



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

April, 2013



## Brother Hibernians, \_\_\_\_\_



Our next meeting will be held on Friday, April 19 at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new member Brian McGarity. Congratulations and many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our St. Patrick's Day Senior Citizen luncheon such a success, to all those who marched in St. Patrick's Day Parades, and to those who worked at the parade in Pearl River, especially rookies Brian Booth, Mike Mulcahy, and Don McKallen who kept the parade moving so well. I received many compliments from those who received such a warm welcome at the Hibernian House. So many thanks go out to the House board.

### Good and Welfare News...

Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of Dan Callanan's brother Tom, Mike O'Brien's mom Peggy, Mike Burke's mom Shiela, Marty Joyce's bride Mary Ellen, Jim Walsh's brother

John down in Florida, the chairman of the pub Jim "Stretch" Fitzmaurice, and a good friend of the AOH, Kay O'Grady's husband Sean.

Please keep Frank McDonagh's bride Mary in your prayers as she battles her illness and for Dermot Moore's mom Mary as she deals with complications from hip surgery at Nyack Hospital.

Dan Callanan is looking for volunteers to assist with physical therapy for Larry McKeever. It would be Monday through Friday (*your choice of days*) from 9am to 10am. Please give Dan a call at 845-735-6108 if you can help out.

As always, please remember in your prayers our wounded warriors and their families.

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

## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

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*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

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**MARTIN DAVIN**

*Recording Secretary*  
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**REV. MSGR. JOHN O'KEEFE**

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**FRANK McDONAGH**

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**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

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

April 14 Communion  
Breakfast

April 16 County Meeting

April 19 Division  
Meeting

April 26 GAA  
Fundraiser

May 16 Golf Outing

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28 Railroad Avenue

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Its beginning to look a lot like spring, to paraphrase the song. Soon we will be cutting grass, playing golf, fishing and all the things that make summer enjoyable. Having a few more hours at the end of the day while the sun is still up is a great benefit to the oppression of winter.

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of our Honorary "Pub Chairman" Jim Fitzmaurice. His memory and his sense of humor will survive and when Pete Dunne is alone in the pub he will be back to visit, so set a cold one at the end of the bar for him.

We are receiving many compliments on the new look of our house Stop by and see us.

Hibernian House Board

### AOH Division 3 Golf Outing

Dedicated to: Joe McKiernan

**Thursday May 16, 2013**

**Blue Hill Golf Course**

12:00 pm Shotgun start

(10:30am Registration)

- Big Prize Putting Contest • Long Drive • Closest to the Pin
- Closest to the Line

Great Raffle Prizes and much more...  
Sponsors Welcome

All proceeds to Benefit  
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Reception 5pm-8pm  
**at Emmett's Castle**

\$140 per player

\$60 for dinner only

Contact: Sean Walsh for more info  
at div3golfouting@optimum.net  
or by phone at 845.201.8384.



## 2013 Scholarship Winners

**Shannon Booth, Megan Young, Shannon Davin, Kiera McGeever, Erin McGovern, Kevin Deegan, Caitlin Lenihan, Kevin McGeever, Theresa McKallen.**

The competition was fierce this year. So many thanks to all the students who participated.

## LAOH

Spring has finally arrived and we will be busy. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, April 14 to help set up for the AOH Division 3 Communion Breakfast and on May 16, 2013 for their Golf Outing in the morning (10:30 am) and evening (4:00 pm). Call me if interested.

On April 23, the County Board will host a Shower for Birthright and Pot Luck Dinner at Mary O'Sullivan's House (735-3682), donations of baby clothes, diapers, blankets. etc., or monetary donations will be appreciated.

May 9 is our annual Ascension Day Mass and Dinner at Slattery's in Piermont, \$40 per person. Our guest of honor is Mary Gallagher. Call me for more information.

Upcoming events include Div. 3 meetings on May 7 and June 11, our June Communion Mass and breakfast (*date to be announced*).

Keep October 18 open for our "*Dancing like the Stars*" night. More information will be forthcoming. Congratulations and Thank You to all the Ladies that marched. You looked Great!!! Our next parade will be Memorial Day - Dress is white shirt and black pants. I hope as many of you that can will march.

For more information or to request an application to join the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, send an email to the County at laohrocklandcounty@gmail.com.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Joan Moore, *President*  
845-735-8793 (*h*) • 845-536-2742 (*Cell*)  
or email: joan55mmoore@msn.com

### AOH Communion Breakfast

Sunday April 14th, 2012

Immediately following the 9:00 Mass at St. Margaret's

**Guest Speaker: Kevin McNulty**

Dean Seton Hall Prep

**Presentation of 2012 Scholarships**

Location: Hibernian House

Cost: Adults \$20

Children under 12 \$5

Please contact Kevin McNulty at kmcnulty@shp.org  
for reservations.

## GAA Fundraiser

The 2013 New York Girls Gaelic Football Feile Team will be holding a Poker Night on April 26th at 7:30 at Emmett's Castle to help generate funding for their upcoming trip to Ireland in June. (*The team is comprised of 24 players from the metropolitan New York area – 12 hail from Rockland County – every year they travel to Ireland, representing New York, to play the best teams in Ireland in the Feile tournament.*) In addition to Poker there will be a table for "25", hot food included, a huge basket of cheer will be raffled and a 50/50 drawing. It promises to be a great night!

## Victory from Defeat



Dublin Castle was the seat of British rule in Ireland for over seven hundred years. On top of the gate to the courtyard of the castle is a statue depicting Justice. The statue is unusual for several reasons. The figure of Justice faces inward not outward as would be usual. This results in Justice facing the rulers of the castle and the statue turning its back to the city of Dublin and the Irish people in general. Secondly, ignoring convention, Justice is not blindfolded but is looking admiringly at the sword in her hand rather than the scales of truth and fairness. As the events following the Easter Rebellion in 1916 show, the sculptor may have more accurately portrayed British justice in Ireland than he intended.

The Easter Rebellion which had begun with the noble reading of the proclamation of the Irish Republic by Padraig Pearse on the steps of the General Post Office (GPO), had descended into brutal urban warfare. After six days of combat, Pearse had ordered surrender as he saw that the battle was increasingly descending into brutality. His decision was confirmed when he saw Robert Dillion, the innocent owner of a pub, attempt to evacuate his wife and daughter from the line of fire under a white flag only to see the three of them cut down by the crown forces.

With the surrender of the rebel forces and the terrible suffering the fighting had inflicted on the city of Dublin, it was a time for wisdom and sound judgment, a time where a spirit of justice could have won a great political victory. Unfortunately, such was not to be found in the British Military Governor, Sir John Maxwell. An unimaginative man whose Army career was in question because of his involvement in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign, he seemed driven to redeem himself in the eyes of his political masters in taking a tough line with the rebels. He decided that the rebels would be tried in secret military courts-martial in violation of the very "Defense of the Realm Act" under which they were being prosecuted. The defendants would have no

legal representation. It was a system rife with injustice and between May 3rd and 12th, 1916, fourteen men were executed, including all seven signers of the Proclamation. At times the sham nature of the "trials" became glaringly apparent. If William Pearse had been allowed legal counsel and a proper defense it would be clear that he had no major role in the rising, but rather he was convicted for the crime of being Padraig Pearse's brother. When Eamonn Ceannt asked to call Thomas MacDonagh as a witness he was told that Thomas MacDonagh was not available as a witness as he had been shot that morning.

The harshness and injustice of Maxwell's drum head courts soon turned the hearts and minds of the Irish people. While the rebellion may not have initially had the support of the vast majority of the people, the fight that the volunteers had made against the overwhelming odds of the then greatest empire in the world had won their respect. Even the British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith stated before the House of Commons, *"So far as the great body of insurgents is concerned I have no hesitation in saying in public that they conducted themselves with humanity which contrasted very much to their advantage with some of the so-called civilized enemies with which we are fighting in Europe...They fought very bravely and did not resort to outrage."*

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister's comments could not be applied to his own forces. During the height of the rebellion, a Capt. Bowen-Colthurst, invalided home from service on the Western Front, went to the British Barracks at Portobello. He found a well known local character, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington being detained under suspicion of being a rebel sympathizer. Sheehy-Skeffington was a socialist, a supporter of women's suffrage and a pacifist. He had been attempting to organize a citizens committee to stop looting when a commotion had resulted and he had been mistakenly lifted as the instigator. Capt. Bowen-Colthurst ordered Sheehy-Skeffington's hands bound and then he took him as a human shield on a "raid to look for Fenians." They came across a 17 year old boy who was leaving Mass, Capt. Bowen-Colthurst ordered one of his men to strike him knocking him to the ground and then Bowen-Colthurst shot and killed him. Bowen-Colthurst then led his men to the shop of a local Dublin Alderman whom he claimed was a rebel (*the man was actually a conservative loyalist*) and destroyed the building with grenades. He shot another man on sight and "captured" two pro-British Journalists. The next day he had Sheehy-Skeffington and the two journalists shot at Portobello barracks.

The Barrack's Commander, Major Sir Francis Fletcher Vane, a man of moral principle who had been absent from the barracks during Bowen-Colthurst's rampage, was horrified at what had occurred and

ordered Bowen-Colthurst placed under arrest and informed his superiors. When General Maxwell, who was so diligently prosecuting the leaders of the rebellion, was notified he refused to order Bowen-Colthurst's arrest. Instead a whitewash commenced literally: Royal Engineers were dispatched to fix the bullet holes in the Barracks courtyard, the bodies ordered buried. However, Major Vane was a man of principle and took his evidence to London and the highest levels of the Military and the Government and pressed the issue till it could no longer be ignored. Capt. Bowen-Colthurst was tried for murder, but found not guilty by reason of insanity. He was sent to an asylum for one year and then released receiving a full military pension. The noble Major Vane's career was ruined; he was immediately dismissed from the Army, his services no longer required.

There were additional incidents. During the fighting at North Street, men of the East Staffordshire regiment entered civilian homes after the ceasefire and shot 15 men who were non-combatants. The officer commanding refused to attend an official inquiry into the matter, claiming he could find no British military witnesses. The Coroner's court ruled that two of the men, found buried in the basement of their home, had "been shot while an unarmed and unoffensive prisoner" and that if the British military had "any inclination" they could produce the men responsible. Unfortunately, the British Military had no such inclination. Instead a sham "identification parade" was held for the families of the murdered men. No one was identified; it would have been remarkable if anyone had been for the suspects had already been transferred to England. The facts of the inquiry were then sealed lest they be used for "hostile propaganda," only being released some 85 years later in 2001. In the file a notation was made "*if the case had occurred in England, the right course would be to refer the case to the Department of Public Prosecution.*"

The people of Ireland were quick to note the hypocrisy of Imperial justice. Those who had days before jeered the Volunteers when they rose on Easter Monday now saw the nobility of their cause and the oppression they were fighting. Where justice and forbearance were warranted, the crown, through its military governor, delivered rashness and imprudence. In trying to stamp out the rebellion, General Maxwell fanned its flames and spread it to members of the Irish population that had previously not contemplated independence and for whom now nothing less would be accepted. By allowing the steel fist of England to crush them, the leaders of 1916 ensured Ireland would slip from her grasp.

One can wonder how different the outcome of Easter 1916 would have been, and how much future bloodshed could have been saved, if Justice faced outwardly from the seat of British administration and she gazed at the scales of truth and fairness rather than the sword.

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