



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

February 2022

Brother Hibernians _____



We hope everyone is doing well. We are on the cusp of the first full-blown St. Patrick's Day season in quite a while. It may be a bit muted compared to pre-pandemic days, but hopefully, a lot more active than the last two years, with the Emerald Ball coming up this weekend and the Rockland Parade set for March 20th.

Our next division meeting will be held **in person this Friday, February 25th at 8:00pm**. At the meeting, we will talk about the many events coming up – including the Seniors' St. Patrick's Day luncheon, the Rockland St. Patrick's Day parade to our spring golf outing.

Congratulations to Dennis Madigan and team for a successful Valentine's Day social – great music from Roddy and it's great to have that event back on the calendar. In the next week or so, look for more details on the upcoming Comedy Night to be held upstairs on Friday, April 1 (no – this is no April Fool's joke!).

Also, look for announcements about organizational meetings for AOH Division 3 golf outing. Meetings start in the next couple of weeks – and hold the date: Thursday, May 12th.

Sincere thanks go out to those who helped organize – and the many members who contributed – to the ad-hoc fundraiser for the family in need from St. Margaret's Parish. We not only collected donations at the bar, but the wooden flag raffles contributed, as well as direct contributions from the Division and the House. I understand the family was overwhelmed not only by the generosity but by the effort and thoughtfulness. It makes one proud to be Hibernian.

Good & Welfare – Please say a prayer for the many innocent Ukrainians sitting in the middle of what has quickly devolved into a terrible situation. Also, please keep continue to keep our law enforcement professionals, healthcare workers and members of the armed services 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

AOH Scholarships



LAST AND FINAL CALL: The state and division scholarship competition are closing tomorrow with applications due by the end of the day, February 25th. See recently sent emails or for details or you can email Dermot Moore at dermotmoore@gmail.com or call him at (646) 302-5111. Applications for the Division scholarship process use 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 as well as the study material and all instructions can be found on the NY state AOH website here:

<https://www.nyaoh.com/aoh-scholarship-contest>

Note, the Division 3 scholarship is limited to Division 3 members who are, themselves, high school seniors and to children of Division 3 members who have been members for at least three years. The state scholarship has broader eligibility, allowing grandchildren of members also and has no limit on length of membership. Please encourage your high school seniors to apply.

Emerald Ball



On Saturday, February 26nd, 2022 the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold our annual Emerald Ball at the Pearl River Hilton. At this event, we honor those for their contributions to promoting our organization and for their accomplishments in their personal lives. This year's honorees are as follows:

- **Hibernian Of The Year:** Nadine Faughnan-Green
- **Businesspersons Of the Year:** Peter And Kwan Bellhouse, Kwan Thai Restaurant
- **Parade Commander:** Deirdre Smith-Withers
- **Rockland County Grand Marshal:** Frank McDonagh
- **Aide To The Grand Marshal:** NYC, Lillian Murphy

Seniors' St. Patrick's Luncheon



On the heels of the very successful re-start of the Seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon, Larry DeGennaro and team are deep into the planning of the Seniors' St. Patrick's Luncheon to be held **on Saturday, March 12th**. As always, we need volunteers for the prep and cooking in the lead up to the event as well as many hands on the day of. As always, a great opportunity for our youth to get community service hours. Any questions, let us know.

Rockland Parade



The Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Parade will once again take place in Pearl River along the traditional route on Sunday, March 20th. We want to make a strong showing and presence in the parade and need members to march. We'll discuss at the meeting.

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

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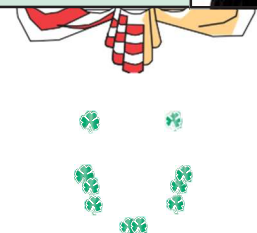
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Anne Sullivan, 'The Miracle Worker'



Imagine the loneliness and isolation of a person who is both deaf and blind. Even worse, imagine that isolation beginning when you were only 19 months old when the disease took these vital senses away before you comprehended the concept of what the word was, leaving you with limited means to convey your thought and feelings. This is the description of the challenge that newly graduated teacher Anne Sullivan was taking on when she was hired to be the governess and teacher to seven-year-old Helen Keller. Anne was only twenty years old and was herself seriously visually impaired.

Sullivan was born on 14 April 1866 in Feeding Hills, Agawam, Massachusetts; the oldest child of Thomas and Alice Sullivan, who emigrated to the United States from Ireland during the Great Hunger. The family lived in extreme poverty. When she was five years old, Sullivan contracted the bacterial eye disease trachoma, a painful infection that left her nearly blind. When she was eight, her mother died from tuberculosis, and two years later, her father gave up his children as he could not raise them on his own.

Anne and her brother, Jimmie, were sent to the almshouse in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Underfunded and overcrowded, the Tewksbury Almshouse housed an average of 940 men, women, and children during the years that Sullivan was there. Among its residents were those suffering severe mental illness. With primitive medical care, the mortality rate was very high; within three months of their arrival, Jimmie died, leaving Anne alone in what could only be described as an earthly hell.

Eventually, word of the horrific conditions at Tewksbury became public knowledge, prompting the state board of charities to investigate. The now teenaged Anne had heard that there were schools that specialized in educating the visually impaired. When a group of inspectors came to the almshouse in 1880, Anne followed them around until finally flinging herself on one of the officials. Mr. Frank B. Sanborn, pleading, "*Mr. Sanborn, Mr. Sanborn, I want to go to school!*"

Anne was transferred to the Perkins School for the Blind on 7 October 1880. Anne was woefully behind in her education, and the rough manners required to survive in the almshouse made it difficult for her to fit in amongst a student body that was mainly composed of children of the affluent. Yet, she soon closed the gap with her classmates with iron-willed determination. Sullivan underwent a series of eye operations that significantly improved her vision. In June 1886, she graduated as the valedictorian of her class. In her valedictorian address, she stated:

"Duty bids us go forth into active life. Let us go cheerfully, hopefully, and earnestly, and set ourselves to find our especial [sic] part. When we have found it, willingly and faithfully perform it; for every obstacle we overcome, every success we achieve tends to bring man closer to God and make life more as He would have it."

Sullivan arrived at Helen Keller's house on March 5, 1887. Sullivan immediately began to teach Helen to communicate by spelling words into her hand, starting with "d-o-l-l" for the doll that she had brought Keller as a present. At first, the work was slow and frustrating; Keller had no understanding of connecting objects and words.

However, after a month of Sullivan's constant and patient efforts, there was a breakthrough. As Sullivan spelled the word water in one hand while running cool water over the other, Helen Keller made the connection that the gestures symbolized "water."

Keller's breakthrough in communication came the next month when she realized that the motions her teacher was making on the palm of her hand while running cool water over her other hand symbolized the idea of "water." Keller later recalled, *"I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten — a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. The living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, set it free!"* Having released the genie of language out of the bottle, Keller nearly exhausted Sullivan with her zeal to learn the names of the other objects in her world. Within six months under Anne Sullivan's guidance, Keller learned 575 words and the "multiplication tables as high as five and the Braille system."

Anne Sullivan would be Helen Keller's companion for the rest of Anne's life. She would travel with Helen to study at the Perkins School for the Blind and later the Horace Mann School for the Deaf. She accompanied Helen to Radcliff, where Keller graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, becoming the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Anne Sullivan would remain a constant companion to Helen Keller until her death on October 20, 1936, with Helen holding her hand. Sullivan was interred at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C, the first woman to be recognized for her achievements in this way. When Keller died in 1968, she was cremated, and her ashes were interred alongside those of Sullivan.

It was no less a person than Mark Twain who described Anne Sullivan as 'a Miracle Worker.' Sullivan not only conquered the darkness of her own early life but opened the world to a young girl cut off and alone. Anne Sullivan's resolute spirit should inspire all of us.