



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2020



## Brother Hibernians



We hope you and your families enjoyed a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

New decade, new president. For the many members I know or have met, I appreciate the faith you've placed in me in taking on this role. I've also appreciated the time Dermot has spent with me, getting me up to speed. In the short amount of time I've been at it, it makes me truly appreciate what Dermot has done over the last 14 years, and we thank him for his tireless service. For those I don't know, a few quick facts. First, I chose to go with the bald look long before I considered taking on this job. And what's with the name, Parnow? Three of my four grandparents were Irish, but the guy who got naming rights for the franchise (paternal grandfather) was German/French – so there you have it.

We do have a very large division, and I hope to meet all of you over time. I don't do Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat. My social media of choice is beer, so I hope to meet you at the pub!

By the way, you may consider that last line funny (or not), but it's among understanding friends. If you want a deeper discussion of how public words and actions with respect to our Irish identity matter, you definitely want to read Neil's history lesson at the end of the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 31st at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Patrick Lenihan and Timothy Lull. Many thanks go out to Bill and Trish Lee for

chairing a great Pot O'Gold final drawing party and to all our volunteers, especially our head chef Brian Booth and all our cooks. The chafing dishes went on for miles. A great time was had by all at our Wren Night celebration and our heartfelt thanks go out to all our volunteers and performers especially Dennis Madigan, Fergal Hayes and the many musicians Fergal cajoled into coming out. All profits went towards defraying the expenses of Lourdes Kids of Rockland helpers, a great cause. Many thanks to all who supported the pub's fat off on New Year's Day which benefits the Adopt a Family Christmas Fund, another great cause. I hope to see you at our ski trip on February 1st and the Emerald Ball on February 22rd. The Hibernian of the Year is our own Fergal Hayes and the Grand Marshal is our Hibernian House president, Frank McDonagh. The Emerald Ball is the main fundraiser for our beautiful parade, so please support by taking a journal ad and attending.

Phil Sheridan reports the following Good and Welfare news... Please pray for the continued recovery of Dan Callanan, Frank Duffy and John Crilley's wife, Eileen. And please say an extra prayer for Gene Flood who is fighting the good fight.

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*  
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*Vice President*  
**PHILIP LANE**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

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

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

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**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

- 2-1**      **Ski Trip**
- 2-22**    **Emerald Ball**
- 3-17**    **NYC Parade**
- 3-22**    **Pearl River Parade**



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## LAOH

We had a nice turnout at our first meeting of the new year. Our Christmas party, chaired by Lisa Dowling and Mary O'Sullivan, was held on December 10th at Mickeys and was a huge success. Plans are underway for our annual St. Brigid's Mass and Birthright shower, being chaired by Mary Mulcahy. Congratulations to Cormac and Colleen Fitzpatrick, on the birth of their daughter, Siobhan Mairead, born on December 9th.

The 2020-2022 board was also installed at our meeting: Teresa Hartey-Adametz, President; Helen Murphy, Vice-President; Christine Mooney, Recording Secretary; Linda Sheridan, Treasurer; Tracey Dickey, Financial Secretary; Colleen Fitzpatrick, Historian; Eileen Elmsworth, Missions and Charities; Deirdre Heffernan, Catholic Action; Jessica Johnston, Mistress at Arms; and Mary O'Sullivan, Sentinel.

The next LAOH division 3 meeting will be held on February 11th in the AOH hall at 7:30 PM.

It was an honor to be President of the LAOH Division 3 for the past 4 years; (2 terms). Thank you to the AOH Division 3 members for all of your continued support.

Congratulations and Good Luck to the 2020-2022 board.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,*

**Terry McGeever, President**

## STATE AND DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS

The process will be the same this year for the state and division scholarship. All applicants should visit the state website homepage at [www.nyaoh.com](http://www.nyaoh.com) and click on the link 2020 Scholarship opportunities. The direct link is <http://www.nyaoh.com/nys-aoh-board-scholarship-competition/>. Here the applicant will find directions, applications and study materials. State Chairman Dermot Moore will forward all division 3 applications to Division Chairman Kevin McNulty for further consideration by our division scholarship committee.

Please note the following differences. While the state scholarship is available to any child or grandchild of a NYS member, the division scholarship is only available to the child of a member and the member must have been an AOH member for at least 3 years.

Any questions, please contact Dermot at [dermotmoore@gmail.com](mailto:dermotmoore@gmail.com).

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 28TH!**

## 2020 EMERALD BALL

Saturday, February 22nd 7pm  
at Pearl River Hilton



**HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR,  
FERGAL HAYES**

**BUSINESSPERSON OF THE  
YEAR, EDMUND HARTNETT**

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DEIRDRE SMITH-WINTERS**

**GRAND MARSHAL, FRANK  
MCDONAGH**

**AIDE TO GRAND MARSHAL  
NYC, LILLIAN MURPHY**

ALL – Note that Division 3 is well represented above, so it's important we come out and support our brothers. To purchase tickets to the Emerald Ball or a journal ad or to make a donation, or for more info please visit [www.rocklandcountyaoh.com](http://www.rocklandcountyaoh.com)

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## The Sad History of “Funny” Irish Stereotypes

With the advent of every spring and the approach of St. Patrick’s Day merchandise dealing in Irish Stereotypes and tropes bloom before the first crocus. Despite the fact that in our initiation oath, we pledge to “... not countenance by my presence or support any performance that may reasonably be interpreted as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people,” too many of us pass off these items as “a joke.” A review of the origin of these stereotypes shows that they are far from laughing matters.

Since the invasion of Ireland by Strongbow in 1170, a basic tenet of English colonial policy was not to merely to occupy the Irish land, but the Irish mind as well. From the Statutes of Kilkenny, English/British colonial policy sought to debase the proud heritage and history of the Irish people and create a sense of inferiority and dependency. Laws sought to eliminate the Irish language, ban Irish customs, dress and sports. The greatest assault on the Irish mind was the Penal Laws, which sought not only to destroy the religious conscience of the Irish people but their final debasement through barring education. The British parliamentarian Edmund Burke accurately surmised the Penal Laws in Ireland as "a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance, as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment and degradation of a people and the debasement in them of human nature itself, as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man."

However, Burke may have been premature, as when the Penal Laws and their overt oppression became politically unsustainable, a new “wise and elaborate contrivance” was introduced: “the Stereotype.” “Irish Paddy,” whom a foreign government had done everything in its power to degrade, was not intelligent enough to govern himself; that is why he needed paternal British rule. “Paddy” was lazy, that is why he grew the potato, a crop that required little maintenance, not because the potato was the only viable crop that could provide sustenance on the smaller and smaller plots of land that English landlords

were forcing the Irish onto. These stereotypes came together to provide readymade excuses when a potato blight hit Ireland in September 1845 and famine ensued. See, it is all Paddy’s fault; sending aid and relief would only encourage his bad habits; the famine is the result of a moral defect in the Irish character not our administration. Wasn’t it silly that the Irish were so reliant on the Potato (sadly, this last point is still echoed in more than a few school curricula today)? It is not an exaggeration that stereotypes led to the death of one million Irish men, women and children.

When thousands of Irish came to America’s shores to escape hunger and oppression, they unfortunately found that despite independence, more than a few Americans clung to their puritan English roots and prejudices. Again, “Paddy’s” problems were of his own devising. It was the time of Darwin’s theory of evolution, and clearly the Irish represented an earlier and more primitive stage of man; cartoons, and particularly those of Thomas Nast, depicted the Irish as ape-men. Despite the irrefutable evidence of tens of thousands of Irish Americans who died in America’s Civil War, the loyalty of “Paddy” was suspect, and as a Catholic his loyalties are suspect, a charge that continued to be made during the campaigns of Al Smith, John F. Kennedy and even today in recent judicial nominations.



However, the most effective and persistent stereotype is that “Paddy” is a habitual drunk. As with any people of any ethnicity, there are those who overindulge and it is well established that the despair of poverty has historically exacerbated the issue among communities impacted, but this is a clear case of confirmation bias; of seeing proof to justify preexisting prejudices. It was once again an attempt, particularly by Protestant evangelicals, to point to the moral defects of the Irish character and their alien-ess. It was also an attempt to hinder a growing Irish American political identity and the nascent labor movement at which the Irish were at the center. The demonized Pub and “grog house” was where the Irish met to discuss the issues of

# The Sad History of “Funny” Irish Stereotypes

Continued

labor and organize, for the Irish the saloon served the same role as the salon for the elite. John “Blackjack” Kehoe was falsely accused of being “The King of The Molly Maguires” and executed largely because he was a member of the AOH and owned a tavern where Irish miners met to discuss labor organization.

We may think that the impacts of negative stereotypes are confined to the past, but are there? What is the message being sent when (rightly) society condemns insult and ethnic-based stereotypes to other heritages, but tells the Irish to laugh at “Irish Today, Hung Over Tomorrow”? Is it not sending that same old message that our history and heritage are inferior and not worthy of protection? Certainly, some Irish clichés are worthy of no more than an eye-roll, but can we really say that about a “Drunk O’Meter” where the

maximum red zone reading of intoxication is “Irish”? Despite being in the 21st century, are these items not sending the same 18th-century message, deflecting from the trials and triumphs of the Irish? Are these Items really a laughing matter?

The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie—deliberate, contrived and dishonest—but the myth—persistent, persuasive and unrealistic. Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

John F. Kennedy

