



## The Spirit of Lent

On February 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, one month prior to St. Patrick's Day, Christians will once again be celebrating Ash Wednesday signaling the beginning of the Lenten Season. Pope Benedict XVI has told us: "Lent offers us the providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we in turn may become more merciful to our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period the Church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in the process of interior renewal; these are prayer, fasting and almsgiving."

Our Holy Father is specifically telling us that the Corporal and Spiritual Works or Mercy should be the center of our penitential practice during the holy season of Lent. Penance should be not only inward but also outward and social, being directed towards works of mercy on behalf of our brothers and sisters.

In St. Matthew's Gospel for Ash Wednesday, Our Lord tells us: "Give alms, pray to your Father...Fast without a gloomy face..." Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of the world. The needy are all around us: children and the old, the sick, families and individuals, next-door neighbors and people in faraway lands. Jesus says that giving and looking out for those in need will make you live and you will receive some blessing from God in return. And what shall we give? Some time, some of our talent, material resources. Not only at Lent but throughout the year, Hibernian Brothers and Sisters are accustomed to giving to the various Hibernian Charities. During this Lenten season, we must continue our efforts whether providing help in stocking a food pantry, working at a soup kitchen, collecting and supplying warm clothing to the poor and homeless, visiting the sick or elderly. Encourage others to join in carrying out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We have the great example of Jesus: "He loved us, and gave himself up for us." We all have something to give whatever our station or vocation in life may be.

The spirit of Lent also calls us to pray. But prayer, Jesus teaches us is much more than the words: "Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret." Before you pray, enter the room of your heart. Shut the door to noise and the countless everyday cares grabbing for attention. In the quiet of your heart and with your faith as a guide, speak to your God. A gracious Father listens and knows what you need. God helps us pray in this season. For those who have stopped praying or pray without fervor, God gives the grace for praying again. Usually the grace comes as we turn to prayers and practices already there: the Celebration of Mass, reflective reading of the Bible, simple prayers like the Our Father and Hail Mary and praying the Rosary of Our Blessed Mother.

As members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians there can be no greater way to fulfill our Lenten obligations than to continue to support and donate our time and gifts to the many Hibernian works of charity which have been the hallmark of our great society for many years.

Father Tom O'Donnell, A.O.H. Penna. State and National Chaplain

## A Letter from the President:

Brothers,

Most of you know I was in the hospital just before Christmas. Medication is helping but hasn't cured the problem. This Wednesday (the 10<sup>th</sup>) I'll have a procedure that hopefully will get the heart back in sync. Thank you for all your prayers.

Tom Coughlin Jr. has resigned as State Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. Tom has served the State Board the past ten years in different positions and was always a credit to the Pa. AOH. Thanks again Tom for a great job.

In his place as Webmaster, I have appointed Steve Wayhart (Allegheny 32). Steve specializes in websites. He is currently Allegheny 32's webmaster and does a great job. The new website should be available shortly.

John Haney III (Bucks 1) was appointed Newsletter Editor by State Secretary Gerry Ennis. John also has a background in newsletters and we know he will do a great job.

Our State Convention for 2011 is going to be held at the Dolce Hotel and Resort in Valley Forge, Pa. AOH Convention Chair Ed Halligan along with State Board Members Tom O'Donnell, Gerry Ennis, Gene Daly and Jim Murphy visited the Hotel and all agreed it was a good place for our convention in 2011. Ed will have more in his report at the State meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you all in Carbondale.

In Our Motto, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Denny Donnelly  
Pa. AOH State President

## A Letter from the Secretary:

Brothers,

We are back in the Newsletter business. Tom Coughlin Jr. has submitted his resignation as Newsletter Editor/Webmaster after about 10 years of service to the Pa. State Board. He just didn't have enough time with all his other commitments. The State Board wishes him well and hopes he will be back on the board in the very near future. John Haney of Bucks Div. 1 will take over as Editor and Steve Wayhart of AL32 will become Webmaster. We can expect an outstanding job from both.

On December 3, 2009 I again had the honor of installing the Officers of Bucks Div. 1 and on Jan. 7, 2010 I traveled to Doylestown with State VP Tom O'Donnell to install the Officers of Bucks Div. 3.

On Jan. 29, 2010 VP Tom O'Donnell and I traveled Queens Village, NY to attend the United Irish Counties of NY banquet honoring National President Seamus Boyle as their "Gael of the Year".

Certificate of Elections (form9s) are now overdue and Membership Reports (Form 11s) are due with Per Capita payment to National and County Boards by February 15<sup>th</sup> and to the PA State Board by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mail State PC and forms to AOH/PA State Board, P.O. Box 2232, Bristol, Pa. 19007-8232.

Mail National PC and Forms to Thomas D. McNabb, 31 Logan St., Auburn, NY 13021  
Please change my e-mail address to [g.ennis@comcast.net](mailto:g.ennis@comcast.net) if you haven't already done so.

Gerry Ennis  
AOH/PA State Secretary

On Feb. 20, 2010, Division 6 will be running a fund raiser for Project Children. Project Children was formed during the "Troubles" by members of the NYPD to bring children of both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds to the United States for a few weeks in the summer and give them a chance at having a peaceful, non-violent summer. To find out more information about Project Children you can go to, [www.projectchildren.org](http://www.projectchildren.org) .

My family has had the pleasure of hosting two sisters from Belfast for the last three years and are looking forward to doing the same this summer. However, to do so, we need to raise the funds to pay for the cost of bringing them to the United States. With the help of Division 6 and the generous donation by Division 1, Bucks County, of the use of their hall for the third straight year, we hope to accomplish just that.

Anyone interested in being a host family can contact me, Paul Wiese, at [afobpro@comcast.net](mailto:afobpro@comcast.net) and I can get in you touch with your local area co-coordinator who will walk you through the process of becoming a host family.

We are also asking for donations in the forms of baskets for Chinese auctions or reserving a table (see below). Please contact me at [afobpro@comcast.net](mailto:afobpro@comcast.net) or 267-235-9681 and I will arrange to have your donation picked up. Any division that would be kind enough to donate a keg of beer, please contact the bar manager at Division 1, George Loveless at 215-788-9807 or 215-826-8278, to arrange the donation.

## A.O.H. Division # 5



### **OFFICER JOSEPH FRIEL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER A.O.H. Div # 5 Irish Night Out**

**What: BEEF & BEER (Fund Raiser)  
When: SATURDAY 7:30PM – 12:00  
DATE: APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2010  
Where: I.H.M SCHOOL (HALL)  
Andorra  
Price: \$25.00 PER TICKET**

### **DIVISION #17 IRISH BAND "BALLINA"**

**D.J Music, Beer & Food,  
(BYOB) BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE  
SETS UPS AVAILABLE (ICE, SODA,  
CUPS ETC.)**

**Benefits A.O.H. Div # 5 Scholarship  
Fund.  
Tickets Are Available through A.O.H  
Div #5 members and at our general  
meetings.**

Alec Campbell, Mauch Chunk Div 1, and Carbon County:

Help support our parade and congratulate our 2010 Grand Marshal Hugh D. Dugan, a charter member of our Division, by posting an ad, congratulatory message or thank you in our 13th Anniversary Commemorative Program.

Color full page glossy - \$200 per page  
full page glossy - \$160  
full page non glossy \$150  
1/2 page \$90  
1/4 page \$45  
business card \$25

Make checks payable to: St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, PO Box 282, Jim Thorpe, Pa. 18229  
For further info contact Bernadette Behan at 570-325-4563 or e mail Darren Behan at [chefdarren1973@yahoo.com](mailto:chefdarren1973@yahoo.com). Deadline for ads is Feb 24th, 2010.

Grand Marshal Dinner is Mar 6, 2010 at Kelly's Irish Pub on Route 209 Lansford; tickets are \$30.00 includes dinner, beer, soda, and entertainment. Tickets are available at door.

Alec Campbell, Mauch Chunk Davison 1 of Carbon County parade date is March 14th, Sunday, 1p.m. in downtown Jim Thorpe. Any AOH Division interested in participating contact Hugh at 610-248-4315.

Hugh D. Dugan  
Co-Chairman, St. Patrick's Day Parade Comm.

### **HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR –2009**

St. Brendan's Division #1, Berks County, announced their "Hibernian of the Year Award" for 2009. The award is given annually to a member of the Order who displays outstanding leadership qualities to promote the goals and ideals of our Order, "Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity." This year's recipient of our highest award is no stranger to the members of St. Brendan's Division #1. He has been a member of our division since November 10, 1995, and a major degree member since November 24, 1996. He has been an active member and an officer since 1997 serving as Treasurer from 1997 through 2000, Vice-President in 2001 and President from 2002 through 2005. He also has served as Missions and Charities Chairman for the Berks County Board since 2005

In addition to holding the highest offices in St. Brendan's, he has served as a committee co-chairman for our annual Golf Tournament since its inception in 2004 and is instrumental in establishing our "AOH/St. Brendan's Primary Education tuition Assistance Program" that in two years awarded \$6000 in awards to support Catholic Education in Berks County. In addition, he presided over, organized and coordinated, our successful campaign to raise the necessary monies needed to host the 2005 Pennsylvania AOH-LAOH State Convention; One of the most successful conventions in recent memory. In retrospect, if there was a job to be done, and we needed someone to organize and chair a committee, we could always depend on our 2009 Hibernian of the Year to get the job done.

### **ANNUAL IRISH PARTY**

St. Brendan's will once again host their annual "Irish Party" on Saturday March 13, 2010 at St. Ignatius Parish Hall, in Wyomissing. Once again we have gone out of our way to bring you the best Irish and Celtic music in Berks County. "Celtic Spirit" will be on hand to entertain you, and get you ready for the St. Patrick's Day celebration just four days hence. Ticket prices remain the same as last year, \$15 per person. For now, get your dancing shoes out and your vocal chords ready to sing some of your favorite Irish ditties and Rebel songs.

Reminder that this Saturday Feb 6th will be the **Hibernian Hunger Project** event in conjunction with the *Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank* "**Produce to People**" at the **Braddock Location** which is located at 9th Street and Talbot Avenue starting at 8:30 am. We are making a difference, feeding approximately 400 - 600 families, any and all help that you can provide will be appreciated. There is something there for all skill levels to help with, also remember there are Community Service Credits available for our school age children. ,  
I hope to see you all there.

Yours in Our Motto,  
Kevin O'Donnell  
AOH Allegheny County Organizer

Brothers:

Msgr. Wm. Farrell, Division 2, Carbondale, will host their Annual Communion Breakfast, on Sunday, February 28, at St. Rose Church, 6 North Church Street. Msgr. David Tressler, Pastor and "Our" Chaplain, will celebrate Mass at 7:30 A.M. Mass will be in "Memory of Our Deceased Brothers". Brothers are asked to meet at 7:00 A.M. in the Church basement, as we will be piped into the Church by Brother Tom Nolan. Directly following Mass, breakfast will be served at the Trinity Club, at 83 South Main Street at a cost of \$10.00 per person and is opened to everyone, so bring your wives and kids. After breakfast, we will honor our "Hibernian of the Year". To quote our Vice President, Frank Burnett, "there is nothing as impressive as a group of Catholic men expressing their faith by gathering to celebrate Mass together. It has always been my hope to see a SEA OF GREEN when I look out across the Church." After Breakfast, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the "Friendship and Unity" of all the Brothers and tip a few pints." Please share this information with your Division Members and pop up to Carbondale on February 28th.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,  
Joe Hosie

St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraiser

Once again we will be kicking off the St. Patrick's Day season with the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraiser, at Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle Irish Pub. The party will take place next **Wednesday, February 10th**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** We're starting early this year, because we have some very special entertainment lined up for the evening. In addition to local favorites *Terry Griffith* and *Guaranteed Irish*, in honor of the 10th anniversary of the fundraiser, Sean McCabe, from *The McCabe's Band* and *Paddy Reilly's Pub* in New York City, will be making a appearance, playing all of your Irish favorites, as well as a few readings from his newest book of short stories, *A Good Deed & Other Stories*.

As always, there is no cover charge for the event, but there will be plenty of raffles, giveaways, door prizes, baskets of cheer and 50/50 drawings all night long. Come to the Harp & Fiddle, 24th & Penn in the Strip District, next Wednesday the 10th, for a great evening of Irish music, and help keep the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade the best in the country!

# Support the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade



## **FUNDRAISER Celebrating Grand Marshall & Northeast Resident Seamus Boyle**

*And Ring of Honor Receptients*

**Featuring the Music of:  
The Shanty's, Ballina, The Gallagher Brothers  
Irish Dance Group Celtic Flame**

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 3 to 7p.m.**

At

**MAYFAIR COMMUNITY CENTER**

Battersby & St. Vincent Sts. -----Philadelphia, PA 19149

Next to Mayfair Elementary School and Playground

\$25.00 per person (includes Beer, Wine, Soda, and Buffet) & BYOB

Tickets available at:     AOH Division 39 (7229 Tulip St.)  
                                  Mayfair Community Center  
                                  Devon Theatre  
                                  Available Day of Event

Proceeds to Benefit the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade

Checks Payable to: **AOH Division 39** [www.aoh39phila.org](http://www.aoh39phila.org)



L-R Steve Leonard (Vice Pres. Cumberland I), Cal Williams, (Pres. Cumberland I), Blaine Havice (Cumberland II, Veterans Affairs), Barry Foltz (District III), Tom Kane (Pres. Cumberland II), Bill Irwin (US Army Freedom Team Salute Ambassador, Cumberland II) Dan Lyons (County Pres.), Maj. Bill Hammac (U.S. Army) and 2nd Lt. Brendan Kane (U.S.Army, Cumberland II)

On Nov 11, in Carlisle PA, the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Cumberland County became the first organization of its kind in the country to sign a Community Covenant with the Armed Forces of the United States.

Started in 2008, by the U.S. Army the Covenant affords communities an opportunity to affirm their support of Service members and their Families and to build partnerships that support the strength, resilience and readiness of Service members and their families. The Covenant now encompasses support to all branches of the Service and their families.

The Document signed by the Cumberland County Hibernians is unique in that it acknowledges that the strength of service members comes from the strength of their families and their faith.

Anyone interested in Signing a Covenant should contact Bill Irwin at 717-713-8907 or [bill.irwin@usarec.army.mil](mailto:bill.irwin@usarec.army.mil).

Thanks to Brother Steve Wayhart, our state website is up & running once again!

Go to <http://www.paaoh.org> to look it over as it is a work in progress. Division events and announcements are now posted.

For future submissions to the news letter please send them to John Haney @ [john.j.haney.iii@gmail.com](mailto:john.j.haney.iii@gmail.com)