



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

December, 2018



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



We wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and happy New Year

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, December 21st at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Brian Van Houten and Robert Blumenthal. Congratulations (or should I say condolences) to our division officers who were all reelected. Congratulations to all 2019 Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade honorees; Hibernian of the Year Ed O'Dea, Businessperson Heather Bowie, Grand Marshal Joan Moore, Aide to NYC parade Dan Donohue, Division 3 Aide John Kelly, and Division 3 Battalion Commander Don McKallen. Congrats and many thanks to Jack O'Connor, Larry DeGennaro, Brian Booth, and all our volunteers for running another great Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon. Many thanks go out all of those who made our special needs Christmas party such a success, especially Sean and Kim Walsh, Joan Moore, Rich and Terry Halpin, Sean Joyce, Jake and Brendan McLaughlin, Larry DeGennaro, and Mark Rolston.

There are a few tickets left so don't miss out on a chance of winning 10 grand cash at our final drawing party on December 23rd.

Phil Sheridan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Let us find in our hearts prayer and compassion, especially during this holiday season, for our brothers who are ill or deceased. Rest in peace Pete Engel, Dave Nivins, and Rich Waldron's son Justin. Get well Pat Moroney, Dan Callanan, Jim Harding. John Hennessey, and John Kennedy.

Please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our troops convalescing in hospitals around the world.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

**12-21-18 Division Meeting**

**12-23-18 Final POG Party**

**12-26-18 Wren Night**

**2-2-19 Ski Trip**



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## LAOH

LAOH Division 3 is very proud to announce that one of our members, Joan Moore, will be the 2019 Rockland County St. Patrick's Day parade Grand Marshal!

Thank you to all the LAOH Division 3 members who attended the joint fundraiser/play, "She Loves Me" with the Pearl River Women's Club in November. It was an excellent production and a good time was had by all.

Lisa Dowling and Mary O'Sullivan did a fantastic job co-chairing our annual Christmas party at Mickey's Tavern. We had a great turnout and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and your families.

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

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped out with the passing of Pete Engel. What goes up must come down. Not all the time. Recently our own Mike McAndrews while attempting to do a good deed got stuck in the Johnny O Memorial elevator. Fortunately, the crack AOH rescue team was present. Mike was coaxed out of the elevator by two bottles of Bud light. Anyone interested in hiring a computer impersonator please contact the Captain. Anyone in the area when Doug Meeks team is playing darts be sure to wear protective clothing. Guess who is going to get decorated like a Christmas tree. No hints but he is as big as a tree. Don't forget after the Pot O'Gold on Dec 23, there will be a party with Dan Lopez playing. Stick around it should be a good night. A couple of Christmas presents:

Tom Lynch-5 weeks supply of tranquilizers, make that 6 weeks. Chris Power-a dog park for Buddy. Jim Whelan-a break. Ed "all" DAY, our well deserved Hibernian of the Year-a trip to see the wizard. PD111- A brain. Everyone else- a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

## GROUNDHOG DAY (AGAIN): 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 2, 2019. 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 will be posted in the pub. First paid, first seated.

Contact Chuck (Charles.Parnow@willistowerswatson.com) or Dan (sgtp3401@yahoo.com) for further info.

## POT O'GOLD FINAL DRAWING PARTY DECEMBER 23RD

Congrats to all the winners of our first drawing. Our final drawing will be drawn on Sunday, December 23rd. The purchase of 1 ticket gets you and a guest admission to both parties and qualifies you for both drawings. A few tickets are still available so don't miss out on a great chance to win \$10,000 cash two days before Christmas, get your ticket now at the Hibernian House Bar or from Bill Lee at mr.williamplee@gmail.com or 845-558-4148. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Division, it is your support that allows us to help those within the community who are in need. Hang around upstairs after the party for a great night with Ed O'Dea and music by Dan Lopez.

## WREN NIGHT

Wednesday December 26, 2018  
6:30 to 9:30 pm. Hibernian House  
Music by Mike O'Sullivan and  
Fergal Hayes

A traditional Irish celebration of St. Steven's Day including music, dance and skits by various groups  
Skits should include Irish music, song, Gaelic, dance and the poem  
"The Wren, the Wren"

Admission: \$5.00 per person \$10.00  
per family. Complimentary Tea,  
Coffee and Soda bread, Cash Bar

# History

## Yes, Virginia (O'Hanlon) There is A Santa Claus



In a troubled world, thank God for the gift of hope called Christmas. For all of us, it is a time where we can take an opportunity to at least momentarily free ourselves of the chains of what seems the depressing realities of the world and once again engage in the saintly innocence of children where our eyes are opened to the magic of the universe and the potential of the human spirit. Perhaps the greatest testament to that faith was prompted by the innocent question of an eight year old Irish American Virginia O'Hanlon.

Virginia O'Hanlon was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side in 1889. Her Grandfather had been a founding member of the 63rd Volunteer Regiment of Meagher's Irish Brigade and his bravery had been mentioned in dispatches. Her father, Dr. Phillip O'Hanlon, was a New York City Coroner and had been credited though his forensic work of providing the critical evidence that led to the identification and conviction in a prominent murder case. An intelligent and inquisitive child, Virginia later recalled that whenever there was a question of fact in the family, her father would always turn to the NY Sun Newspaper as the final arbiter; saying "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

At the age of 8, young Virginia was apparently teased by some boorish bullies about her belief in Santa Claus, causing her to question Santa's existence. Following her father's guidance, she put the question in the form of a letter to the NY Sun. The letter and response by the editor Francis P. Church has become an icon of journalism and a classic affirmation of the Christmas spirit.

*Dear Editor—*

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

*Virginia O'Hanlon*

*Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.*

*Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.*

*Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.*

*You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the*

# History

## Yes, Virginia (O'Hanlon) There is A Santa Claus

### Cont'd

*supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.*

*No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.*

Virginia's story does not end there. Virginia received a Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in 1910, a Master's degree in education from Columbia University in 1912, and a doctorate from Fordham University in 1935; considerable achievements at any time, but particularly impressive during an age when higher education was not as accessible for women. She became the principal in a New York City public school serving children with special needs where she served until her retirement in 1959 as a respected and beloved educator. In interviews she would always credit her remarkable life of service to living up to the ideals of Santa Claus expressed in Francis P. Church's response to her letter when she was 8 years old.

The story of "Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus" and Virginia O'Hanlon is a challenge to us all. Let us not in this cynical and sanctimonious age deprive our children of the magic of Christmas and the lesson of Santa Claus, a man who gives of his gifts and talents without asking anything in return, for a sterile, bland politically correct "Happy Holidays" that stands for nothing, affirms nothing and does not challenge us to aspire to be more than we are. Anyone who does not believe in Santa has but to come to Hibernian House and see the money magically appear without explanation nor credit in the "Family in Need Jar", or toys for needy children show up in the "Toys for Tot" box or the elves who work the Senior Citizen Luncheon and the Special Needs Christmas party.

**Nollaig Shona Dhuit!**

Neil F. Cosgrove, Historian

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