



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

November, 2014



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



Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, November 21st at 8pm at which elections for division officers will be held. Although we had nominations at the last meeting, nominations from the floor are still allowed at this meeting but the nominee must be present. Elections for Hibernian House officers will be held as well. Welcome aboard to new member Sean Joyce. Many thanks to all of our members for the support they lent to the Lourdes Kids Golf Outing and to all of the volunteers who made our first Pot O' Gold raffle drawing such a great success. Congratulations to all of the winners (all who are back in for the grand prize drawing) and special thanks go out to all who supported the 50-50 with the proceeds going towards the expenses of two of our young members who are selflessly dedicating their time and efforts to be helpers for the Lourdes pilgrims. It was a good start but

remember that they each need to raise \$1000 each so please listen up for future fund raising efforts. Our Thanksgiving Senior Citizen's luncheon will be held on November 22 and we could use volunteers starting at 10 am, especially any students looking for community service.

Congratulations to Frank Farrelly, Jr. on his promotion to Lt. Col. in the USAF. He is currently flying the C-17 Globemaster out of Stewart AFB, making numerous flights to Afghanistan and other parts of the world. Please keep praying for the recovery of Mary McDonagh, John Kennedy, Sean King, Mike Smith, Bobby Farrelly, and Terry Greenan and, as always, please remember to say an extra prayer 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*  
**VINCE TYER**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**MARTIN DAVIN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

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

*Chaplain*  
**REV. MSGR. JOHN O'KEEFE**

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

**Pot of Gold!**  
*See Inside*



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

- Nov. 18** Joint County Board Meeting
- Nov. 21** Division Meeting and Elections
- Nov. 22** Senior Citizens Luncheon
- Nov. 22** RGAA Dance
- Dec. 14** Christmas Parties
- Dec. 21** Final Raffle Drawing

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## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Great job on the Lourdes golf tourney, bad weather did not keep people away. Speaking of bad weather, do not forget the Freeze Your Arse tourney, day after Thanksgiving at Broad Acres. Bring any clubs you want-baseball bats, hockey sticks anything that works. Sign up sheet is up at AOH. Limited availability. The fact it is being played on the Rockland Psychiatric Grounds is perfect. Jim Walsh is enjoying his new Strato lounge. Maybe a little too much. Stay tuned.

Pete Dunne and Sean Murphy are just back from Key West Fantasy Fest. It was a big costume or lack of costume party. They went as two fat Irish guys from New York. Did not get painted, they did not have enough paint for both of them. The adopt a family fund is starting. Any donations can be left at the club. A lot of people have had a good Christmas due to everyone's generosity. Super Bowl will be going up soon. Sorry, Mook-no giants this year. The first Pot O'Gold party was well attended. Thanks to the Sheridans and others who helped make it such a good time. Food was excellent. Just ask Kevin Donohue. Next time we are going to get him a chair with wheels so he does not have to get up to eat and eat and eat.

Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

Pete Dunne

### POT OF GOLD

Our first Pot of Gold drawing party was a huge success thanks to all the efforts put in by our tireless volunteers. I can not thank my wife, Trish enough for all the work she put in to keeping track of the sales. My daughter Brianne and her crew did a great job with signing people in and selling raffle tickets for our 50-50. Thanks to Phil and Linda for helping me with the food set up on the day Joan Moore and Frank McDonagh who worked all day to keep things running smoothly.

To the chef's who donated food, there are a few of you, thank you. The butternut squash soup and the Jumbalia dish were huge successes. To all who purchased a ticket, thank you without your support the divisions numerous charitable endeavors would be at risk including our annual scholarships. For those who have not, we hope you will. Tickets can be secured at the Hibernian House, from Dermot or by sending a request to [mr.williamplee@gmail.com](mailto:mr.williamplee@gmail.com). We look forward to main drawing, which will be held on December 21st.

- Bill Lee

## LAOH

The ladies of LAOH Div. 3 will be holding our annual essay contest. The topics are listed below and we hope many students will enter!

**LEVEL 1:** Grades 6-7-8 "The Role of the Irish People in the American Civil War"

**LEVEL 2:** Grades 9-10-11-12 "The Role of the Irish People in the American Civil War"

### Prizes:

**1st Place: \$350**

**2nd Place: \$250**

**3rd Place: \$150**

***ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY  
NOVEMBER 15th***

PLEASE MAIL ESSAYS TO:

Mary O'Sullivan

22 Quake Lane

Pearl River, NY 10965

We wish you all a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Katie Anne Basler

*President, LAOH Div.3*

### ROCKLAND GAA DINNER DANCE

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Suffern, NY**

**Saturday, November 22**

**Cocktail hour at 7pm**

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# History

## The Indomitable Michael Dougherty



Though not recognized as such in any thesaurus, the word "Irish" should be listed as a synonym for tenacious. Despite all the efforts of an oppressive alien government who used the sword and famine to break the will and faith of the Irish people, they maintained their identity and heritage where others has succumbed. If one needs an example of the strength and resoluteness of the Irish, one could not find a better example than Irish American Michael Dougherty.

Michael Dougherty was born in Falcarragh, County Donegal, on May 10, 1844 and immigrated with his family at the age of 15 to the United States. After only 21 months in America, the start of the American Civil War saw young Michael join thousands of other Irish immigrants enlisting to defend their adopted country. Dougherty joined the second Irish Dragoons, an all-Irish battalion, which became part of the 13th Pennsylvania cavalry and fought the battles of Antietam, Cedar Creek, Winchester, Strasburg, Middletown, and Fisher's Hill.

On February 26, 1863 Dougherty's unit was scouting in the Shenandoah Valley when they discovered a Confederate raiding party. Giving pursuit, the Yankee cavalry did not realize that they were being drawn into an ambush. After a hard fought engagement lasting over an hour, during the course of which Dougherty's horse was shot from under him, Michael Dougherty and 50 of his companions were captured and made prisoner. Dougherty and his comrades would spend the next three

months as prisoners of war in Richmond before they were exchanged for Confederate prisoners held by the Union.

Dougherty returned to his regiment where he continued to distinguish himself for his valor; shortly after rejoining his unit he was decorated for bravery for his actions as a dispatch rider at the Battle of Winchester in June 1863. On October 12, 1863, Dougherty saw Confederate forces beginning to move through the Union lines. Quickly organizing members of his company, Dougherty led them across an open field under enemy fire where they took position in an abandoned house which they defended for several hours until their ammunition ran out and Dougherty and his men were captured. Not knowing it at the time, Dougherty and his small band had actually held up the lead elements of Robert E. Lee's army who were about to flank the Union position. The official army report of the incident credits Dougherty's actions with saving the lives of 2,500 men.

Dougherty second stint as a prisoner of war was even more horrific than the first; he was sent to the infamous Andersonville prison camp. By this time the Lincoln administration had done the cold, cruel calculus of war and had stopped exchanging prisoners; they had determined that while they could afford to lose men as prisoners of war, the South could not. Additionally, they calculated that the care and feeding of prisoners would be a further burden on the already collapsing Southern economy. Sacrificed in this policy was the suffering that the Lincoln war cabinet was imposing on its own brave men like Dougherty who were unfortunate to be made prisoner.

For the next 23 months Dougherty experience what could conceivably be the closest thing to hell on earth. Dougherty had been able to hide his dispatch rider's notebook and was able to keep a detailed diary of the horrors of being a prisoner of war in Andersonville. The camp was overcrowded and filthy, men slept in the open without shelter the water supply polluted and food scarce. Disease such as dysentery and scurvy were rife. After two months Dougherty wrote: "I believe I am 25 pounds lighter. When I came in here I was clean and in good health. Now I am in poor health and I am sorry to say dirty and my rags are full of vermin." Yet even amidst these horrors, the courage and loyalty of the Irish shown through. Dougherty records that one day he and his fellow Irish POWs were asked to assemble and were offered the opportunity to enlist in an Irish regiment in the Confederate Army where they would receive proper food and care; not one Irishman took the traitorous offer, though for many it meant condemning

themselves to certain death. One-quarter of the 45,613 prisoners who entered Andersonville died in the camp; of 127 men captured with Dougherty he alone survived.

However, the trials of Michael Doherty were not over yet. When Andersonville was liberated, Dougherty and many of his fellow former prisoners were provided passage home on a ship contracted for by the federal government, the S.S. Sultna. The passage was booked by Quartermaster named Reuben Hatch, an individual with a long history of corruption and incompetence who had numerous political connections within the Lincoln administration. Hatch was able to collect a bounty of 10 dollars for every soldier boarded on the Sultana. While the Sultana's legal capacity was 376, the venal Hatch crowded soldiers and former prisoners of war, including Dougherty, into every inch of space till she left for her voyage to St.Louis with 2,427 passengers on board. Three days into the voyage at 2:00 a.m. on April 27, three of the Sultana's boilers exploded; cutting the ship in two. Some of the sleeping soldiers fell into an inferno as over crowded wooden decks collapsed into fires that had started below decks from the explosion, others were thrown into the icy waters of the Mississippi, where much weakened by the ordeal of their prison camp confinement quickly succumbed to hypothermia and drowned. The cause of the explosion is still debated, some point to hasty and crude repairs made to the boilers days before in an effort not to lose out on the lucrative government contract; others say it was sabotage by a defiant Confederate agent unwilling to accept that the war was over. What is not questioned is that the sinking of the S.S. Sultana is to this day the worst maritime tragedy in the history of the United States. Of the 2,427 passengers only about 800 survived, among them the unconquerable Irish American Michael Doherty.

Dougherty was only 21 years old when he returned home to Bristol, Pennsylvania having seen and endured enough suffering in the cause of his adopted country for several lifetimes. Amazingly, he would live another 65 years before dying at age 86. It would take the United States government 33 years before they remembered that day in October 1863 when a young Irish immigrant organized a group of his comrades and ran across an open field under enemy fire to slow the advance of Robert E. Lee's army and award Dougherty the Medal of Honor. Dougherty's life is an example of the strength of mind and character that are the hallmarks of so many Irish immigrants that helped build and defend this country; may we never forget them.

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