I was there as a tourist, I found myself doing what we are all called to do—praying. I prayed for myself and my friends with whom I was travelling, for our safety as we continued our driving tour of Ireland. I prayed for the tourists who were walking the grounds of the Rock of Cashel that same day, regardless of whether they recognized the religious significance of where they were. I prayed for all who had walked those sacred grounds over the course of time and who had gone to their eternal reward, placing their faith in that same God, in that same Lord, Jesus Christ, in whom we continue to place our faith even today.



--Fr. John Keehner, State Chaplain

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

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

## Division News

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

The 4th Annual Irish Brigade Charity Beer Tour has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 11th. Ray and I are hopeful the quarantine we are currently living under will be over. Should you have a conflict with this date, please do get back to me so that I can arrange for your refund.

Dave Manley at 330-273-3118

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

274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

### *Tara Hall Presents*

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

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

5110 Southern Blvd., Youngstown, OH 44512

The Major Degrees scheduled for April 25, 2020 have been postponed. See page 7.

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

c/o Pat Kelly, 104 Iroquois Drive, Marietta, OH 45750-1219

The Washington County (Ohio) Division #1 needs to increase the emphasis on building our membership. Therefore we are introducing the new Organizer Recruitment Award (ORA).



This award recognizes a member for sponsoring the recruitment of a new member or the reinstatement of a member to the AOH. Initially when a member recruits his first member, the Organizer will award the sponsor an ORA pin. Following the receipt of his first ORA pin, each time a member recruits three members, he will again be recognized for his effort with an ORA pin.

The Organizer Recruitment Award is a three-dimensional black Shillelagh pin to be worn on the member's sash. An article, from Irish Central, by Brendan Farrell, in 2019, was the inspiration for the selection of the Shillelagh.

Farrell noted that Batairecht or Boiscin, is the ancient Irish tradition of stick fighting. The word Shillelagh has its origins from the once majestic ancient oak forest of Shillelagh in County Wicklow. The Shillelagh was a formidable weapon mostly made from oak or blackthorn root-wood. After the Battle of the Boyne, Catholics were forbidden to be in possession of weapons, which led to the resurgence of the ancient art of "stick fighting." The Shillelagh has been reclaimed as a symbol of Irish tradition, strength, unity and defense. It is found on coats of arms, logos and, according to Farrell, "Ironically, the British army; the Irish Guards and Royal Irish Regiment still carry blackthorn shillelaghs at official ceremonies!"

**Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey**

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

## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

Past State President Joe Casey recently contacted me with a couple of history questions. Joe wrote: "Okay, here's one for you....pandemic of 1918; did the AOH have a National Convention? What about 1919? Did Ohio have a state convention?" These are a couple of very good and timely questions.

To begin with, let's review the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic timeline – The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe and deadly pandemic in recent history. In the United States, the first mention of influenza appears in an April 5, 1918 weekly public health report. The report informs officials of 18 severe cases and three deaths in Kansas. The first wave of the virus struck mostly soldiers grouped together in camps waiting to be sent to Europe.

Between September and November 1918, a second wave of flu peaks in the United States. This second wave was highly fatal, and responsible for most of the deaths attributed to the pandemic. A third wave of the influenza struck during the winter and spring of 1919, killing many more. The third wave subsided in the summer of 1919 and the virus disappeared.

It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with the Spanish Flu virus in 1918-1919. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States (my aunt, Mary Finn, a department store clerk, died of the flu at age 17 in Cincinnati in December 1918).

By the way, the 1918 flu was called the Spanish Flu, although it did not originate in Spain. Many historians agree that the flu began in the US at Fort Riley, in Kansas. The flu then spread to Europe with US troops. To maintain morale, World War I censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Europe and the United States. Newspapers in neutral Spain were free to report the epidemic's lethal effects and these stories created a false impression that Spain was the origin of the virus.

Now, let's deal with Joe's questions ... There was no AOH National Convention held in 1918. At the 1916 biennial National Convention held in Boston, it was approved that the 1918 convention would be held in San Francisco in July 1918. On March 21, 1918 the *Catholic Telegraph* (newspaper of the Cincinnati Archdiocese) reported "The officers and directors of the National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet in Washington, D.C. on March 25, 1918 to decide whether the National Convention of the Order, which was scheduled to meet in San Francisco in July, will be convened at all, or whether a more central city be selected for it." Based only on the timing of this meeting, it's clear that the reason for this meeting was not due to the pandemic.

Further reporting in the *Catholic Telegraph* on April 4, 1918 noted that the AOH Washington meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> had resulted in a resolution passed by the National Board. The resolution began by expressing the Order's support of the US War Fund drive and recognized the donation by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Mass outfits for our military chaplains.

*Continued on Page 6*

## State Historian's Report, cont.

The resolution stated, "In this war Hibernians have no doubts, no criticisms of our government – have no confusing speculations or ill-timed illusions as to the policy – endorsing the sentiment: 'Our country – may she always be right – but right or wrong, our country.'"

The resolution also recognized that all Hibernians realize that the success of their enterprises demand the full play of two factors, "intelligent energy and sound practical patriotism."

Finally, the resolution concluded by stating, "On account of the international situation, the Board was opposed to holding the National Convention in San Francisco this year, but it was decided to leave the question to a referendum vote of the men's divisions of the Order throughout the country." Again, there was no indication that the coming flu pandemic had any impact on the decision to cancel the convention. We can say the reason was only "sound practical patriotism."

The subsequent vote of the membership was agreeable to cancelling the 1918 convention. It was decided that the convention would instead be held in San Francisco in July 1919. The next National Convention was held in 1921 in Detroit. From 1919 until 1942 the National Convention was held on the even numbered years.

Following the lead of the National Organization, the State Convention in Ohio was also cancelled for 1918. In those years the biennial State and National Conventions were both held in the same year (the current practice of holding the state convention in the odd numbered year was not adopted until 1975).

In Ohio, the State President, Edward W. Dowling from Dayton, who was elected at the 1916 State Convention held at Zanesville, actually served a three year term from 1916 until the 1919 State Convention held at Cedar Point, when Martin L. Sweeney of Cleveland was elected as State President.

For World War II the 1941 National Convention was held in St. Paul, Minnesota. The National Conventions for 1943 and 1945 were cancelled due to the war. The 1946 National Convention was held at Syracuse, N.Y. and this put the biennial National Convention back on the even numbered years. The same convention cancellation schedule was followed in Ohio.

If you would like to read more regarding the 1918 Pandemic, the book generally regarded as the best is "*The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*" by John Barry (Viking Press, 2004).

On the AOH National website is a list of past national presidents, their dates of office, and the convention dates and locations put together by Brother Gerry Curran. <https://aoh.com/list-of-past-presidents-chaplains-editors-jfk-awards-and-macbride-awards/>

Thanks to Brother Casey for his excellent question. I have been working on a couple of biographical articles regarding Ohio's early (pre-World War I) State Delegates and State Presidents. Last month's article about Father Scanlon was one, more will follow.

If you have any questions on state AOH history or Irish history, please feel free to contact me at [FCoolavin@aol.com](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).



### State Director's Report

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

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

In Motto,

Liam Lehn State Director



### Happy Anniversary



## Catholic Action

To All Hibernians:

In June we pass out of the Easter season, with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on the last Sundays, the 14th and 21st respectively. Trinity Sunday is the traditional date by which one has been expected to complete the "Easter duty," an impossibility in many places this year due to quarantine measures. On Sunday, June 21, we pass back into Ordinary time, and the color for vestments is green.

### NEWS OF INTEREST

May 8--A statement from Ohio's Catholic bishops supports the careful resumption of public liturgies, evidently with an eye to being able to fully celebrate the feast of Pentecost (May 31). Dates and plans will vary among the dioceses of the state, so check with your diocese and parish for more information.

Our American bishops have designated June 22-29 as Religious Freedom Week. Religious freedom, especially that of Christians, is under increasing attack worldwide. Except in a few notable cases, in Europe and the United States Christians have not largely faced vandalism, arson, assault, kidnapping, and murder as in other parts of the world. However, the news in the last few years has been full of incidents in which local and state governments have taken action to restrict Christians from practice and advocacy of their faith right here in the United States. It is worth pondering that in the current crisis, many of our political class regard public worship of God as a "non-essential service." For resources, see [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek).

### LOCAL NEWS

On Saturday, May 16, In keeping with long-standing practice, a crew from Joseph P. Nalley, Division 6, in Youngstown, conducted a clean-up of the gravesites of the Ursuline Sisters who are buried in the diocesan cemetery. These dedicated women educated several generations of Catholics in the Youngstown area, including many Hibernians.

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

Fraternally,

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



## Hinckley Memorial Day Ceremony\*

### Boots on the ground

*Deacon tells of sacrifice for Hinckley Memorial Day*

By CHRIS STUDOR

*The Eastern Medina Post*

HINCKLEY – A deacon who ministers with his combat boots on, the reading of all Hinckley residents who served and are serving in the armed forces, and a bagpipe rendition of “Amazing Grace,” were all memorable moments at the annual Hinckley Memorial Day ceremony. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the township from holding its annual grand parade followed by festivities at the township grandstand. However, annual parade organizers, Ray and Emma Schulte, comprised a ceremony which touched hearts and honored veterans.

The ceremony took place at Hinckley Memorial Park, located at the corner of state Route 303 and Ridge Rd. Schulte introduced guests beginning with Pastor Scott Silcox of Our Savior Lutheran Church who delivered the opening prayer and later the closing prayer. Schulte and trustees Melissa Augustine and Jim Burns placed a wreath by the memorial honoring all Hinckley veterans. Fire Chief Jestin Grossenbaugh and Police Chief Dave Centner conducted the flag raising ceremony. Delivering the 21-gun salute was retired navy veteran Bill Schaefer and his son, Bryant, along with Hinckley policemen Ptl. Jared Singleton, an army veteran, Ptl. Shawn Landis and Sgt. Bruce Linville. Bill Bodin of the Cleveland Police Pipe and Drums played “Amazing Grace” and resident Dave Chatam provided sound and live recording of the event.

Guest speaker was the Rev. Deacon Bruce Dobbins Jr. of Our Lady of Grace Church, Hinckley. Dobbins, an Ohio Army National Guard and Navy Reserve veteran, began his military career during the Cold War. Early on in his military career he took on leadership roles from supporting relief efforts in Ohio for disasters and recovery to providing military support in the United States, Germany, Granada, Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraq. He is married to Hinckley native Michelle Schodowski and the couple has raised three children.

Dobbins told of his return home after 18 years of military service saying that he had a difficult time adjusting to civilian life. He worked for Ford Motor Company as a tool and die maker and is currently Quality Assurance Manager for AMAC Enterprises, Parma. Dobbins said it was during his difficult adjustment period to civilian life that he “felt God was leading him down a different path.” He was ordained to the Catholic Ministry of the Deaconate May of 2015.

“My experiences in the military were some of the most wonderful and some of the most tragic but they are all mine and I would not be the person I am today without them,” said Dobbins. “I see the flag as fellow service member. When I salute the flag, I remember all those who have served with me over the years. I see all those who have served before me who I see in the store or driving by with one of these unique veteran hats. I remember the sacrifices of those who died serving alongside this flag as a comrade in arms. It is right and just that we never forget the sacrifice that every service member is willing to make and honor the ones who have made it.”

*Continued on Page 10*

## Hinckley Memorial Day Ceremony, cont.

Dobbins not only serves as a Deacon at Our Lady of Grace but ministers to the veteran community throughout the state. Locally, he is the **Spiritual Director and Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman for the Medina County Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians**. Statewide, he is a trainer for the Star Behavioral Health Providers, a resource for veterans, service members and their families which helps provide behavioral health professionals with specialized training in understanding and treating military service members and their families. “I ask that you remember all the brave souls who have paid the ultimate price for their service to this great country,” said Dobbins.

“I also ask that you remember those who did not pass but may still be suffering from their experience. There are many homeless vets, those who are in a care facility all alone and others who suffer silently and need our help. Every day, 10 veterans take their own life, not being able to suffer any longer. Remember them, get involved and seek those veterans who may be silently crying out for assistance.”

Even when ministering at Our Lady of Grace, Dobbins never forgets those who serve. Schulte commented that “if you look at the bottom of his Deacon’s garments you can see he always wears his combat boots.”

“I still wear my combat boots because I consider myself still in service; I just have a different commander,” said Dobbins.



**Deacon Bruce Dobbins Jr. gives the Memorial Day speech at the Hinckley observance**

\* Deacon Bruce Dobbins, Jr. is the Chaplain and Veterans Affairs Chairman of The Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

Ray Schulte is the Marshal of The Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

## The Sign of the Cross An Comhartha na Croise

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The following is the Sign of the Cross in the Irish language. It's an easy prayer to learn. I have provided the English version, the Irish version and below the Irish version is the phonetic pronunciation. Don't worry if you don't get it exactly right. There is an Irish saying that states, "Is fear Gaeilge bhriste na Bearla cliste." In English that is, "Broken Irish is better than clever English."

### English

**In the Name of the Father**

**And of the Son**

**And of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

### Irish

**In Ainm an Athar**

*In AN-im un A-hur*

**Agus an Mhic**

*AH-guss un vik*

**Agus an Spioraid Naoimh.**

*AH-guss un SPIR-id NEE-iv*

**Amen**

## Commodore Barry Medal

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

Yours in our Motto,

*Mike McKenzie , Ohio State Board*

Mike McKenzie at: (330) 329 2652, [tmmckenzie31@gmail.com](mailto:tmmckenzie31@gmail.com)



## Mark Your Calendars

### 2020 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL  
July 22-25

### 2021 State Convention

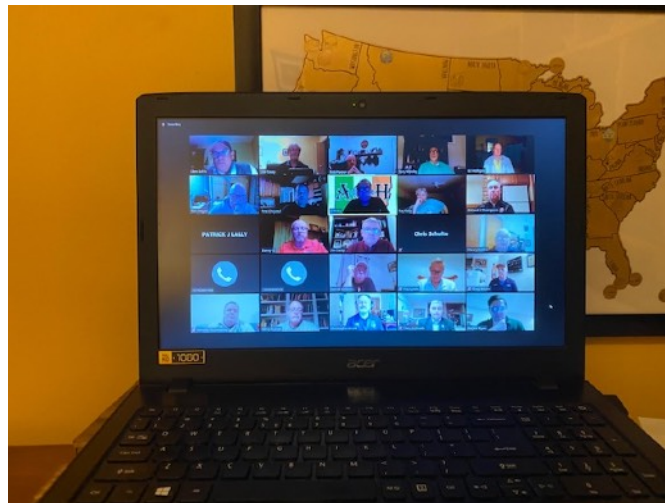
Cleveland OH, OH

### 2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

## State Board Meeting

A virtual state board meeting was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This Zoom meeting replaced the originally scheduled April 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting. It was very well attended and really worked quite nicely.



## Ireland 2021

I am setting up a trip to Ireland in August 2021. If you are interested, contact Mike McKenzie at [tmmckenzie31@gmail.com](mailto:tmmckenzie31@gmail.com) . If you want to see something in particular, let me know. The Ten day trip is limited to no more than twelve people.

Mike McKenzie