



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

March 2020

Volume 2 Issue 3

President's Message



Brothers All,

March already! The month when we celebrate and honor our Patron Saint, with all the solemnity and pageantry and joy and craic that His legacy deserves. This is indeed a fun and joyous celebration, but as with all our holidays, please remember the “Reason For The

Season”. I think you’ll be glad you did.

This month’s festivities give us a great opportunity and vehicle for recruitment and community engagement. Wear your AOH clothing and accessories proudly, act in ways that are befitting our Motto of “Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity”, and be prepared to answer questions and offer membership opportunities to those who ask and appear to be qualified for membership.



Looking forward, please mark your calendars for the weekend of April 18th, our next State Board meeting at Tara Hall in Columbus. That weekend, Franklin County/Tara Hall will be hosting their monthly “Birthday Night” on Friday featuring the incomparable Hooligans, and they’ll be hosting their

first-ever Road Bowling Tournament that Saturday morning. A packed and fun-filled weekend for all, to be sure!

If you haven’t done so and are at least tentatively planning to attend, don’t forget to book your National Convention hotel room! Our room block is filling up fast.

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



“If you ever get a chance to go to Ireland...” then by all means, take the time to visit the Saint Patrick Centre, located in Downpatrick, County Down, Northern Ireland.

The Centre features an interactive museum dedicated to the life of Saint Patrick, including an auditorium in which a beautiful film chronicles the

Saint’ life, mission and ministry.

Just up the hill from the Centre is the Down Cathedral, a church of the Church of Ireland, which rests upon the foundations of a church which was built in the twelfth century.



To the left of the Cathedral lies the grave of Saint Patrick, marked by a simple field stone etched with the word Patrick and a celtic cross. It is believed that both St. Brigid and St. Columba (Columcille) are also buried here.

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AOH/LAOH National Convention 2020 - Orlando

9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819, United States

Rosen Centre® Hotel

9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Tel: 1.800.204.7234 | Fax: 407.996.2659

Reservations: 1.800.204.7234

Contact Florida State President Ray Lynch

irishyankeenut@gmail.com for assistance

Chaplain's's Comments (cont.)



Just a few miles from the Saint Patrick Centre, hidden among the farm fields and pastures, is the peaceful setting of the Struell Wells. It was here, according to a legend dating back at least as far as the eighth century, that Saint Patrick bathed and spent at least one night, singing and praising God in a stone hut. The spring associated with Struell, which was a site of pilgrimage for many centuries, still produces fresh water. The ruins in this peaceful setting accommodated pilgrims, many of whom came here seeking healing for blindness and other diseases of the eye. It is important, as we celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick in the coming weeks, that we do so

recognizing the deep and abiding faith with which our ancestors venerated him not just once a year, as we tend to do, but each and every day and in every facet of their lives.

Fr. John Keehner
Chaplain, State of Ohio



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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

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

Division News

Irish Brigade Div. #1 Medina Co.

Irish March Madness

This is a fun contest that you are part of until the last game! You get 2 squares for \$20. If you have any questions, get with Mike Maloney, Sr at mjmaloneysr@gmail.com.

The 4th Annual Irish Brigade Charity Beer Tour is scheduled for March 28, 2020. Tickets are now on sale for \$65. Contact Dave Manley at 330-273-3118 or Ray Schulte at 216-318-6896.

Patrick Pearse Div. #1 Franklin Co.

274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

Tara Hall Presents:

Friday, March 6 | Tara Hall Presents: Fialla, Doors at 7pm, Show at 8pm!

Friday, Saturday, March 7 | Hibernian Super Saturday

St. Catherine's @ 8:30pm, Dempsey's @ 9:15am, Tara Hall Clean-Up 10am – 3pm

Thursday, March 12 | March Division General Meeting, 7pm at Tara Hall, 6:30pm Rosary in the Library

*Friday, March 13 | Proclamation Day**

One of the biggest days of the year, so come on down and join the Hibernians for a full day of music and craic! Doors Open at 1pm, The Kells Band @ 4pm, The Hooligans @ 7:30pm, Queen's Table Food Truck 4-8pm, *\$5 Cover

*Tuesday, March 17 | St. Patrick's Day**

It is the Big Day, c'mon down! Right after the parade, doors will open and the fun will begin! The Hooligans @ 2:30pm, Mad Maudlin @ 6:00pm, Schmidt's Food Truck 12:30 - 2:30pm *\$5 Cover at the Door

Friday, March 20 | March Birthday Night w/The Hooligans & Friends, Potluck at 7pm, bring a side or snack to share! Show at 8pm!

Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey

jjcasey973@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

State Board Meeting

April 18th

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

2020 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

July 22-25

2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA



Four Chaplains Commemoration Event

Pursuant to unanimous Congressional Resolution, February 3rd has been annually declared “FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY” to honor the sacrifice of Four Chaplains: 1 Rabbi, 1 Catholic Priest and 2 Protestants who perished aboard the troop carrier, USS Dorchester on February 3, 1943 in the North Atlantic. A brief wreath laying ceremony took place in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens on February 3, 2020

The Dorchester was sunk by a wolf pack of German submarines. The ship sank within 20 minutes of the torpedo attack, over 900 soldiers were aboard, 672 *died*. As the order to abandon ship was given, the Four Chaplains were busy handing out life preservers to the young soldiers onboard; they reached a point where there were no more life vests. Without regard for their own life, the Four Chaplains gave up their life vests so others might be saved. As the ship sank into the cold waters of the North Atlantic, the four men of God linked arms while each praying out loud in English, Latin and Hebrew; they died together in a heroic expression of self-sacrifice and brotherhood. President Harry S. Truman stated: “*The death of the four Chaplains on Feb. 3, 1943, when the transport Dorchester was sunk by enemy action in the North Atlantic is a heroic event without a parallel in the American annals.*”

The Four Chaplains were: 1) George L. Fox, Methodist Minister who was raised in Pennsylvania and lived in Vermont (2) Alexander D. Goode, Jewish Rabbi born in New York and studied at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. (3) Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed Minister was born in Ohio and studied at Yale Divinity School and (4) Fr. John P. Washington, Catholic Priest, the son of Irish Immigrants who was born in New Jersey.



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A brief ceremony took place on February 3, 2020 at the Brotherhood Shrine in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens on East Blvd. in Cleveland. The Brotherhood Shrine was erected in 1953 by the oldest service organization in Cleveland, the B'nai B'Brith Lodges, to honor the Four Chaplains, to honor all faiths and to be a perpetual demonstration of interfaith brotherhood in the true spirit of the Cultural Gardens.

Four Chaplains from Greater Cleveland participated in the ceremony. Fr. Francis Walsh, a priest in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese and the Chaplain of Cuyahoga County #3, Bluestone

Division was joined by 3 Chaplains who serve at the Stokes VA Hospital, Rabbi Chaplain Shalom Plotin (Jewish), Rev. Chaplain George Hankins (Protestant), and Rev. Chaplain Robert Price (Protestant).

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Four Chaplains Commemoration Event, cont.

The short ceremony gave a short accounting of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on February 3, 1943 and the actions of the four chaplains who ultimately sacrificed their lives saving some of the sailors aboard. Each gave a brief prayer in honor of the chaplains. The JROTC students of Glenville High School were slated to provide the honor guard for this event, but due to illnesses at the school, they were forced to cancel.



Lt. to Rt.: John Myers (AOH Ohio State Immigration Chairman);
 Joe Casey (AOH Deputy National Organizer/Ohio State Organizer);
 Bagpiper, Michael Crawley;
 Fr. Francis Walsh (AOH Bluestone Division Chaplain)



Rev. Chaplain Robert Price; Fr Francis Walsh (AOH Bluestone Div. Chaplain)



John Myers; Rev. Chaplain George Hankins; Rabbi
 Chaplain Shalom Plotin

Please see <http://www.fourchaplains.org/> for additional background on the Four Chaplains.

And see [Cleveland Cultural Gardens](#) for more info on the Cultural Gardens.

Commodore Barry Medal

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



Please see the order form below.

Yours in our Motto,

Mike McKenzie

Mike McKenzie Ohio State Board

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

Division/County/State Information:

Division #: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Mailing Address to Send the Medal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

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

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

FFAI Report

February 21, 2020

SINN FEIN'S IRISH VICTORY



Amid a housing and homelessness crisis, Sinn Fein won the Irish vote in February's historic election. The victory came, in part, due to younger and working-class citizens being fed up with high housing costs and costs of rent along with a collapsing health care system. The election overturns over 90 years of dominance by Ireland's two center-right parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, and brings the prospect of a unified Ireland to the forefront of Irish issues. Party leaders have called for a border referendum in the days after the election. Sinn Fein seeks a border poll by 2025.

UNIFICATION OF IRELAND

Former Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern said that a vote for the unification of Ireland is inevitable this decade with a unification itself being "possible." Ahern served fronted Fianna Fail for fourteen years and Taoiseach from 1997 to 2008. He said the vote would fail, however, if it were to take place today as the issue is split evenly among Northern Ireland voters.

VOTE FOR TAOISEACH

After Ireland's General Election on February 20, no Taoiseach has been named due to lack of votes. Sinn Fein's Mary Lou McDonald received the majority of the votes, yet not enough to be named the next Taoiseach. It was the first time a member of Sinn Fein won the majority. Each of the four main parties – Fianna Fail, Sinn Fein, Fine Gael, and Green – offered a nomination for Taoiseach but none gained the 80-vote majority needed to grasp the title.

Patrick Williams, State Director

Ancient Order of the Hibernian

Freedom For All Ireland State Chairman

The Irish Brigade Comes Home

February 2, 2020 By [Mike McCormack](#), National Historian

Prior to the American Civil War, the regular Army was small reflecting the logic that America was best defended by volunteer militia units. Many were little more than glorified fraternal organizations, filled with men who liked to parade, drink and sometimes drill. There were groups like the German Black Sharpshooters and Hungarian Kossuth Rifles among others. Not to be outdone, the Irish formed the O'Connell Guards, Irish Rifles and Irish Zouaves. In New York, the more serious of these units were mustered into a formal state militia as was done in many states across the U.S. On October 12, 1851, the 69th New York State Militia Regiment was officially organized consisting of eight companies of 643 men each, most of Irish birth or parentage. Within a year it topped 1,000. The regiment would go on to earn fame and glory during the Civil War as a key part of the Irish Brigade with similar regiments from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The heroic action of the Irish in battle boosted their reputation and provided a new and more ennobling meaning to the term "fighting Irish."

When the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in April 1861, Regimental Colonel Sligo-born Michael Corcoran called for America's Irish to join the 69th. More than 5,000 applied for only 1,500 billets and 11 days later, Corcoran and his regiment marched down Broadway and steamed away to defend the Union capital in D.C. The first test for the 69th was the Battle of Bull Run. In their first battle, the inexperienced Union army cut and ran back to D.C., but one unit that earned praise was the 69th Regiment who stayed to provide cover for the fleeing troops. They were the last to leave the field suffering 97 casualties and 95 captured, including Colonel Corcoran. The 69th returned to NY to rebuild their tattered ranks. Acting Commander, Captain Thomas Francis Meagher, began recruiting from the Hibernian House on Prince Street diagonally across from Old St. Patrick's Cathedral. When thousands of Irish responded, Meagher requested permission to form a Brigade. The Army was against forming ethnic brigades, but since England was trading with the Confederacy, they felt that fielding an Irish unit might just give the British pause and so they agreed and the Irish Brigade was born. It included the 69th, 88th and 63rd NY regiments and, later, the 28th Mass and 116th Pennsylvania. Some joined for the \$300 signing bonus which was sent to family in Ireland, some out of a sense of duty toward their adopted land and some because of British support for the Confederacy.

The Irish Brigade saw some of the war's harshest battles and they earned a reputation as the most courageous unit in the Army of the Potomac. After one battle, President Lincoln visiting the troops lifted a corner of the Irish battle flag, kissed it and said, God Bless the Irish Flag. Meagher had ordered 69-caliber smoothbore muskets for his men. They were considered obsolete, but very effective at close range which was the style of fighting he wanted because they fired the more deadly buck and ball ammunition and could take down 3 men at a time. Close up fighting made the Brigade fearsome, but also produced heavy casualties since they had to get up close to be effective. The Brigade fought in every campaign of the Army of the Potomac, from the peninsular campaign in 1862 to the surrender of Lee at Appomattox in 1865. At Fair Oaks, Gaines Mill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and every major battle fought by the Army of the Potomac, the figure of General Meagher was seen leading his men into battle. Between campaigns new Irish were recruited to replace the fallen. Among all their battles the three most costly were Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. The Sept, 1862 battle of Antietam was the deadliest day in American history, with 23,000 killed and wounded. The Brigade suffered 540 casualties and Gen. McClelland later wrote, The Irish Brigade sustained their well-earned reputation, suffering terribly in officers and men and strewing the ground with their enemies, as they drove them back. Three months later, the Brigade assaulted Confederate entrenchments along Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg achieving international fame with the tenacity of their attack and eliciting cheers from their rebel adversaries, many of whom were Irish themselves. The next day, only 280 of 1,300 men were able to report for duty. Gen. Robert E. Lee later wrote, Never were men so brave. They ennobled their race by their

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The Irish Brigade Comes Home, cont.

splendid gallantry. In July 1863 at Gettysburg they successfully countered a Confederate offensive near Little Round Top losing 202 men killed out of 530. When Lee finally surrendered to Grant at Appomattox in April 1865, the Brigade was there. One rebel officer told a Union officer, the only reason you won was because you had more Irish than we had! On May 23 and 24, 1865 they paraded in review in Washington D.C. and in the following months, they returned to their homes to celebrate the new national holiday declared by President Lincoln two years earlier — Thanksgiving. Returning, they received a tumultuous welcome from not only the Irish citizens, but from all who had followed their courageous history.

In post-war America, the Irish still faced poverty but discrimination had diminished. Many Americans accorded the Irish a new level of respect since many thousands had made the ultimate sacrifice defending the Union and, as a testament to their bravery, 7 members of the Irish Brigade were presented with the Medal of Honor. Soon it became unfashionable to discriminate against the Irish and the NO IRISH NEED APPLY signs began to disappear from Help Wanted ads. And that was perhaps the greatest victory for the Irish Brigade. Of the 7,715 men who served in its ranks, 961 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded — more than ever served in its ranks at any one time. The 69th NY suffered 75 per cent casualties while the British Light Brigade memorialized by Alfred Lord Tennyson for riding into the 'Valley of Death' lost less than 37 per cent. There is no famous verse for the Irish, but author Joseph Bilby in his book Remember Fontenoy wrote, The Irish Brigade was, many said, the best brigade in the Army of the Potomac. Some said it was the best brigade in the whole Union army and perhaps the best infantry brigade on either side. Today, others with the perspective of history have come to believe it may have been the best infantry brigade that ever was!

