

HIBERNIAN NEWSLETTER

AOH SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ
ST. PATRICK DIVISION 1
March 2024



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

Regular AOH Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 19th** at 8pm. Our meeting will be followed by some friendship and cheer with your fellow Hibernians. As usual we will have complimentary beer, wine, and soda available after the meeting.

Knights of Columbus Hall
495 E. Main Street
Somerville, NJ

President's Message

Brothers,
Special Thanks to all who made Irish Night a success this year! We could have used a few more attendees but those that were there had a good time. My thanks go out to Tommy Burns and his band "A Band of Rogues"; Pat Mannion for the beer; Neil Mahoney; Ryan McNerny; Charlie Mulrooney, Kevin Dorsey; Mike Donnellan and his lovely wife Colleen; Mike's brother Robert Donnellan, Dan and Diana Hayes, my wife Elaine, Barry Kirby; Tom Lenahan; the Hillsborough Manville Elks; and all those countless others that made this event a success. It was great to celebrate with our 2024 Hibernian of the Year, Tom Lenahan and his family. It was also great to celebrate with the 2024 LAOH Irish Woman of the Year Sister Mary Jo Kearns and our LAOH sisters. Sister Mary Jo worked with my recently deceased aunt Kathleen at McAuley Hall in Watchung. What they say about a small world is true.

Other folks we were happy to celebrate with was the Division Shamrock Award winner from last year Jack McCullough; the Division Outstanding Award winner for last year Dan Esposito; and a previous year Division Outstanding Award winner Barbara O'Donnell.

We have a busy week coming with the Grand Marshall reception taking place Friday night (3/8) at 7 PM at the KOC. It is a catered event with heavy Hors d'Oeuvres. Tickets will be available at the door.

Tickets are in the \$40 range. Brother Willy Lynch will be playing.

Saturday the Rugby game between Ireland and England should be fun. The game start is 11:45. The KOC hall will be open for a watch party. No cover.

Sunday (3/10) is our big day. Starting with Mass at 9 (please arrive at least 15 minutes early so you can be part of the procession) at Immaculate Conception. After the Mass we will then proceed to the Irish Flag raising at Borough Hall. Brother David Lang will sing the Irish National Anthem for us in Gaelic.

Some of us working the parade will have some jobs. Please be on Main Street by the Somerset Hotel at 1 PM to prepare for the Division marching in the Somerville St. Patrick's Day Parade. You family is welcome! Step off is 1:30 sharp. Parking will be a challenge, so plan accordingly. Special thanks to brother Rob O'Donnell for housing the Irish County Flags. We will be processing with the county flags. As of right now, looks like the rain will hold off, but it will be windy. Should make the flag carrying fun.

After we process, I will need a few AOH brothers to help with directing the parade marchers at the end of the parade. Please let me know if you can help. We will probably only need help for about an hour. We will have our traditional post parade party at the KOC. Hope you can join us. Neil Mahoney is picking up some food. Cash bar.

The AOH/LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION – REGISTRATION is open. Register at <https://aoh.com/2024AOHLAOHconvention>.

Registration for the 102nd Biennial AOH-LAOH Convention will take place in has Orlando FL Aug 7th - 11th 2024.

Please also check out the many links to Irish History, etc. on the website that National and the State have provided. Special thanks to Ryan Green for populating them on the website.

After that we look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting this Tuesday the 19th. Please

remember our general meetings are typically the third Tuesday of every month through June. We are looking for volunteers for our Picnic events. Lastly, I would like to thank Tommy Burns for his hard work publishing these newsletters.

Sincerely,
Pat Mulrooney
Division President

Somerville St Patrick's Day Parade



Save the Date – Sunday March 10th for the Somerville St. Patrick's Day Parade. See attached flyer with more details of the day's events.



Post-Parade Party

We have reserved the KOC for a parade after party. Stop by the club for some drinks, music and hot dogs. Open from 3-7pm.

Easter Hamsgiving !!

Help us deliver ham dinners to those in need this Easter. There will be a food collection event at Mannion's on Palm Sunday afternoon and the distribution of food baskets on Good Friday March 29th. See attached flyer for details.

Irish Night

A great night was had ! Photos are included in this newsletter

2024 Calendar of Events

This newsletter includes a calendar of all our planned events for 2024. Print it out and keep for your reference so you don't miss anything !

2024 Dues Mailing

Several brothers have not yet paid their dues. Please submit ASAP. Dues remain \$50 for the year and we appreciate any extra contributions to support the many charitable events we sponsor.



Dues should be sent to:

Thomas Lardner, Fin. Sec.
18 West Main Street
Mendham, NJ 07945-1214

Welfare of the Division

We ask that you continue to remember all our sick, deceased members, their families, and our friends in your prayers. We are also eager to share joyous news such as weddings, births, college graduations and other accomplishments of our members families.

Please contact our Welfare Chairman, **Tom Lenahan** @ 908-217-3001 or email him at tbl63@optonline.net so that a card or other suitable acknowledgement can be sent.

Attendance Raffle

Our monthly attendance raffle has reached **\$302**. You could win this amount if you attend the next meeting and your Member ID number is drawn.

Meet our 2024 Hibernian of the Year – Tom Lenahan

Tom was born in Somerville, N.J. in 1963 to Thomas and Catherine Lenahan. He is the oldest of four siblings, Kathleen Marconi, Michael Lenahan, Eileen Allen and Maureen Blejawas. They all grew up together in Branchburg, NJ. Tom graduated from Somerville High School in 1981 then went on to college earning his Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

In 1986, Tom was hired at Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson holding numerous positions within the sales division for 18 years leading him to medical device sales in New York City.

In 1990, Tom married Nancy Freda of Martinsville, NJ. As long time Bridgewater residents, Tom and Nancy have two Son's, Sean (29) with Fiancée Kelly Flannigan and Matthew (27) with Fiancée Lizzy Fuller. The Lenahan family is thrilled to be planning two weddings in 2025.

In 2004, Tom joined W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. – Medical Products Division out of Flagstaff, AZ. He has held the position of Director, Corporate Accounts for the last 20 years supporting the sale and contracting of medical devices for vascular, cardiovascular and general surgery use at the largest health systems across the country.

Outside of Tom's 38-year medical device career, he volunteered and participated in a variety of organizations. Becoming an E.M.T. with the Branchburg Rescue Squad in the mid-1980s, led to an appointment to an E.M.T driver for Somerset Medical Center's first Mobile Intensive Care Unit.

Tom received his 3rd Degree as a Knight with the Knights of Columbus, Somerville Council 1432 in 1985. Tom then joined the Somerville Elks's Lodge 1068 and the Ancient Order of Hibernians – Saint Patrick's Division 1 – Somerset County with his dad. He took a temporary leave after his dad's passing in 1997 and to help Nancy raise their two boys.

Tom is a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church in Martinsville where he served as a Eucharistic Minister at both his parish and at Somerset Medical Center's Hospital Ministry under Rev. Msgr. Eugene Prus and Rev. Richard Rusk.

Now that Tom and Nancy are both empty nesters, Tom commits much of his time to the Ancient Order of Hibernians – Saint Patrick's Division 1 – Somerset County as Chairman of the Standing Committee where he also co-chairs the annual Thanksgiving and Easter food drive as well as co-chairing the Annual A.O.H. Catholic Mass honoring deceased AOH Brothers and LAOH Sisters.

Lastly, Tom has enjoyed his Irish Heritage and has fond memories of the Saint Patrick's Parade which then began in Bradley Gardens and marched across Route 206 to Downtown Somerville. Embracing those memories, Tom joined the Somerville Saint Patrick's Parade Committee and serves with a committed group of folks who work tirelessly to ensure the Somerville Saint Patrick's Parade continues to bring smiles in celebrating Irish Heritage and providing a community venue to cheer on and thank our Hometown Hero's and Community Volunteers the Sunday before Saint Patrick's Day in Downtown Somerville which follows the Parade Mass at Immaculate Conception Church and the raising of the colors at Borough hall.

Both Tom and Nancy will be quite busy with preparing for two upcoming weddings. In addition they also enjoy travelling, cheering on the NY Jets, Saint Joseph's University Men's Basketball (both boy's alma mater), visiting their sons and their fiancées in Philadelphia and spending summer weekends aboard their boat at Shelter Harbor Marina in Beach Haven NJ.

2024 Hibernian of the Year



Tom Lenahan

Somerset Co. Div 1 AOH
Somerville
St. Patricks Day Parade
Sunday March 10, 2024



Events of the Day

- 9a Mass at Immaculate Conception church honoring the Parade Grand Marshal, Leigh McLachlan, our Hibernian of the Year - Tom Lenahan and LAOH Irish Woman of the Year, Sister Mary Jo Kearns, RSM
- 10:30a Irish flag raising at Somerville Public Library West End Ave and Somerset Street
- 1:00p Somerset Division 1 assembles near intersection of Main and Grove Streets. Members families and friends are welcome to march with us and carry our Irish county flags. (Please dress respectfully)
- 1:30p Parade begins





2024 Easter Food Drive

Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick Division 1 Somerset County, NJ will be collecting hams and food items for our annual 2024 Easter Food Drive. We plan to provide needy organizations in our area with meals including, but not limited to:

Ham, Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Desserts & Pantry Items

How you can help

Donate your FREE ham that you may be eligible for at your local supermarket !! We will find someone who will be thankful for it.

Donate hams, boxed potatoes, canned vegetables, dry goods, boxed cakes and any other food items or shopping gift cards.

Help assemble and distribute food on the morning of **Good Friday, March 29th @ the KoC Hall 9:30 AM**

Food Drop off: Palm Sunday, March 24th 2PM-5PM

Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, 150 W. Main Street, Somerville

Bring your food items

A great way to close out Saint Patrick's Week.

Live Irish Music !!!

Financial donations and gift cards can be mailed

To: **AOH**, 1389 Plymouth Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

More Info:

Call Dan Esposito 908-334-3968
Tom Lenahan 908-217-3001

Matthew 25 – For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...





ST. PATRICK DIVISION 1, SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

General Meetings 8pm (3rd Tuesday of Every Month, Except July & August)
KOC Hall, 495 E. Main Street, Somerville, NJ

January 16	June 18
February 20	September 17
March 19	October 15
April 16	November 19
May 21	December 17

FEBURARY

Tuesday February 20th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING: Last meeting before the Festive Season of March.

MARCH

SATURDAY March 2nd 7pm-Midnight: ANNUAL IRISH NIGHT. Hillsborough-Manville Elks, 1500 Brooks Blvd, Hillsborough, NJ. Our Annual Dinner Dance celebrating our Irish Heritage in Somerset County.

Friday, March 8 – Grand Marshall Reception 7 PM, KOC

Saturday, March 9 - Ireland vs England Rugby (6 Nations Tourney) game start time is 11:45 AM EST, KOC

Sunday March 10th 9am: Parade Day Mass. Immaculate Conception Church, Mountain Avenue, Somerville, NJ. Celebrate Our Faith together as we honor our Heritage.

Sunday March 10th 1pm: Somerville 27th Annual St. Patrick's Parade. Main Street, Somerville, NJ. Please line-up at 1pm so we can be ready to march at 1:30pm.

Sunday March 10th After the Parade: POST PARADE PARTY. KOC Hall, 495 E. Main St. Somerville NJ. Join us after the parade to celebrate with the KOC.

Tuesday March 19th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING: Review of March Events and finalize logistics and planning stages of our Annual Easter Food Drive.

Palm Sunday 2-5p – Easter food drop-off event at Mannion's

MARCH 29th: (Good Friday) ANNUAL EASTER FOOD DRIVE: Division Hosts a Food Drive to help those celebrate Easter.

APRIL

Tuesday April 16th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING. Attend our Monthly Meeting and meet your Hibernian Brothers. Social Hour sponsored by the Division will follow the meeting.

APRIL 27th: ANNUAL MASS. 5:30pm KOC. Our Annual Mass where we remember and pray for those Division Brothers who have passed away. A small repast will follow.



ST. PATRICK DIVISION 1, SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ

MAY

Tuesday May 21st 8pm. GENERAL MEETING. Attend our Monthly Meeting and meet your Hibernian Brothers. Win Raffle Prizes while helping local Charities.

JUNE

Tuesday June 18th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING: This will be our last meeting before the summer break. Food and refreshments compliments of the Division will be served after the Meeting. The Winners of Our Fundraiser will be drawn. Winner needs not to be present.

AUGUST

Sunday August 24th (tentative) Noon-6pm. ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC. Eagles Picnic Grounds, 350 Woodside "Lawn, Bridgewater, NJ. Bring your Friends & Family. Entertainment TBD

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday September 17th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING: Nominations for our Divisions Officers will be sought. Those interested in running for any Board Positions should submit their interest to the Nominating Committee prior.

OCTOBER

Tuesday October 15th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING: Election & Swearing in of Newly Elected Officers. Complementary Food & Beverages after the meeting to celebrate the Installation of Officers.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday November 19th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING. Be Thankful that you are a Hibernian. General Meeting followed by a Social Hour.

Sunday November 24th: 10th Annual Thanksgiving Music Seisiun In Memory of Mike Berry:

KOC Hall, 495 E. Main St. Somerville, NJ. All Musicians and those who enjoy listening to Irish Music are invited. All attendees are encouraged to bring food or monetary donations in support of our Turkey Drive.

Monday November 25th: Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. KOC Hall, 495 E. Main St. Somerville, NJ.

Assembling and Distributing of the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.

DECEMBER

Tuesday December 17th 8pm. GENERAL MEETING. General Meeting followed by a social hour. Food and beverages will be provided compliments of the Division after the Meeting.

Please visit our:

Website, www.AOHSomerset.com

Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/AOHSomerset

Twitter Account www.Twitter.com/AOHSomerset

For updates and current information

Feel Free to contact any of the Division Officers with any concerns.

Irish Night Photos





Mannion's Pub & Restaurant

St. Patrick's Week Celebrations

Sunday, March 10

Somerville St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Noon - 8PM ~ Irish Music with the Michael Craig Band

Friday, March 15th

7:00 PM ~ Irish Step Dancers

7:30 PM ~ Irish Music with The Michael Craig Band

8:00 PM ~ Bagpipers

Saturday, March 16

7:00 PM ~ Irish Step Dancers

7:30 PM ~ Irish Music with The Michael Craig Band

8:00 PM ~ Bagpipers

Sunday, March 17

"Happy St. Patrick's Day!"

12 PM - 12 AM ~ Irish Music with The Michael Craig Band

1:00 PM ~ Irish Step Dancers

1:30 PM ~ Bagpipers

4:30 PM ~ Bagpipers

5:00 PM ~ Irish Step Dancers

7:00 PM ~ Irish Step Dancers

7:30 PM ~ Bagpipers

*Step dancing performances proudly presented by
The Lynn Academy of Irish Dance*

Sorry, we are not accepting reservations.

