



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

November, 2017



**Brother Hibernians,** \_\_\_\_\_



I wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please note that our November 17 meeting has been cancelled. We hope instead that you will support the fundraiser for Mike Gorham's nephews that is being held at the Elks on that evening. Our next meeting will be held on Friday December 1st at 8pm at which we will have elections for Division officers. Welcome aboard to new members Brian Colford and James Corlett. Our Rambling House on November 3rd was a huge success. Many thanks to Mike O'Sullivan and Fergal Hayes for organizing the entertainment and to Dennis Madigan for bartending. Dennis graciously donated his tips to the DuPlessis fundraiser and all proceeds on the night will go there as well. Many thanks go out as well to the members who attended and worked at the NYS AOH board meeting and lunch the following day, especially chef Brian Booth. Thanks to chairman Bill Lee, bartenders Frank and Caitlin McDonagh, chief chef Sean Walsh, and all the cooks who regaled us at our first Pot O'Gold Raffle Drawing party on Nov. 12th. Congrats to all the winners who are still eligible for the grand prize drawing.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jim Walsh, Mike Glynn's mom Kathleen, Quentin Van Wynen's mother-in-law and Quentin Jr.'s grandmother Betsy Larkin, and James "Jimco" Brennan. Frank Aiello is recovering in Englewood Hospital after suffering a heart attack and Winifred O'Callaghan is recovering at a facility in Montvale. Congratulations to members Denis Troy, Tom Diviny, and Ed Day on their re-elections to public office and congratulations as well to Fran Corbett on the arrival of grandson Daniel Francis.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*President*  
**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

*Vice President*  
**CHARLES PARNOW**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

## **HIBERNIAN HOUSE**

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

- 11-17 DuPlessis Fundraiser
- 11-18 Senior Luncheon
- 11-21 Joint Meeting
- 12-1 Division Meeting
- 12-10 Special Needs Party
- 12-17 POG Final Drawing
- 12-26 Wren Night



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## LAOH

We had a nice turnout at our November meeting. Katie Basler, Eileen Emsworth and Eileen Moore, the nominating committee, announced the nominees for the 2018/2020 board. They will be installed at our January meeting. Tracey Dickey and Mary O'Sullivan are co-chairing the Christmas party which will be held 12/12/17. Congratulations to Joan Moore on being nominated as RCLAOH aide to grand marshal, Teresa Morris as LAOH Battalion Commander and Colleen Fitzpatrick as LAOH Division 3 Aide to Grand Marshal. Please keep the Barry family in your prayers. Pat Barry, who was a member of LAOH division 3 for many years passed away last month. Happy Thanksgiving to all members and families.

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

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Very successful Pot of Gold party. Congrats to the winners. Also a great day at the Legion on Veterans Day. Good to see the turnout to show our point of view on the Anthem problem. We also discovered the next Fred Astaire, no names but he does have his ups and downs. Who is the only person to have an attack dog named Pookie? Hint he turns red whenever he watches Fox News. It also seems someone is stealing beer from his house. Annual freeze your arse golf tourney coming up day after Thanksgiving. Poster is up at the pub for signing up. Always an interesting day. Congratulations to all the winners of the past election. Adopt a family coming up, any donations will be greatly appreciated. Dan Callanan's weekly lotto doing great. He almost has enough to finish the pool in Belize. Stop by the pub on Wednesday or Thursday and say hello to the Nutty Professor, he is working during the day. Belfast Richie is down in Florida giving lessons on driving a golf cart. Oh boy, Oh Boy. Have a great Thanksgiving and do eat too much.

*Pete Dunne*

## GET YOUR POT O'GOLD TICKET NOW!

We gave out \$2000 in prizes on November 12th and will give out another \$12,000 on December 17th, including our grand prize of \$10,000 cash. You know what a great deal our raffle is- your \$100 ticket gets you and a guest admission to two drawing parties and you'll be supporting our many charitable endeavors and scholarships! Don't miss out, get your ticket from us now. Pick yours up at the pub or contact Bill Lee at 845-558-4148 or [mr.williamplee@gmail.com](mailto:mr.williamplee@gmail.com).

### WREN NIGHT

Monday, December 26th,  
times to follow

Hibernian House

Join us for a grand Irish  
Tradition as our teams  
compete

All Are Welcome

Free admission, coffee, tea  
and soda bread

Cash Bar

### NOV. 17 FUNDRAISER FOR GORHAM RELATIVE

Friday, November 17  
7 to 11pm at

Nanuet Elks Lodge  
2041 Elks Drive

Music by Dan Lopez  
and the Russo Bros.,  
Buffet-Beer-Wine-Soda

50/50-Auction-Raffles  
Mile Gorham's sister-in-law,  
Catherine Moran DuPlessis,  
succumbed to cancer at 46 years  
old leaving behind 3 young  
children.

If you cannot attend, please  
consider making a donation.  
Contact Mike at 845-304-9189 or  
[mike@bluehillgolf.course.com](mailto:mike@bluehillgolf.course.com)

### SENIOR CITIZENS LUCHEON AND HALL RENTALS

Our Senior Citizens Luncheon will be held on November 18th and volunteers are asked to arrive around 9:30 am. Now is the time to make Hall reservations for your spring 2018 Communion and Confirmation parties. Call Jack O'Connor at 845-731-9697. Please remember it is 731, not 735.

# History

## Andrew Higgins



It is an iconic image of WW II, a photo taken on June 6, 1944 showing American soldiers exiting a landing craft coming ashore at Omaha beach. A few months later on October 20th, another photo captured the moment General Douglas MacArthur “returned” to the Philippines, wading ashore from a landing craft having. Neither of these historic moments would have been possible without one man, as overlooked but essential as the landing craft in these images that bore his name, Andrew Higgins.

Though in later life Higgins would be inseparably identified with New Orleans, he was born in Columbus, Nebraska in 1886. Losing his father when he was but seven years old, Higgins would claim he received his determination and strong will from his mother whose ancestors had come from Ireland after the failed rebellion of 1848. Higgins demonstrated the industry and innovation that were to be his hallmarks at an early age. At the age of nine and with only a sickle he began a grass cutting business. He soon purchased a lawn mower, eventually expanding until he had seventeen mowers and was hiring older boys to do the work while he managed the business. An incurable builder, the young Higgins constructed an iceboat in the basement of his home for use on the nearby lakes. When finished, he realized it was too big to be taken out of the basement doors. With characteristic determination, he borrowed jacks from a nearby construction site and with friends removed a section of the basement’s wall, got the boat out and restored the wall, all while his mother was out shopping. Perhaps not unexpectedly,

such creativity, determination and strong will often brought young Higgins into conflict with school authorities resulting in him being expelled before graduating.

Higgins moved to the south where he began working in the lumber industry. His interest in boats was again rekindled when he was confronted with the problem of how to access timber from shallow, obstacle choked bayous. Higgins took a correspondence course in naval architecture and soon designed the first of the flat bottomed shallow draft boats which would make him famous. The key feature was that the propeller was incorporated in a recessed tunnel that protected the propeller from grounding and fouling.

In the late 1930’s Higgins owned a small ship yard in New Orleans servicing the need of loggers and oil drillers in the Mississippi delta. The growing threat of war soon drew the interest of the Marines in Higgins’ boats as the Navy Bureau of Ships had consistently failed to produce craft that could effectively deliver Marines, their tanks and artillery on a beach. Marine General Holland "Howlin' Mad" Smith had seen trials of Higgins shallow draft “Eureka” boat could be “an answer to the Marine prayer”. The one concern was that as configured the Marines would need to disembark the boat going over the side, slowing their exit when they were most vulnerable. At his own expense, Higgins modified the boats by cutting off the bow and replacing it with a ramp. Higgins received a call that the Navy that they and the Marines would be coming to New Orleans to test the ramped boats and Higgins should also prepare to discuss a design for a craft capable of landing tanks. Higgins informed the Navy that instead of a plan he would have a workable craft. “It can’t be done,” the Navy told him; “The Hell it can’t,” replied Higgins, “you just be here in three days”. Higgins had the boat built in 61 hours. Both would be taken into service, and while the ramped “Eureka” would have the official designation of LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) it would be known universally as the Higgins Boat.

Higgins’ answer to the “Marine prayer” came just in time as the United States would soon enter WW II. With his tireless energy, often working 16 hour days, Higgins seemingly overnight turned his small 50 man New Orleans boat building business into one of the largest boat builders in the world, building not only several models of landing craft but other boats as well. By September 1943, 12,964 of the American Navy’s 14,072 vessels had been designed by Higgins Industries. Hitler bitterly called Higgins “The new Noah”. A fact that should not be overlooked is that to achieve this prodigious output Higgins employed anyone capable of performing the job, irrespective of gender or race, and everyone who performed the same job was given the same pay. Higgins was one of our nation’s first equal opportunity employers. Realizing the impact a worker lost due to sickness could have on productivity, Higgins established a company clinic where works could access health care free of charge.

Unfortunately, wartime gratitude is a fleeting thing. When the war ended, the drive and determination which had enabled Higgins to deliver what his country needed came back to haunt him as the toes he stepped on to get the job done now took their revenge. Maverick innovators like Higgins were out of place in the conformist world of post-war corporate America. Despite an indisputable record of being an advocate for his workers, his firms were crippled by post-war strikes. Higgins died in New Orleans on 1 August 1952.

Andrew Jackson Higgins was like the boat that bore his name: straightforward, tough and reliable. Neither was sophisticated, they just got the job done. He deserves to be remembered much more than he is. As General Eisenhower noted, "Andrew Higgins ... is the man who won the war for us. ... If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different."

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