



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*April 2022*

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



We hope everyone had a beautiful Easter last weekend. Even though it is late in April for Easter, you couldn't tell it from the weather. Maybe that's why so many members have been traveling of late! Well, we know that spring won't hold off forever.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House **this Friday, April 22nd at 8:00pm.** Aside from recapping the last month, at the meeting, we will talk about the many events requiring planning and participation – including our spring golf outing. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to help us revive the Hibernian Mass at St. Margaret's in conjunction with our Communion Breakfast and scholarship recipient awards. If interested, talk to Chuck, Phil or Neil.

Congratulations to Dennis Madigan and the team for their success in putting together the April Fool's Comedy Night. The house was packed, we had great entertainment and everyone had a great time.

Sean Walsh and the **golf committee** continue to meet regularly on Wednesday nights at 730pm in the pub. Our golf outing is a huge undertaking that requires outreach to sponsors and donors, advertising, organizing the golfing itself and the many logistical elements required for the day and the dinner following. We can use all the hands we can get, so please drop by and get involved. Again, the date of the outing: **Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

In conjunction with the golf outing, we will be **raffling off two JetBlue tickets** to anywhere they fly! You just have to fly by March 31, 2023. Posters will go up and tickets available shortly with raffle tickets being \$20 each. Thanks to brother Sean Joyce for once more getting JetBlue's assistance.

**Good & Welfare** – Please say a prayer for Bobby Metcalfe's mother, Dolores, may she rest in peace. Also continue to pray for the Ukrainians – their safety and a resolution to what is going on. Please also 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**

## New Members



At our March meeting, seven new members joined. Congratulations and welcome to them – let's make sure they feel welcome and let's get them involved!

Mark Delgardo – Pearl River  
Kevin Dinnegan – Pearl River  
Thomas Donahue – Washington, NJ  
Kevin Farrell – Pearl River

Sean Matthews – Wyckoff, NJ  
Scott Rossig – Montvale, NJ  
Joseph Thomasson – Pearl River

## Upcoming Events



**NY State AOH Board Meeting (4/29-4/30)** - The spring NYS AOH meeting will be held in East Durham on Saturday, April 30th at the Shamrock House starting at 10am. They will be collecting for a food drive to go to the Greene County Catholic Charities, so **we'll have a box out at the pub (and at the April Division meeting - collecting various non-perishable food items and cleaning and personal supplies)**. The meeting will also include social events on Saturday afternoon and a Mass on Sunday. Anyone who wants to attend, speak to any division officer.

**Showing of "How to Defuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story" (5/5)** - On Thursday, May 5th at 7:30, this award-winning documentary movie about the founding of the Project Children program by Denis Mulcahy will be shown at the New City Cinemas at 202 S. Main St., New City, NY. Please see the full story and announcement on the front page of the Rockland County AOH website: <https://www.rocklandcountyaoh.com/>  
Proceeds will benefit the Denis Mulcahy scholarship fund.

**Division 3 Golf Outing (5/12, Thursday)** - Posters are up in the pub, as is the foursome sign-up board. Make sure to sign up early, as we expect a great turnout (and pay early too - will save you lots of time the day of the event). Golfing at Blue Hill Golf Course followed by open bar, food, DJ, etc., at the Pearl River Elks outside pavilion.

**Inaugural NYS AOH Retreat (5/13-5/15)** - Please join the NYS AOH for their first ever weekend retreat in the beautiful Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, New York. Speakers include: Fr. Francis Conka and Liam McNabb, AOH National Treasurer, NYS PEC Chairperson. More information can be found on the state website at: <https://www.nyaoh.com/calendar/inaugural-new-york-state-aoh-weekend-retreat>

**Breezy Point outing (5/21, leaving 11:30am sharp)** - We are running a luncheon trip to the Breezy Point AOH, led by the inimitable Eddie O'Dea. Destination is the Lieutenant Kevin C. Dowdell AOH Division 4 in Breezy Point. \$15.00 Buffet and a Cash Bar plus \$50 per person for transportation. Sign up available in the pub.

### And some advance hold-the-dates:

- Saturday, June 11 – Party at the Hibernian House featuring “The Rummies”
- July 13-17 – AOH national convention in Pittsburgh (see an officer if interested)
- Saturday, September 17 – Party at the Hibernian House – half-way to St. Patrick's

## Division Appreciation



At the last two meetings, we recognized two long-serving officers of Division 3 who stepped down with plaques. Below on the left, Billy Young receives a plaque commemorating his 14 years as Financial Secretary. On the right, Kevin Donohue receives a plaque commemorating his 22 years as Marshal. We thank them for their service.



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# “King Kelly”



In the early days of Baseball, Irish Americans dominated the sport and helped transform it into America's national pastime. Young men made strong through the strenuous physical labor in what were often the only jobs available to them took what little relaxation they had in the new sport and soon came to dominate it and were innovators who transformed it into the game we know today. Perhaps no one impacted Baseball more in its formative days than Michael "King" Kelly.

Michael Joseph Kelly was born in Troy, New York, on New Year's Eve, 1857, the son of Irish immigrants. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Kelly's father enlisted in the Union Army. The family followed him to Washington, where the young Kelly may have first been exposed to the new game of Baseball.

After the Civil War, the Kelly's moved to Paterson, New Jersey. Kelly's father passed away in 1871, ending the thirteen-year-old boy's formal education as he left school to work hauling coal and as a 'bobbin boy' in a textile mill. However, his love was still Baseball, and it was not long before he gained the notice of the newly formed professional teams.

In 1878, Kelly made what would now be termed his Major League debut (the term 'Major League' not having been coined yet) for the Cincinnati Red Stockings (now the Cincinnati Reds), for whom he played for two years before the team fell on hard times and released its players. Kelly was acquired by the Chicago White Stockings (the forerunners of today's Cubs). He would become the preeminent star of the game, earning two league batting championships, leading the league for three seasons in scoring, and playing on four of his career six championship teams. Kelly was primarily a catcher and outfielder but would play all positions throughout his career. Standing nearly six feet tall, talented, and with distinctive good looks, Kelly was soon a fan favorite in what was one of the Nation's media capitals and was soon a household name.

After the 1886 season, Kelly was sold to the Boston Beaneaters (the forerunners of today's Atlanta Braves) for a record \$10,000, earning Kelly the nickname "10,000 Beauty". However, in heavily Irish Boston, he was more commonly known as "King Kelly" or "The Only."

Kelly was both one of the game's great innovators and characters. It is believed he was the first catcher to use a chest protector, wear gloves, and use signs to communicate with the pitcher. The Baseball Hall of Fame cites him as originating the '*hit and run*' play, the '*double steal*' and an early form of the infield shift. Kelly was also not above a little 'gamesmanship.' It was noted that he frequently would cut corners (sometimes by 20 feet) in rounding the bases when he knew that the games then only one umpire was distracted by play elsewhere on the field. In playing the outfield, Kelly often had a spare baseball hidden in his jersey; late in one game, as the light was failing, Kelly made a spectacular dive for a ball lined to the outfield. Kelly popped up proudly, displaying the ball in his hand. When his teammates complimented him on his catch, Kelly laughed, '*Not at all; it went a mile above my head.*' Some claim Kelly's popularity in Boston also led to another innovation; young boys in Boston would ask him for his signature to prove they met him, giving rise to the autograph.

However, Kelly's most significant notoriety came from another of his innovations, 'the hook slide.' Before Kelly, ballplayers would attempt to steal a base by running at it directly; Kelly developed the technique of running to the opposite side of the bag, sliding past it, and making contact with his hand. Kelly stole at least 50 bases a season for five consecutive years (1886-90) and

stole a career-high 84 bags for Boston in 1887. He stole six bases in one game and five in a game multiple times. Kelly was one of the first players to regularly steal third base and home, often in succession.

A print of Kelly sliding soon became a required fixture in all Boston bars. The chant of the Boston crowd '*Slide Kelly, Slide!*' became the basis of a song that, when recorded by the Edison company, became America's first 'pop hit,' the previous recordings having been either Opera or Religious songs.

Sadly, Kelly was also a pioneer in a problem that has been too frequently repeated among professional athletes thrust from poverty into the spotlight of fame and prosperity. Kelly had a reputation for both generosity and being a hard partier. While making unbelievable money for his time, he spent it as fast as it came in. A teammate observed that "[Kelly] *was a whole-souled, genial fellow, with a host of friends and but one enemy, that one being himself.*"

A testament to Kelly's character comes in a story from 1890 when labor unrest between team owners and players resulted in many ballplayers, including Kelly, breaking away to form their own *Players League*. Kelly became a player-manager for the Boston Reds. With more noble sentiment than money, the league was soon in trouble. During a series of games in Chicago, Kelly met with Albert Spalding, representing the owners of the National League. Spalding put a \$10,000 check in front of Kelly, telling him he could have that and a three-year contract as a figure he could name if he left the *Player League* and rejoined the Beaneaters. According to Spalding, Kelly asked to think about it as he went to take a walk outside. Returning, Kelly said, "*I've decided not to accept*". A shocked Spalding said, "*What? You don't want \$10,000?*" Kelly replied, "*I want the \$10,000 bad enough, but I've thought the matter all over, and I can't go back on the boys. And, neither would you.*"

Spalding shook Kelly's hand and, knowing he was hard up, lent him \$500. Kelly and his team would win the only Championship of the *Players League* before its demise after one season.

Hard playing on the field and hard living off it had caught up with Kelly, and his skills began to decline. Kelly retired in 1894 after sixteen seasons with little of the money he had earned. In another first for a ballplayer, Kelly wrote his autobiography. Kelly attempted to capitalize on his notoriety, good looks, and good humor on the vaudeville stage. While sailing from New York to Boston for a theatrical performance, Kelly contracted pneumonia dying three days later, on 8 November 1894, at the age of 36.

Michael "King" Kelly was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1945 by the old-timers' committee. It says something of the Irish influence in Baseball that the NY Times reported that inducted with him were "Bresnahan, Brouters, Clarke, Jim Collins, Delehanty, Duffy, Jennings, James O'Rourke and Robinson." Sadly, there were no immediate family members at the ceremony, his one child having died shortly after his death and his wife dying several years earlier before he was inducted.

Lee Allen, a historian with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, "*Kelly, in his day, was as popular a figure as Babe Ruth would later be, and there was hardly a boy in the land who did not follow the daily doings of The King.*"

Certainly, 'King' Kelly deserves to be better remembered by the game he helped shape.