



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

February 2021

Brother Hibernians _____



We hope you and your family have been keeping well. When our last newsletter went out, we were thinking that this has been such a weak winter – what a difference four weeks make!

Our next division meeting will be held **virtually this Thursday, February 25 at 7:30pm**. See email for a link to the meeting and instructions.

It's been a relatively quiet month. Unfortunately, we did hear the not-unexpected confirmation in the last week that the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day parade was being postponed until next year. A couple of items (covered later in the newsletter) highlighted here:

- **Our Future: AOH Scholarship** – applications are due on February 26 (this Friday!), so if you have a high school senior, look closely at this item.
- **Our Faith** – During Lent, the Ladies' Division will be conducting a Fish Fry each Friday. Please see their article and come on down to the Hibernian on Fridays.
- **Our Heritage** – We are on the cusp of March, once again recognized as Irish American Heritage Month. Please see Neil's article on the topic, following, and pay attention to the various emails we distribute that come from our National Board. There are a variety of ways that each of us can learn more about our heritage and current events in Ireland. And, while we push the Irish History articles for those HS seniors looking towards the scholarship process, it is a great opportunity to work with all your children on learning more about their culture and their heritage. Check in at <https://aoh.com/> for a full calendar of virtual events, links to great videos and much more.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for repose of the souls of Dan Murphy's mother, Barbara Murphy. Also, pray for Scott Wheatley's father, who took a bad spill and is now in rehab. Please also keep our law enforcement professionals, EMS, and healthcare workers in your prayers.

As always, we pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Charities



If you have a charitable event or know of a charitable event that Division 3 should support financially, please get in touch with Kieran Cummings, our Charities Committee Chairman, at Kmanshc@gmail.com and provide information, including any fliers, etc., about the charity and the event.

Scholarships



LAST CALL! Applications for a Hibernian scholarship for high school seniors are due no later than this Friday, February 26th.

- The state scholarship competition is now open, and applications are due by February 26! See recently sent emails for details or call Dermot Moore at (646) 302-5111.
- Applications for the Division scholarship process are the same application with the same deadline. So, if you're interested in the Division scholarship, you should be filling out the state application (you only have to fill it out once for both).
- The link to the application is here: [application](#)
- The Division 3 scholarship is limited to members who are high school seniors or children of members. The state scholarship has broader eligibility, allowing grandchildren of members also.

Please encourage your high school seniors to apply.

Ladies' AOH



The LAOH Division 3 are hosting a Fish Fry during Lent every Friday, except for March 19, 2021 at the Hibernian House. You can dine in or take out. The cost is \$15.00. For further information you can contact Linda Sheridan (914) 772-6626. May God continue to Bless everyone and please stay safe!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Teresa Hartey-Adametz, President

Hibernian House



Even with snowbirds coming and going, the pub seems to be livening up as the vaccinations slowly trickle out. For those who have missed it, there's a growing group of dart enthusiasts taking advantage of the new set up, and you most likely can find yourself a good match on a Friday night.

Speaking of dangerous sports, there may be lots of snow on the ground, but golf season is just not that far away. Our spies have spotted a number of members at local driving ranges warming up for their Florida/Carolina trips or just for the season to come (and no, the heated practice tees don't seem to help).

We hope everyone has safe travels and we see you all soon.

Don't forget our Advertisers and make sure to read through to the end for our Irish history article!

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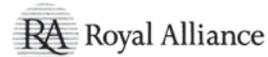
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March is Irish American Heritage Month



Since 1991, March has been recognized by American presidents of both parties as "Irish American Heritage Month, a time when all Americans are called upon to "celebrate the achievements of Irish Americans and their contributions to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs." This year, when St. Patrick's Day parades and other annual celebrations of Irish Heritage have been canceled out of respect for the health of the community, Irish American Heritage Month takes on added significance. Sadly, despite the innumerable contributions that Irish

immigrants and their descendants have made to our country, Irish American Heritage Month is more often recognized in the breach than in the observance, and we should all ask, "Why?" Without the sound of the pipes and parade spectators' cheering at events organized by the Irish American community themselves, the deafening silence amongst our educational institutions and the media in recognizing the Irish American Heritage Month is conspicuous.

Given that our elected officials have made the public celebration of Irish heritage untenable, do they not have a moral obligation to see that the contributions the Irish have made are acknowledged by official recognition and educational programs in our schools?

Brothers, if we do not perpetuate our history and traditions, no one else will. Heritage is not a gift you receive; it is a gift you give to the next generation. Our ancestors have kept the tradition alive amidst the Vikings, Elizabeth I, Cromwell, and Trevelyan. Our ancestors have risked imprisonment, transportation, and even death to keep our identity, history, and traditions alive. Are we going to let our heritage die on our watch simply because we did not take the time to speak to the young people in our lives about where we came from, what our ancestors endured and overcame, and why we should be proud?

In the Month of March, the National AOH will be running a series of profiles of Irish Americans who have made contributions to our county. I ask you to please read them and, most importantly, like and share them with your friends and family on social media. The AOH National will also be doing multiple webinars, one from Dr. Ruan O'Donnell on the Irish American role in Ireland's fight for independence and another by Damien Shiels on the Irish in the American Civil war. Anyone who has heard these gentlemen speak knows that their presentations are as enjoyable as they are informative. There will also be a webinar on the little-known life of Michael McGovern, "*the Puddler Poet*", an Irish immigrant who worked in the steel mills of Ohio (a "puddler" stirs the molten iron until it reaches the proper temperature to be cast) and yet wrote numerous poems on Ireland, immigration and the life of the working man.

Perhaps the most exciting development is that for each of the first 17 days of March, a series of short (15 minutes) "Gaelscoil" videos shall be offered on AOH.com. These videos will be produced by the highly successful "Gaelscoil" program in New Jersey and are aimed at young children. Each day will be a short introduction to Irish history, culture, sport, and traditions. They can be watched at any time you have a spare 15 minutes. What a great way to share your heritage with your children and foster in them a love of who they are.

Brothers, we all miss and are yearning for the joy and social interaction of our parades, but for now it is even more important that for now we keep the tradition alive. We should still show our pride in decorating our homes during the month of March; how much more important is it to make a statement that "I am proud to be Irish" than it is to celebrate Halloween (which Irish immigrants brought to this country).

We will get through COVID-19, but until then, let us make clear to those around us, especially our young people, that we are proud to be Irish and tell them why.