



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2018



Brother Hibernians, _____



I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on January 19th at 8pm.

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to Bill & Trish Lee, Chief Chef Sean Walsh, and the many supporters, volunteers and cooks who made our Pot O'Gold Final drawing party such a resounding success. Because of your hard work and generosity we are able to continue funding scholarships as well as so many charities and cultural endeavors. Thanks to all who joined us for a fantastic Wren Night celebration especially our musicians Mike O'Sullivan, Fergal Hayes, and John Reynolds as well as the Pearl River School of Irish Music and all our guest performers. Congratulations to Pete Dunne, John Gannon, and Denise and Larry DeGennaro for once again taking care of our local needy families with our Adopt a Family Christmas Fund and of course our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you whose donations made it all possible. Congrats to Ed "All Day" O'Dea for a fun filled night at his Rocking New Year's Eve Bash. We were treated to a talk from Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice on collusion in Northern Ireland. We have to commit to the bus company by January 18th for our February 3rd ski trip so please get your reservations in now. Our busy season is once again upon us. We have the best St. Patrick's Day Parade around and fantastic honorees this year so please support the County Emerald Ball, Journal and Raffle.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News... Please say a prayer or two for the repose of the souls Pete Flynn's mom Theresa and Mike O'Connor's mother Peggy. Frank Aiello is recovering at home after his heart repair surgery involving six stents, he needs to up his weight a bit and is back to his daily Mass groove. Denis Troy's better half underwent hip replacement surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. Mike "Mookie" Mulcahy broke his foot and is anxiously awaiting his custom fit boot.

Had a conversation with Chris Gallagher about the status of his brother Brian who underwent a liver transplant at Duke University Hospital. The docs are very pleased with results and will be keeping Brian in the ICU for observation since a transplant of a critical organ puts the other internal organs under some stress.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our wounded warriors and their families.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- 1-19 Division Meeting
- 1-21 Division 1 Communion
Breakfast
- 2-3 Ski Trip
- 2-24 Emerald Ball
- 3-10 Senior Citizen's Luncheon
- 3-17 NYC Parade
- 3-18 Rockland County Parade



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LAOH

Happy New Year to all members and your families. Mary O'Sullivan and Tracey Dickey did a terrific job in co-chairing our annual Christmas party which was held in the Mansion at Blue Hill. At our 1/9/18 meeting the following members were installed as board members for the 2018-2020 term: Terry McGeever, president; Terri Hartey, vice president; Helen Kilgallen Murphy, recording secretary; Linda Sheridan, treasurer; Tracey Dickey, financial secretary; Colleen Fitzpatrick, historian; Eileen Elmsworth, Missions and Charity; Catholic Action, Deirdre Heffernan, Mistress At Arms, Mary O'Sullivan and Sentinel, Mary Mulcahy. I'm looking forward to working with this group and look forward to a productive year ahead. The RCLAOH St. Brigid's mass will be held on 2/3/18 at 4:30 PM in St. Margarets church. Dinner will follow at Bellissimo. Our next meeting will be held on 2/13/18 at 7:30PM. Hope to see many of you at our February meeting.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,
Terry McGeever, President*

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

This is a first... Crazy Dave fired Capt. Crazy from a plumbing job.

Great New Years Eve party.... thanks to Ed "all" Dea for running a great event. Has anyone ever seen Ed and Dick Clark in the same place? Here are some New Year's resolutions made by some of our distinguished members, guess who said what.

I promise not to break anything else in the bathrooms... I really don't need the beer

I really intend to take a full seven day vacation

I am not running for office again

I intend to buy a round in the Pub, more than one choice there

I will speak slower so maybe you can understand me

I will tell everyone what actually happened at band camp

I will count all my strokes when I play golf

I will kick something back next time I make a hit at the Pub.....not a chance.

Still some boxes left at the Pub for the Super Bowl. Golf Lessons are available from our favorite Pro, see Doug at the Pub. I took lessons and now can hit the ball further into the woods than ever before. Discount available for members. Good teacher. Nutty professor tending bar on Wednesday and Thursday drop by and keep an eye on him daytime.

Pete Dunne

SENIOR CITIZEN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 10th noon to 2pm

Volunteers are asked to arrive by 10am as we usually have many early arrivals

Excellent opportunity for your kids to build up their community service hours

Contact Jack O'Connor at 845-731-9697 for more info

2018 EMERALD BALL

Saturday, February 24th 7pm
@ Pearl River Hilton

HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR,
WILLIAM YOUNG

BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR,
NEILL ACER

PARADE COMMANDER,
FRANCIS T. DUFFY

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JAMES RUSSELL

To donate, purchase tickets or journal ads, or for more info please visit www.rocklandcountyaoh.com

DIVISION 1 COMMUNION BREAKFAST

January 21, 2018
Immediately following 9:30 AM
Mass at Immaculate Conception
Church, Stony Point

Lynch's Restaurant 79 South
Liberty Drive, Stony Point

Honoree-Neil Cosgrove

Tickets-\$25pp at the door, Contact
Dan Donohue at 914-261-7542

DIVISION SKI TRIP TO BELLEAYRE MOUNTAIN

Dan Peterson and Chuck Parnow are once again coordinating the annual ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Last year's trip was a blast and includes the bus trip with breakfast, lunch and refreshments on the trip home. The cost stays the same as last year: \$90 for adults and \$80 for junior skiers (19 and under). We'll need to know the level of interest (as far as number of people signed up) by January 18, as that is when we must commit to the bus company. The sign-up sheet is posted in the pub. First paid, first seated. Contact Chuck (Charles.Parnow@towerswatson.com) or Dan (sgtp3401@yahoo.com) for further info.

History

The Sheas, Three Generations of Olympic Greatness

Since the ancient past, societies have honored athletes. Athletic competition may have developed out of pragmatic concerns such as training warriors, but it was soon realized that certain individuals were gifted with exceptional talents. In the Ancient Olympic Games winning competitors were awarded Olive Wreaths and honored as human incarnations of Apollo; in modern times they are honored with some of the highest salaries in the world. These honors are given in recognition of how exceptional athletic prowess is in one individual; what then would be the likelihood of finding world class athleticism in three different sports in three generations of one family? One would be forgiven if they were to say it was impossible if they did not know of the Sheas.

The Shea family traces their roots to Irish immigrants who came to America during the height of the great hunger. The Shea's story in America begins with Michael Shea who came to the United States in 1847. He came from the area of the Dingle peninsular in County Kerry and married fellow Irish immigrant Mary Courtney. His grandson Jack Shea was born September 7, 1910 in Lake Placid, NY. At age 3 Jack started skating at a nearby lake; by the time he was in high school he had won the North American men's championship. As if by preordination, while a sophomore at Dartmouth the 1932 Winter Olympics were held in his home town of Lake Placid. So well regarded was Shea by his fellow athletes that he was selected to take the Olympic Oath on their behalf in the opening ceremony. On the first day of competition he won the gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating event. The next day, he followed up by winning the 1,500 meters; making him the first double gold medalist in Winter Olympic history. He returned to Dartmouth to a thunderous welcome.

Jack Shea graduated 10th in his class from Dartmouth, but the Great Depression and the needs of his family cut short his dreams of becoming a lawyer; a regret he carried throughout his life. When it was announced that the 1936 games were to be held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Jack Shea refused to skate to defend his title; as a political science major he was well aware of what was developing in Nazi Germany. Shea urged his fellow athletes publicly and privately to not support the games in Germany. Jack proceeded to a respected career in local government in his hometown and was instrumental in bringing the games back to Lake Placid for the memorable 1980 Winter Olympics; the site of the "Miracle on Ice". Shea would continue to skate recreationally until he was 84.

Jack's son, Jim Shea Sr. wanted to follow in his father's footsteps as speed skater, but his talents turned out to be in cross-country skiing. He was a member of the 1961 NCAA champion University of Denver team, and made the 1964 U.S. Winter Olympic team where he competed in Nordic Combined skiing and two cross-country ski events. While he did not medal, he did go on to coach the U.S. biathlon team in the 1972 Winter Olympics.

Jack Shea's grandson Jim Jr. took another path to the Winter Olympics by competing in Skeleton, an event where competitors ride a sled similar to a child's "flexible flyer" down a bobsled run attaining speeds of over 80 mph and pulling 5 G's in the turns. In 1999 Jim Jr. became the first American to win the skeleton World Championships. Skeleton had been an Olympic sport in two prior Olympics but had not been competed in 54 years. Jim Shea persuaded the U.S. Olympic Committee to make skeleton an event at the 2002 Winter Games (it has been competed ever since).

At the time of the 2002 games, 91 year-old Jack Shea was now the oldest living Gold Medal Winter Olympian. All seemed in place for a fairy tale ending. As it made its way to Salt Lake City, 91 year old Jack Shea carried the Olympic Torch into the same Lake Placid stadium where he had won dual gold two generations before. His grandson was selected to take the Olympic Oath as his Grandfather had done seventy years earlier and the three generations of Olympic Sheas were to be honored during the opening ceremonies.

However, it was not to be. Seventeen days before the games, Jack Shea was killed just blocks from his home, when his car was hit by a van whose driver was later charged with driving while intoxicated.

With his grandfather's funeral card tucked inside his helmet, Jimmy Shea won the gold medal in skeleton. After the competition an emotional Jimmy Shea describing his winning run told reporters "My grandpa was with me the whole way".

The story of the Sheas is about more than medals, it is a story of determination, principle and, most importantly, family. It is in its essence a story of Irish America.

Note: In the same 2002 Skeleton competition where Jimmy Shea won the Gold, Ireland's Clifton Wrottesley missed winning Ireland's first winter Olympic medal by 0.32 seconds. It remains Ireland's highest placing in the Winter Games.

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