



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

October 2026

Volume 8 Issue 10

President's Message



Brothers,

Welcome to Autumn. I hope to see all of you at Tara Hall in Columbus for our State Board meeting on October 24th. Lunch will be served at 11:30am with the meeting starting 12pm. This will be a special meeting as we present the inaugural Martin L. Sweeney Hibernian of the Year award to Joe Casey. Please have your reports into Secretary Pete Chrystal by October 17th. There will be entertainment at Tara Hall on Friday evening if you are in town.

Thanks to all who circulated and signed petitions for our Ohio AOH license plate. It is finally a reality, and plates will be able to be purchased from the Ohio BMV in the coming months. A copy of what the new license plate will look like is shown below. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the license plates will be donated to Hibernian Charities.

The Ohio March for Life is Friday, October 2nd. The Ohio AOH will again be in attendance. If you plan on attending, please contact State Right to Life Chair Jacob Durda at jacob.durda@gmail.com.

Brothers, thank you again for all of your hard work in moving our Order forward and I look forward to seeing you on October 24th.

In Motto,

Denny



Chaplain's Comments



Recently, I had a discussion with my kids about our obligations to the Church. The discussion started out with one of my daughters saying, "We get the whole church thing, but we don't like being pressured to go. We don't like it when you give us a hard time if we miss and say we have to go to confession before we can go to communion". To which I replied, "Well, obviously you don't get it, or you wouldn't be crying about it now. It is my job as a parent to help you make the right decisions even if you don't understand why I am doing it. Hopefully, one day you will understand, and you won't need me to be there giving you hard time. Look at your brother, he gets it. I don't have to say anything to him. He goes to Church on his own and if he does miss, he goes to confession before he receives communion. He understands his obligations to the Church and what he needs to do to stay in a right relationship with God".

This discussion left me thinking about other people besides my kids. I am not naive; I know that every Catholic on the roles does not attend mass regularly, but it is my obligation as a cleric to instruct the faithful in the importance of celebrating the Liturgy, understanding the role of the Liturgy and realizing the Liturgy is supposed to be the center of our lives. Each time we celebrate it, we are given the graces to carry the Gospel out into the world and share it with others, as we are sent forth from the Mass and carry on the mission of the Church. That is to save the souls of each and every one of our brothers and sisters in the world.

Put in those terms, who in their right mind would not want to participate? Well, I think we can think of many people who choose not to go to Mass. I see it in my parish, and I see it in my friends and family. Sadly, I think we all do. This is the world in which we live. People get caught up in their daily lives, and forget what is really important. God does not care how many hours we put in at work, or how much money we can make. He is not concerned with how many friends we have, or

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

how effective we are at networking and building business relationships. He does care about how many hours we share our lives with those among us who need help. He does care about how we use the money we make with the gifts and talents He has given us to take care of those less fortunate. He is concerned with how many people we come to know in Christ, and he is very concerned about our relationship with Him, as well as, with and one another. These are simple things that we can do, and the Liturgy can help us to do them.

The Liturgy prepared us to do these things well. We are not only bolstered spiritually for the mission at hand, but we are provided with information, knowledge and examples of how to perfect our mission in the words of the Scriptures, the message in the Gospels and the help of the holily to make sense of our lives and understand how we can live our faith in the world. Not only do we receive these special gifts in the celebration of the Liturgy, but we are called to share in the most special gift; the most Holy Eucharist. For it is what we receive that we are called to share and take out into the world. It is the life of Christ we are called to live and recognize in others. It is the suffering of Christ we are called to understand, so we can understand our suffering and the suffering of others. It is Christ's death that we are called to share in, so we realize that this life does not last forever and that it is what we do with the precious little time we have that matters. It is in Christ's resurrection that we are called to recognize there is life after death and if we live a life in Christ, we believe we shall also live in his after life, which is eternal with God in heaven.

These things come to us in the Liturgy of the Mass. This is why it is important to attend Mass and celebrate the Liturgy as often as needed, not just on the days of obligation. This is why it is important to share this information with others, especially our friends and family who have fallen away from the Church. You know the ones who say, "Well I'm more spiritual than religious".

Well, it's time we reached out to them and have that discussion I had with my kids. Please, make a concerted effort to reach out to your friends and family who do not regularly attend Mass. Talk to them about the wonderful graces God bestows on those who celebrate the Liturgy. Share with them some personal stories and examples of how God is active in your life and how you have experienced God's presence in the Liturgy, in the Eucharist, and how He is present in your life. Share with them the effect that celebrating the Liturgy has had on your life.

Doing these things, my brothers, will allow others to share in your personal experience with your God. They will recognize the genuine love you have for them and the anxiety that feel over them missing out on one of the most precious relationships they could ever experience in life. Hopefully, they will understand what they are missing out on, and ask you when the next time you are going to Mass and hopefully, they will ask if they can join you.

God Bless You,

Deacon Bruce

Pro Life

Greetings brothers, I hope you had a nice Labor Day and beginning of fall. The Ohio March for Life will be this Friday in Columbus. Pope Leo called on those who hold public office to live as Christians and follow the gospel even when doing so in a secular environment. He stated that "Christianity cannot be reduced to a mere private devotion". For some public officials, they sometimes say that they believe one way but ignore their conscience while drafting legislation. He called on them to defend the natural law which is something people of all faiths can recognize. As Christians, we are called to show charity to all and live in ways that would bring about the common good of all. I encourage you to talk with your public officials about the importance of defending life in all stages, and if they're Christian, to remind them of Pope Leo's message about living their faith out at all times.

Jacob Durda

Ohio Pro Life Chair

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Jim Casey's Email Addressjjcasey973@icloud.com**Newsletter News**

If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at

jjcasey973@icloud.com

The Editor requests that articles be submitted by the 21st of the month preceding the month of publication.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
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Martin L. Sweeney Ohio Hibernian of the Year Award

Brothers,

It is with great honor that I announce the inaugural winner of the **Martin L. Sweeney Ohio Hibernian of the Year Award**. We had several excellent candidates nominated from across the state and all of them would have been a great choice. After being nominated by his division and voted on by the electors established in Article XVI of the Ohio State Board bylaws, the winner is:

Joe Casey

Congratulations to Joe. Joe will be in Columbus on October 24th for the Ohio State Board meeting to accept the award. Below, you will find Joe's nomination letter from the Medina County Irish Brigade division and learn about all he has done to earn this award. Thank you to all of the brothers and divisions who sent in a nomination and thanks to Ohio State Vice President Bruce McPherson for conducting the inaugural vote. I hope to see all of you in Columbus on October 24th. Thank you, Brothers, and again congratulations to Joe.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dennis Parks
AOH National Treasurer
AOH Ohio State Board President
dparks121@yahoo.com
(330) 414-1963

Joseph M. Casey



After working as a Quality Engineer at General Motors in Kansas City, Kansas for several years he was transferred to the GM plant in Lordstown Ohio. Living in Trumbull County where there was no AOH division, he joined the Division in Youngstown. After a while he decided he would like something closer to home. He was put in contact with Past National President Mike Coogan to see how he would go about starting a division. The rest is history. He formed the Division in Trumbull County, served as the first President and in number of other offices. GM later decided to transfer him to the Parma plant. He discovered that Medina County had no AOH division, so he formed the Irish Brigade Division there. He then served more than one term as President there and is currently the Financial Secretary. So, Joe is the Founding Brother of 2 of the 14 Divisions in the State of Ohio, thanks to General Motors.

At the State level has served as Vice President and two terms as State President. He currently is the State Board Organizer.

At the National level he served as Deputy National Organizer during the start of the At-Large Membership Program which now has provided the Order with members in every State.

This year he was named a National Life Member because of his leadership and dedication to the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Martin Leonard Sweeney Sr. (April 15, 1885 – May 1, 1960)

He was a Democratic U.S. Representative from Ohio and the father of Robert E. Sweeney.

Biography

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Sweeney attended parochial and public schools in the area, including St. Bridget's Parochial School.[1] Prior to his political career, Sweeney worked as a laborer, hoisting engineer and a salesman from 1901 to 1913. He served as a member of the State House of Representatives in 1913 and 1914 and graduated from the Cleveland Law School of Baldwin-Wallace College in 1914. Sweeney was admitted to the bar that same year and began practicing law in Cleveland. From 1924 to 1932 Sweeney was judge of the municipal court of Cleveland, where he vocally opposed Prohibition.[1] Sweeney also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1932.

From 1927 to 1931, Sweeney was national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.[2]



Sweeney was elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-second Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles A. Mooney. He was re-elected to the Seventy-third and the four succeeding Congresses, serving from November 3, 1931, to January 3,

1943. Although Sweeney initially supported President Franklin D. Roosevelt, he later turned against Roosevelt and sided with antisemitic priest and social justice activist Charles Coughlin.[1] Sweeney's re-elections in 1934 and 1936 without support from the national Democratic Party led him to continue his independent congressional course in an increasing swing towards non-interventionist politics.

In September 1939, syndicated columnists Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen accused Sweeney of antisemitism, reporting that he had opposed the appointment of foreign-born Jews to the Cleveland federal bench. They also labeled Sweeney as the "Congressional spokesman for Father Coughlin."

Sweeney filed 70 libel suits against Pearson and Allen, as well as the papers that carried his column, demanding \$250,000 from each. Each of the cases was dismissed.[3]

In the summer of 1940, a bill establishing a peacetime military draft, H.R. 10132, was introduced. Sweeney denounced the bill as an attempt to drag America into World War II on the side of Great Britain. Beverly Vincent (D-KY) said Sweeney was a traitor and a "son of a bitch." Sweeney swung at Vincent, who counterpunched with a hard right to Sweeney's head. The House doorkeeper called it the best fistfight he had witnessed in the House in his fifty years at his post. [4]

Sweeney was an unsuccessful candidate for re-nomination in 1942 after being targeted for his stand against British Lend Lease and his alleged isolationism. He was defeated in the primary by Michael A. Feighan, who represented Cleveland in Congress for the next twenty-eight years.

He was unsuccessful for the Democratic nomination for mayor of Cleveland in 1933 and in 1941, and for the gubernatorial nomination in 1944. He practiced law in Cleveland until his death there on May 1, 1960. He was interred in Calvary Cemetery.

Family

His daughter was married to the son of Cuyahoga County Sheriff Martin O'Donnell (1886–1941).

His first cousin was Dr. Francis E. Sweeney, (1894–1964) the prime suspect in the Cleveland Torso Murders (1934–1938)

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PM Burnham Said The Quiet Part Out Loud

*Judge Michael C. Mentel

A referendum on Irish reunification is “off the table”. That is what the new British Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, told reporters while on a visit to Belfast in late August. The new Prime Minister recently replaced Kier Stermer, the former Prime Minister, after he was ousted from power by his own Labour Party.

Until Burnham made that comment, it remained unclear how he would handle the issue of Irish reunification. One of Burnham’s first moves as Prime Minister was to oust former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Hilary Benn who adamantly opposed calling for a border poll or supporting a planning and development process for a new Ireland. Burnham immediately replaced Benn with Chris Bryant MP, a member of the British Labour Party and a Burnham loyalist.

In one of his first interviews after taking the helm as Secretary of State, Bryant gave a very cagy answer to a question on whether a border poll should be considered. It’s “not on my list of priorities at the moment,” he said—essentially signaling that he would wait to see which way the political winds were blowing at 10 Downing Street before deciding where the issue belonged on his agenda. As of now, he is holding to his position until Burnham tells him where it should fit on his “list of priorities.” Given Burnham’s unvarnished comment in Belfast, Irish unity will not be on the priority list at all.

Burnham’s Comment Condemned

The response to Burnham’s comment was swift and to the point. Michelle O’Neill, the First Minister of Northern Ireland and Vice President of Sinn Féin, said, “[t]he future of Ireland is for the people of this island to decide, and for the people of this island alone...It is not the right of any British Prime Minister to deny our people’s right to self-determination.” Mary Lou McDonald, TD and President of Sinn Féin, said Burnham’s statement was “divisive and ill-informed, [and flies] in the face of the Good Friday Agreement.” She added later that “[t]he right to a referendum on Irish Unity is a key part of the Good Friday Agreement. It was agreed [to] in referendums and is enshrined in international law. It is not a concession in the gift of any British politician. It cannot be casually cast aside or taken off the table and suggesting that it can sends a very dangerous message to those within unionism who are attempting to recreate a past based on division and supremacy.”

Claire Hanna, the head of the Social Democratic & Labour Party (SDLP), stated that “[the SDLP is] very

clear, we stick by the Good Friday Agreement and the UK Government must as well”. Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín TD said Burnham’s comments were “a significant breach of the Good Friday Agreement.” Senator Patricia Stephenson, Foreign Affairs spokesperson for the Social Democrat party in Ireland, said: “Telling the world that Irish unity is off the table shows a colossal level of ignorance towards the North and its people.” Niall Murphy, Chair of Ireland’s Future, in a correspondence sent to Chris Bryant requested “an urgent meeting to clarify the position of your government” on honoring the Good Friday Agreement and its requirements for a vote of the people of Ireland on the reunification question.

Burnham Walks It Back

Following a cascade of criticism on his comment the week before, Burnham tried to walk it back. “I will stick one-hundred percent to the Good Friday Agreement”, he declared. During the Prime Ministers questions in the House of Commons, Burnham defended himself saying, “I answered a media question on a visit to Northern Ireland before meeting the various parties and the question was that a proposal was being put to the meeting about a border poll... [M]y answer was that the purpose of the visit was to get functional government in Stormont because, in my view, that would most serve the people of Northern Ireland right now – and I wasn’t there to distract onto other issues.” A clarification quite different from his unequivocal comment he made only a week before.

Had Prime Minister Burnham been paying attention, he would have known that reunification is plainly on the table for people across the island of Ireland—and that they expect it to be addressed.

The People Support A Border Poll



Recent polling conducted by European Movement Ireland revealed that 59% of respondents in the Republic and 63% of respondents in the north would vote in favor of a united Ireland if

the referenda were held now. The Irish Minister for foreign Affairs, Helen McEntee TD, stated that “in the future we will have a border poll” and that the

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PM Burnam Said The Quiet Part Out Loud, cont.

United Kingdom and Ireland “need to be prepared” for a border poll to be called.

The framework for calling for a border poll is set out in the Good Friday Agreement. At Schedule 1, Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the Agreement (for those who would like to review all of Article 1), it states that, “The Secretary of State [for Northern Ireland] shall exercise the power under paragraph 1 [to call a referendum, or ‘border poll’] if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland

should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland.” By operation of law, Ireland would necessarily call for a referendum simultaneous to the United Kingdom’s if a border poll is called.

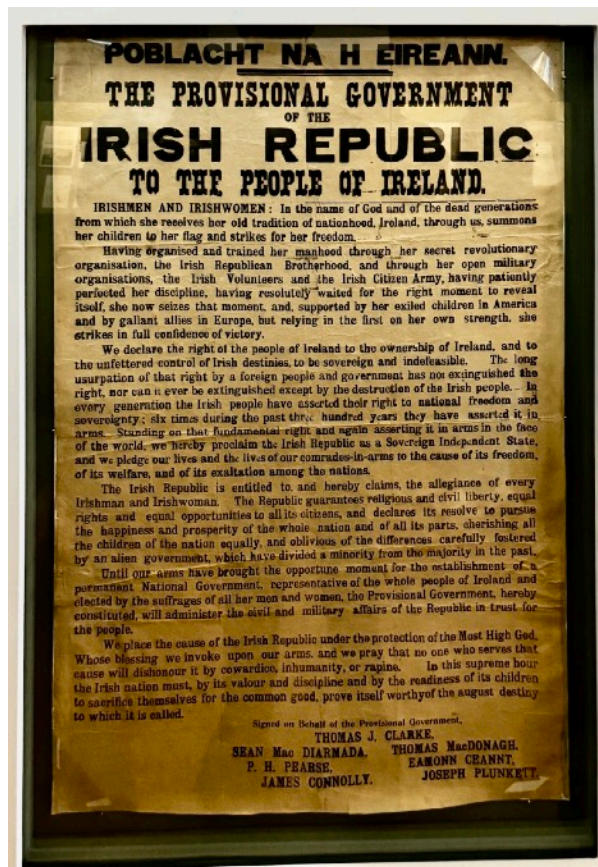
Burnham’s comment on dismissing a referendum on Irish reunification is telling to say the least. It is not supported by the people as clearly evidenced in the European Movement Ireland poll.

The Taoiseach Should Embrace Planning

It is not helpful that Taoiseach Micheál Martin shares Burnham’s viewpoint on turning away from government planning for a border poll. Martin emphasizes the continued efforts under the Shared Ireland Initiative, which he initiated, and that Ireland should stay on that course. The Initiative is a good thing and should be pursued. However, at the same time he also dismisses any efforts to begin planning for a new Ireland. He is steadfast in his belief that reconciliation must occur first in the north before any planning or a border poll can be called.

The Taoiseach’s approach is wrong. It is the actual planning and process for an eventual border poll that leads to reconciliation. It is through a government established citizen planning process in which all traditions are brought together, discussing and debating all the issues that must be addressed prior to a border poll, and allowing the people to arrive at a consensus on the structure of a new Ireland before a border poll is called. It will alleviate the fear and anxiety that some feel towards reunification and bring about the reconciliation Martin so adamantly wants.

Irish America has a role in the current process. We must let the leadership on the island of Ireland know that we support a planning process established by the government that allows all the people on the island to determine how they want a new Ireland to be structured.



*Judge Michael C. Mentel is an appellate court judge on the Ohio Court of Appeals for the Tenth District. He has participated in round table discussions on the British Legacy Bill at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and international panel discussions on Irish Unity. Judge Mentel is the author of “The 1981 Irish Hunger Strike: An Account From Declassified British Documents”. He is a columnist and contributor to local and national publications. He is a member of The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Patrick Pearse Division 1, Franklin County, Ohio, The Shamrock Club of Columbus, Ohio, The Irish American Club East Side, Euclid/Cleveland, Ohio, the Irish American Law Society, Cleveland, and The Brehon Law Society of New York.

Ohio AOH License Plate

Brothers,

It is official. We will have a new OH AOH license plate from the State of Ohio. We collected enough valid signatures and the section of the Ohio Revised Code enacting the law is listed below. The law takes effect on September 23rd. Thanks to all of those who collected signatures and helped along the way. Thanks to Danny O for spearheading this effort. More details to follow.

In Motto,

Denny

Effective: September 23, 2026

Latest Legislation:

Senate Bill 52 - 136th General Assembly

(A) The owner or lessee of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the registrar of motor vehicles may apply to the registrar for the registration of the vehicle and issuance of "Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates. The application may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate under section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code. Upon receipt of the completed application and compliance by the applicant with divisions (B) and (C) of this section, the registrar shall issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates and a validation sticker, or a validation sticker alone when required by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code.

In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on the license plates, **"Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates shall display an appropriate logo and words that are selected by representatives of the AOH Ohio state board and approved by the registrar.** "Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates shall display county identification stickers that identify the county of registration as required under section 4503.19 of the Revised Code.

(B) "Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates and a validation sticker, or validation sticker alone, shall be issued upon receipt of an application for registration of a motor vehicle under this section; payment of the regular license tax as prescribed under section 4503.04 of the Revised Code, any applicable motor vehicle license tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, any applicable additional fee prescribed by section 4503.40 or 4503.42 of the Revised Code, an additional administrative fee of ten dollars, and a contribution as provided in division (C)(1) of this section; and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles.

(C)(1) For each application for registration and registration renewal notice the registrar receives under this section, the registrar shall collect a contribution of ten dollars. The registrar shall deposit this contribution into the state treasury to the credit of the license plate contribution fund created in section 4501.21 of the Revised Code.

(2) The registrar shall deposit the administrative fee of ten dollars, the purpose of which is to compensate the bureau of motor vehicles for additional services required in the issuing of "Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians" license plates, into the state treasury to the credit of the public safety - highway purposes fund created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code.

FFAI

The following articles are from Martin Galvin, National FFAI Chairman.

Patrick Williams, State of Ohio FFAI Chair

Garvaghy Road March and New Legacy Cover-up Bill

New British Northern Secretary Chris Bryant is going “full steam ahead” with his predecessor Hilary Benn’s Northern Ireland Troubles Bill despite the opposition of thousands of victims’ relatives. Meanwhile the once deadly but long settled dispute about triumphal Orange Order marches through the nationalist Garvaghy Road, has been reopened after decades, with a wide-ranging impact. Leading victims’ campaigner Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, and Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition spokesperson Breandan Mac Cionnaith, will discuss these critical issues along with Peadar Tobin TD, in a live webinar broadcast hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) on Saturday, September 26th at 11 AM Eastern Time, 4 PM Irish time.

COVER-UP

After being denied truth about Troubles killings for decades, victim’s relatives began to get justice in legal proceedings like the Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest. Before leaving office in 2024, Conservatives pushed through a new law to shut down inquests, Ombudsman Reports and civil suits that were working for families. They devised an Independent Commission on Reconciliation Information Recovery (ICRIR) to replace legal channels that had begun to deliver truth.

Labour pledged to repeal and replace the act before taking office, but new Northern Secretary Chris Bryant now intends to rename and retain the ICRIR which has been boycotted by thousands of legacy victims’ relatives because they have no confidence it would ever give them justice. The ICRIR has suffered major court setbacks and thus far failed to publish a single report.

Mark Thompson, the CEO of Relatives for Justice will explain why thousands of victims’ relatives have boycotted the ICRIR and are fearful that the new Legacy Commission is another British cover-up.

GARVAGHY ROAD

Thirty years ago, residents of the Garvaghy Road, Portadown organized to halt bigoted Orange Parades from pushing through a district that had become overwhelmingly nationalist. From 1996-1999, 21 people were murdered. The area looked like a siege or war-zone as the Royal Ulster Constabulary hemmed in residents to

facilitate Orange Order marchers. The victims included Rosemary Nelson, a lawyer who represented the residents.

In 1998, the newly appointed Parades Commission refused to allow a march and despite annual protests by the Orange Order continued, the issue has seemed settled since 1999. Now due a procedural error, the Parades Commission decision has been reopened, and the Orange Order is demanding to march.

Breandan Mac Cionnaith, the spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition will explain the feelings of residents, as they face a renewed crisis.

GFA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Peadar Tobin TD, an elected member of the Irish parliament and party leader of AONTU, is an active member of Dail’s Good Friday Implementation Committee and will give a perspective on both issues.

LINKS

The Webinar will be broadcast live on Saturday, September 26th at 11am Eastern time 4pm in Ireland and available on AOH YouTube.

Zoom Webinar Registration

<https://aoh.com/OrangeMarchZoomRegistration>

Watch on YouTube Live:

<https://aoh.com/OrangeMarch>

Orange Order 'wants Paisley/Trimble inflammatory victory parade repeat'

OLIVIA MCATEER

The Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition has accused the Orange Order of wanting to stage a repeat of Ian Paisley and David Trimble's “inflammatory 'victory' march of 1995” if it is granted permission to walk down the Garvaghy Road.

The coalition also called for an international mediator in order to resolve the long-running Drumcree parade dispute in Portadown, and left a 4,000 signature petition opposing the march with the Parades Commission.

Residents' representatives had an 80-minute meeting yesterday with the Parades Commission and the coalition.

The residents' group warned that resolving the dispute could possibly take months.

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Orange Order 'wants Paisley/Trimble inflammatory victory parade repeat', cont.

The decades-long dispute resurfaced in August, after a Belfast High Court ruling quashed the Parades Commission's decision restricting the annual Orange Order parade in Portadown.

The ruling prompted the Orange Order to apply for a limited parade of 60 members along the mainly nationalist Garvaghy Road, the first such application since the route was blocked in 1998.

Breandán Mac Cionnaith, spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition, told the Belfast Telegraph it was "hard" to summarise the outcome of the meeting.

"There were five members of the coalition in attendance, and any questions that the Parades Commission had. The chairperson said it could be Friday before they'll be in a position to release whatever the determination is," he said.

"It's hard to say how it went because the commission won't give an indication of the outcome, but I think we put forward a very clear message to the commission about the views of the local community."

Mr Mac Cionnaith explained that he believes the coalition has supplied sufficient evidence that the parade is not welcomed by the majority of Garvaghy Road residents.

"We showed them a copy of a petition of local people within the community opposing the march, with over 4,000 signatures, so that shows you how the people here feel," he said.

"They wanted evidence and we supplied it." The Loyalist Communities Council (LCC) also met with the Parades Commission to press for a "positive" determination.

LCC chairman David Campbell described the discussion as "a frank but constructive meeting".

The LCC chairman added: "It is astonishing that after 28 years there is still such intolerance shown by supposed representatives of a 'host' community towards facilitating a dignified 10-minute return parade on the King's highway.

"This commission now has the opportunity to demonstrate respect for the rights of Portadown District."

SDLP leader Claire Hanna was also among those who held talks with the Parades Commission. Speaking afterwards, she said: "Following extensive engagement with residents, businesses and the wider Garvaghy Road community, it is clear there is no appetite for this parade to take place.

"The community at the centre of this has lived with the scars of the dispute, and that hurt was so clear when I met with them recently.

"Residents do not want old wounds reopened, community relations damaged or further disruption caused. These are all factors the Parades Commission must take into consideration."

Following the lengthy meeting, the coalition released a letter it left with the five-person commission which stated that "residents of our community simply do not accept the ongoing Orange argument that the 1998 parade requires completion". It added: "The organisers of this currently proposed Drumcree parade would also further be aware that the inclusion, at lower Garvaghy Road/Castle Street, of an additional several hundred members of the Order as part of the parade, along with two additional bands, and an unknown number of supporters, is also very consciously and deliberately designed for one reason alone.

"It is a desire by the Orange Order, supported by unionist political parties, to replicate and repeat the infamous and inflammatory 'victory' march of 1995, led by Ian Paisley and David Trimble.

"It is designed to deliberately arouse ill-feeling and antagonism within the local nationalist community. It is designed with the intent of demonstrating to the nationalist community exactly who are the real masters of Portadown."

The reference to the two late unionist leaders' 'victory' march relates to how they clasped each other's hands in the air to celebrate the Drumcree parade going ahead after the July 1995 standoff.

Pictures of the two men walking triumphantly hand-in-hand are widely held to have hardened residents' opposition to subsequent parades.

It was later mythologised to suggest that Trimble had "danced a jig" with Paisley down the Garvaghy Road in full view of the Catholic residents. However, it happened a mile away on Carleton Street, in front of loyalists. UUP leader Trimble would later suggest he held onto Paisley's hand to prevent the DUP leader forging ahead and upstaging him.

The Parades Commission is due to hear from representatives of the Portadown District of the Orange Order today as it considers the proposed parade. Sinn Féin and the DUP are also expected to meet with the commission ahead of its decision.

Deliberations are set to begin today, although the commission may not publish its written determination for a further 24 to 48 hours.

Orange Order 'wants Paisley/Trimble inflammatory victory parade repeat', cont.

Orange Order parades in Portadown have not marched down the Garvaghy Road since 1998 (File image)

The Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition has said that the Orange Order is consistently seeking "to re-open a sore" by applying to march down the road on its way from Drumcree church to Portadown town centre.

The residents coalition yesterday called on the Parades Commission to impose restrictions on the march applied for for this Sunday, citing the "extremely violent and lethal circumstances" arising from previous demonstrations in the largely nationalist area.

The commission is set to rule on an application for 60 Orange Order members to take part in the proposed Drumcree parade, after being heavily criticised by unionist politicians last month when a High Court ruling quashed its most recent determination over the march.

The Parades Commission has blocked the order from marching along the Garvaghy Road in July every year since 1998. The Drumcree parade dominated headlines in the 1990s when violent clashes and political tension necessitated a major security operation for several summers, as Garvaghy Road residents rejected the march passing through their community.

The residents coalition said relations between communities have improved dramatically and that the order should stick to the route that they have been using for the last 28 years.

In a letter to the Parades Commission following their meeting, the residents group said it "continues to be the factual reality" that the "vast majority" of those living in the area oppose the parade "It is designed to deliberately arouse ill-feeling and antagonism within the local nationalist community. "It is designed with the intent of demonstrating to the nationalist community exactly who are the real masters of Portadown."

Breandán Mac Cionnaith, who has been spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition since 1998, says over 4,000 residents have signed a petition asking for the parade to remain re-routed away from the Garvaghy Road.

This was delivered to the Parades Commission yesterday.

Speaking on RTÉ's Morning Ireland, he said that everybody knows what the views of this community are and that residents are not even considering that the parade might be allowed go ahead this weekend.

'We have been in with the commission yesterday. We spent an hour and 20 minutes with the commission.

"We have talked to various political parties on this. We have made our fears and feelings known to the Government in Dublin, and we've been in regular touch and regular contact with representatives from Dublin throughout the last week."

Mr Mac Cionnaith added that the Orange Order has never acknowledged to apologised for the grief and hurt inflicted on the community.

"Let our community live in peace," he said.

State Organizer Report

We continue to plug along with the new application program. Like I mentioned last month, if you have problems or questions, please reach out to our National Secretary, Ray Lynch (irishyankeenut@yahoo.com) or Deputy Organizer Brendan Walsh (bwalsh@ctaoh.org). They should be able to help in getting things straightened out.

I am still receiving some applications in the old system from our National Organizer's office. Thank you to those who are responding and following up with the applicants. Remember, once you have contacted the applicant, input the information into the new system. You can then update it when he is brought into your division. After that is completed and he shows up as a member, contact Greg Sean Canning (Grioghar@mac.com), so he can get a membership card created and sent to you.

I've again reached out to men in Jefferson & Richland counties on the hopes of getting new divisions started in those locations. If anyone knows of family members or friends in those areas, have them get with me. We should be close to enough men in Jefferson County.

As always, I thank you all for your hard work and assistance as we continue to grow in Ohio.

Joe Casey

Ohio State Organizer

qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Project St. Patrick

Some key dates:

October 9th, 2026 - The last Day for the Vocational Grant Application Forms to be submitted to their Vocational Directory (Diocese).

October 30th, 2026 - The last day for the Vocational Directors to return the completed Vocational Grant Forms and their endorsements to the AOH/LAOH Project St. Patrick Committee.

November 1st-20th, 2026 - The Chairs will decided on approvals, and grants, etc.

So, we have some dates coming up that are pretty important.

Please be sure to pass along any information to any Seminarians who are in formations.

All the best,

Nick Jacobs, njacobs@clashmore.com

Ohio Project St. Patrick

Division News

Bluestone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co.

All Our Yesterdays – Documentary and discussion with Director Breege Rowley Friday, October 9, 2026 7PM Capital Theatre, 1390 West 65th Street Cleveland Ohio.

The Great Hunger from Mayo to Cleveland: All Our Yesterdays screening and live Q&A with Director Breege Rowley! Get ready for an unforgettable evening celebrating Irish heritage, powerful storytelling, and deep local connections at the historic Capitol Theatre. On Friday, October 9th at 7:00 PM, Join us for a special screening of the award-winning feature documentary, All Our Yesterdays. Visit capitoltheatreincleveland.com or Capital Theatre Website for tickets. \$25 each

Bluestone Hibernian Mass – Sunday, October 11, 10AM St Malachi Church 1371 West 25th Street Cleveland Ohio 44113 Celebrant will be Father Jeff Liptak. Breakfast after mass at Flat Iron Cafe

William Homan Obituary



Obituary published Sep. 19, 2026.

William Charles "Bill" Homan, 82, of Willoughby, passed away peacefully at home on September 18, 2026, with his family by his side. Born October 11, 1943, in Cleveland, he was the son of the late Charles Frederick and Zita Hope (nee Kane)

Homan. Bill lived in Lake County for 49 years, was an award-winning sales and marketing manager at Premier Industrial and Parts Associates Inc., owner and operator of the Willow Tree Party Center in Willowick, and built a life centered around his family, his faith, his Irish heritage and the many friendships he held dear.

He was the beloved husband of Patricia A. (nee Corcoran) Homan, with whom he shared 49 years of marriage; loving father of Heather A. Homan, John C. (Marcella) Homan and Erin H. Homan; and cherished grandfather of Louisa, Isabella and Declan. He is also survived by his sister, Andrea (Neal) Brickman; brother, Timothy (Melinda) Homan; brother-in-law James (Margaret) Corcoran and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and dear friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; Charles and Hope Homan, his sister, Deborah (Ralph,

deceased) Barnard; brother-in-law, Robert Corcoran; and sister-in-law, Kathleen (Thomas, deceased) Durkin.

Bill's Irish heritage was an important part of who he was and something he shared generously with others. He was a founding member and Charter Member #10 of the Irish American Club East Side, where he served as president from 1980 to 1982. He was later honored as Irish American Club East Side Member of the Year in 1999 recognizing his years of service and dedication to the club. One of his proudest accomplishments was helping make possible the purchase of the building that remains the home of the East Side Irish American Club today.

His involvement in the Irish community reached far beyond the East Side Club. Bill was also a longtime member of the West Side Irish American Club, a board member of the Cleveland Mayo Society, a member of the Irish American Archives Society, and **a founding member of the Bluestone Hibernians**. He also served as the first vice president of the Western Reserve Order of Ancient Hibernians, and served on the committee for the Irish Town Bend Project. In 2019, he had the special honor of serving as Grand Marshal of the Greater Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade. Additionally, he was honored as Lake County Irishman of the Year in 1988 and as the Holy Name Society Man of the Year at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church.

For Bill, though, friendships were just as important as titles and accomplishments. His longtime friends from St. William Grade School, St. Ignatius High School, and the Irish community remained an important part of his life. He especially cherished the time he spent with his group of friends, affectionately known as the "Choir Boys." Some of his favorite moments were much simpler-golfing, sitting in his driveway with the neighbors, enjoying a cigar, a cocktail and good conversation.

Above all, Bill cherished his family. He treasured time with Patricia, his children and especially his grandchildren, and took great pride in watching them grow. He leaves behind a lifetime of friendships, service, laughter and memories that will continue through the people and Irish community he loved so much. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bluestone Hibernian Charities, 956 Quarry Dr., Cleveland Heights, OH 44121.