



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*November 2022*

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



Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House **this Friday, November 18th at 8:00pm**. Aside from discussing the many upcoming events, we'll conduct nominations for Division Officers, as well as take nominations for our representatives to the Rockland St. Patrick's Day parade as Battalion Commander and Aide to the Grand Marshal.

Welcome to our newest member sworn in at the October meeting: Lennon Duffy of Pearl River.

While, as an organization, we do not endorse any party or candidate, we do encourage civic participation, believing it's not only a privilege but a responsibility. With that in mind, we are proud of the efforts and congratulate the success of our Division 3 Brothers who won recent elections: Mike Lawler, now the U.S. Representative-elect for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and John McGowan, member-elect of the New York State Assembly, District 97. Well done, both!

Thanks much to Sean Walsh and team for the "Halloween Howl" party – the Rummies sounded great and thanks to all who showed up in great costumes. Thanks, too, to Bill Lee and team for the first Pot of Gold party. It was a great afternoon – but don't forget, there's another one to come, so make sure you've gotten a ticket! They are available at the pub.

Thanks also to those who helped with the various set up activities or were able to attend any of the events over the weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup>, when the NYS AOH Board held their meeting here in Pearl River. Rockland County, and our Division in particular, showed very well to our guests from all over the state. As I write this, we're preparing for our second State event at the Hibernian – the FFAI Social on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

And **I can't highlight enough** – the article on the upcoming Major Degree Ceremony to be held right here in Pearl River. Make sure to get that on your calendar if you don't already have your major degree! And make sure to review all upcoming events – we've got a lot going on, including a 'split squad' morning on December 17<sup>th</sup> with two events – come out! Get involved!

**Good & Welfare** –Please say a prayer for our brother, Greg Dubrule, and for Mike Hieb’s mother, Peggy Hieb – may they rest in peace. Also, please keep Merrick Rhodes in your prayers as he recovers, after a brief hospital stay, compounded by a bout of COVID. Also, continue to pray for the Ukrainians – while they have faded from the daily news coverage their suffering continues. Please also 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**

## Upcoming Events



**Put these on your calendar (lots going on between now and yearend!) – many more details in the following articles**

- Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – NY State AOH FFAI Social, Hibernian House, 7:30
- Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – Seniors’ Thanksgiving Luncheon, Hibernian House, 10:00-2:00pm – as always, Need volunteers!
- Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Comedy Night at the Hibernian House; doors open at 7:30.
- Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Major Degree; St. Aedan’s CCD Center, noon to 3pm
- Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Rambling House at the Hibernian House; doors open at 7:00.
- Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Army / Navy game and college football upstairs at the Hibernian.
- Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, morning – Placement of Wreaths at Veteran’s graves.
- Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, morning – Special needs “Reverse Christmas Parade” at the OMM fields. Parade at 11am, need help with set up beforehand.
- Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Pot Of Gold grand drawing party; Hibernian House, 2:00-6:00
- Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Division Meeting; Officer elections
- Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – “Wren Night” at the Hibernian House – music, dancing, skits

## Major Degree!



**All Brothers:** This week, I got the opportunity from my employer to work for a day of volunteering at a Habit for Humanity building sight. While I have lots of stories from that day and it was very rewarding, I had a sad takeaway. The site of the build had been the Italian American Club of Summit. The low-income housing development had bought out the club, and we were building where their bocce courts and koi pond had been. Apple-maps still identifies it as the Italian American Club.

The takeaway? *No club or fraternal organization is guaranteed to last forever.* And the key to staying power isn't just headcount – our future is anchored in our values and purpose. When you were initiated into the Ancient Order of Hibernians, you made the promise to take pass the test of the Order'. That means signing up for and obtaining your Major Degree at a formal ceremony.

A Major Degree ceremony will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Saint Aedan's parish meeting center. Registration of participants starts at 11:00am, and the ceremony will run from roughly noon to 3pm. Your incidental cost of the ceremony will be paid by the Division.

Completing the Major Degree is a key aspect to continuing the Order. There are numerous other benefits to holding the degree – for instance, it is a contributing factor when we assess high school scholarships and it's a requirement for holding higher office in the Order. There is a signup sheet at the pub. If you don't have your Major Degree, please do what you can to attend, and there is an online signup list on our website at: <https://praoh.org/event/major-degree/>. Our goal would be to have at least 60 members of Division 3 get their major degree!

## Veteran's Corner



As Hibernians, we recognize and respect those who have served our country – if you read the Hibernian Digest, you'll see a regular column on Veteran's affairs. There are a couple of items to highlight regarding any of our Brothers who have served:

- NY State AOH Veteran's Recognition – **We haven't seen anything from members!** As was done last year, the AOH State Board would like to recognize members who are Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services by posting some material on the NYS AOH website. If you did serve, please send us a photo of yourself when serving, branch and when you served and a brief bio/synopsis of your time. Send the information to [praoh3@gmail.com](mailto:praoh3@gmail.com) and we'll get it to the NYS AOH. Thank you for your service!
- "Wreaths Across America" is pivoting from the fundraising phase to actually decorating the graves of veterans' grave at Christmastime. This is a joint effort among the local chapters of the American Legion, AOH, Knights of Columbus and the Elks. As noted in our Events Calendar, this will take place the morning of Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. There are sign-ups in the pub as well as the other organizations – look for more on timing and logistics.

## Pot of Gold



The Pot of Gold drawing party for the grand prize is the weekend before Christmas, on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hibernian, from 2-6pm. There are plenty of tickets left, so make sure you have yours and make sure your neighbors get the chance too! Keep in mind, we only have two major fundraisers a year, and this is one of them – help us make it successful. There will be tickets behind the bar at the pub, and we'll have tickets available at our division meeting. Tickets are available to all.

The tickets not only enroll you in a drawing that has multiple prizes, including a \$10,000 first prize, but it gains you and a guest admission to the drawing party. If you need additional tickets or have any questions, contact Bill Lee at [mr.williamlee@gmail.com](mailto:mr.williamlee@gmail.com) or call 845.558.4148.

## Christmas Events



**Special Needs “Reverse Parade”** – Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, OMM Parking Lot: Anyone who helped at the parade in past years can tell you how rewarding it was to see the joy on our visitors' faces as they wound their way through the parking lot enjoying the goodies, costume characters, fire trucks, and Santa of course.

We need volunteers once again and ask that they arrive by 10am for set up. This is an excellent time for the kids to rack up community service hours. We also would appreciate it if anyone can lend us decorations and/or inflatable figures to help us turn the parking lot into a winter wonderland.

If you would like to volunteer or lend us Christmas decorations, please contact Dermot Moore at [dermot.moore@gmail.com](mailto:dermot.moore@gmail.com) or 646-302-5111.

**Traditional “Wren Night”** – Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>: Our Wren Night celebration is once again on this year. The day after Christmas, St. Stephen's Day in Ireland, we will be getting together for some traditional Irish song, music, dance, and storytelling. This is a great evening of fun for the whole family upstairs at the Hibernian House. The day after Christmas, put the hecticness of the season behind you and come out for some great craic! Look for the fliers at the pub soon.

**Division 3 Ski Trip** – Not a Christmas event, but definitely a staple of winters past, the AOH Division 3 Ski Trip is currently being planned. The all-day event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The trip includes a bus trip to/from, lift tickets, refreshments on the bus and much more. Be on the lookout for more info in the coming weeks!

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

***support our advertisers ; they support our organization***



REALTOR



MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

MLS

**Mary Fitzgerald**

NYS Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker

Better Homes & Gardens Rand Realty

19 E. Central Ave., Pearl River, NY

c. 845.536.9418

marymfitz@aol.com

*Our greatest compliments are your referrals. Thank you!*



**ROCKLAND MATTRESS**

*Family owned for over 40 years*

**DAN MILLER**

160 East Route 59  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
[RocklandMattress.com](http://RocklandMattress.com)

Phone: 845-623-3030  
Fax: 845-623-3160  
[rmattress@optimum.net](mailto:rmattress@optimum.net)

**RAYMOND SHERIDAN**

**INSURANCE &  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

19 E. WASHINGTON Ave., PEARL RIVER, NY 10965

PHONE (845) 735-8080

[WWW.RSHERIDAN.COM](http://WWW.RSHERIDAN.COM)

PERSONAL AUTO • HOMEOWNERS • LIFE • COMMERCIAL  
RESTAURANTS • CONTRACTORS • STRIP MALLS • RETAIL  
BUSINESS







# HIBERNIAN HOUSE RENTALS CALL 845-731-9697



## Pearl River Florist

45 EAST CENTRAL AVE. • PEARL RIVER, N. Y. 10965  
(845) 735-3366 • FAX (845) 735-8725  
www.pearlriverflorist.com

Maryann Walker  
Stephanie Walker



*"Committed to Service Excellence"*  
*Affordable Funerals & Cremations*  
*Independently Owned & Operated*

## Assumma-Shankey Funeral Home

*Our Family Serving Yours*

34 North Summit Street Pearl River, NY 10965 845-735-4849  
Fax 845-735-1377  
Assummashankey@gmail.com



## Volumetric Fund

Pearl River, New York

*Your Neighborly Mutual Fund*

- ❖ IRA Accounts
- ❖ Saving Accounts
- ❖ Monthly Investing Plans
- ❖ Business Accounts



(845)623-7637

Web: volumetric.com ~ Email: info@volumetric.com



## AMERICAN LEGION

JOHN H. SECOR POST 329

30 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 205  
Pearl River, New York 10965

Phones: "Dug Out": (845) 735-7868  
(includes Hall rentals)



**Knights of  
Columbus**

**Daniel L. Hooker, CRPC, LUTCF, FICF, MDRT**

Field Agent

Phone: 845-548-8350  
daniel.hooker@kofc.org  
License #LA-786102



**Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance  
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance**  
*Protecting Catholic families since 1882.*



## ShopRite of Pearl River

Middletown Road, Pearl River, NY

**Joanne Winous, Manager**

(845) 735-4871

John Ovchinnikoff

Licensed and Insured  
HIL #: H-20-007854-28-00



## J & A MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

Specializing In All Types of Masonry

Block Foundations  
Brick Fireplaces  
Stone Concrete

26 Vermont Ave.  
Congers, NY 10920  
Ph: 845-268-0553  
Fax: 845-268-0112



Open 7 Days • Kitchen Open to 1:00am • Full Bar • Lunch & Dinner  
ALL sporting events via satellite on large screen TV's & 8 monitors  
(201) 391-9356

Kinderkamack Rd. & Grand Ave. • Montvale, New Jersey  
www.daveyspub.com

## MURTY'S PUBLIC HOUSE

*Restaurant & Pub*

(845) 620-7502

29 W. Central Avenue, Pearl River, NY 10965



DAVID FISHER  
CHRISTOPHER FISHER  
Directors

## Wyman Fisher Funeral Home, Inc.

100 HANKLIN AVENUE PEARL RIVER, NY 10965 TEL (845) 735-2161  
www.wymanfisher.com FAX (845) 735-9123



**Neil T. O'Sullivan, CPA / PLLC**

38 South Main Street  
Pearl River, NY 10965  
T 845-735-9500

E neil@neilosullivancpa.com

## QUINTA STEAKHOUSE

**BEST STEAKHOUSE IN ROCKLAND!**

- Wide Selection of Prime Steak & Chops
- Fresh Seafood
- Daily Specials
- Homemade Desserts
- Specialty Coffees & Espresso
- Sidewalk Dining Now Available
- Extensive Wine Bar

**\$10.00**  
Prix Fix  
Lunch



Open 7 Days  
24 East Central Ave, Pearl River, NY • 845-735-5565



**FOR  
HIBERNIAN  
HOUSE  
RENTALS  
CALL 845-731-9697**



**MORTGAGE MASTER INC.**  
THE LENDING EXPERTS

**MATTHEW REID**  
Senior Loan Consultant

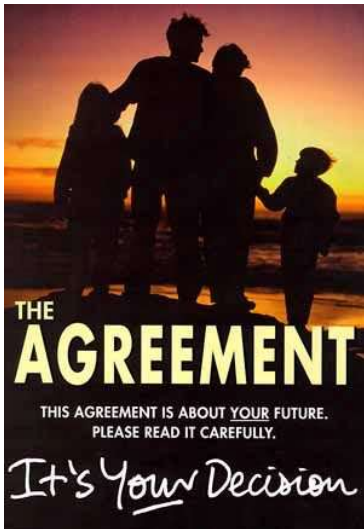
520 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

direct 914.586.1116  
cell 201.953.1571  
fax 914.509.5415  
email mreid@mortgagemasterinc.com

NMLS # 9726/NY LIC # 9726 /NY Mortgage Banker B500773

*support our advertisers ; they support our organization*

## The Good Friday Agreement, “He who forgets the past ...”



April 10, 2023, will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic Good Friday Agreement. The Good Friday Agreement ended the thirty-year conflict in Northern Ireland, proportionately one of the deadliest in history. The United States, in the form of Special Envoy George Mitchell, was a crucial catalyst in bringing this historic accord to fruition. The result has been twenty years of peace, a prospect even the most ardent optimist could not have conceived of before the Agreement. A generation has grown up in the north of Ireland with a security and prosperity their parents and grandparents never knew or could have imagined.

However, the goals of the Good Friday Agreement went beyond the simple cessation of violence. To understand that is to note another anniversary this year, the fiftieth-fifth anniversary of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement. It is sadly all too accepted by the media and textbooks to caricature the conflict in Northern Ireland as a conflict between Protestants and Catholics. That simplistic and uncritical analysis obscures the true trouble behind the troubles, which is a desire for civil rights and mutual respect that

are fundamental to any functioning free society and democracy. "The Troubles" in Ireland do not have their roots in Martin Luther, but in Martin Luther King.

The cause of the Irish Civil Rights movement can be traced to persistent patterns of discrimination in four areas of basic human liberties: employment, education, housing, and self-determination. The history of discrimination against those who identified as Irish and Catholic long predate the creation of Northern Ireland by partition. The Harland and Wolff shipyards, which built the RMS Titanic, had only 400 Catholics out of a Workforce of 10,000. In a celebrated case, Ford Motor Corporation was fined £40,000, the highest award at the time, for discriminating against a Catholic employee. Discrimination was not just based on religion but on a belief that since these jobs were a byproduct of the Union, they should be given to only those who supported the Crown. Civil service, specifically the police, was exclusively a Unionist preserve.

In education, schools that served the Catholic community were habitually underfunded. In 1963, it was decided that Northern Ireland needed a second University to the existing Queen's University in Belfast. In a rare example of cross-community bipartisanship, the residents of Derry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, sought to have the University established by expanding the existing Magee College. However, the final decision was to establish the University in the small, newly created, town of Coleraine that was a Unionist enclave rather than the more Catholic city of Derry; not only raising an impediment to the Catholic youth in the area, but deny the economic benefit the project would create in an area desperately in need of economic stimulus.

Perhaps the most reprehensible discrimination was in supplying the basic human need of housing. Local housing authorities were almost always dominated by Unionists who gave preference to Protestants over Irish Catholic families irrespective of family size or position on the waiting list. This blatant bias reached a climax when the Dungannon Rural District Council allocated a house in Caledon Tyrone to single 19-year-old Emily Beattie, who was the secretary of a local Unionist politician. In fact, all 14 houses in the new council development were allocated to Protestants. A protest led by Austin Currie staged a sit-in at the property until they were forcibly evicted by officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), one of whom was Emily Beattie's brother. This incident is often cited as the foundational moment in the Irish Civil rights campaign.

The crisis in housing leads to the final area of discrimination: self-determination through the vote. Unbelievably, for 1968 and not 1868, the vote in Northern Ireland was tied to being a "rate holder," being a homeowner. If a landlord owned six properties, they would receive six votes, while those who rented or were in public housing were not permitted to vote at

all. This combined with the creative redrawing of election districts, called "Gerrymandering", to enhance the Unionist as oppose to the Irish vote, ensuring that all the other injustices in the North of Ireland would be preserved.

The initial reaction, **and this should never be forgotten**, to these injustices was peaceful marches and protests, which were violently suppressed by loyalist mobs, often with the active assistance of the Constabulary. The escalating violence gave rise to the introduction of the British Army to Northern Ireland, initially welcomed by the Catholic majority as being outside and supposedly impartial peacekeepers. However, perhaps not unexpectedly, those who drank "the loyal toast" to the Queen quickly saw themselves in common cause with Unionists and acted accordingly. When the Army executed "Operation Demetrius," the introduction of arrest without trial, all those arrested were Irish nationalists, the members of loyalist paramilitaries that had started the violence were untouched. When the British Government whitewashed the shooting of civilians on Bloody Sunday, all faith in the resolution of injustice by peaceful means was lost, and would remain lost until the Good Friday Agreement in 1998; 30 year and thousands of lives later.

The Good Friday Agreement's goal was not just a cease-fire but a framework to address the wrongs of the past and secure a lasting peace. The multi-party agreement called for a new Northern Ireland "founded on the principles of full respect for, and equality of, civil, political, social and cultural rights, of freedom from discrimination for all citizens, and of parity of esteem and of just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos, and aspirations of both communities." Specific provisions laid out recognition of the Irish identity through the Irish language, a Bill of Rights, and justice for the survivors of the victims of "the Troubles." Importantly there was to be no change in the constitution of Northern Ireland without the consent of the community of Northern Ireland and a guarantee that a border poll would determine the future of Northern Ireland by the people of the isle of Ireland.

While there is much to celebrate about the Good Friday Agreement for the peace it has brought, twenty-five years on, many of the British government's obligations remain unfulfilled. There is still no Bill of Rights. Justice for the victims of the Troubles has been continually stalled; a proposal by the British government to create an amnesty for crimes committed by their forces could put it out of reach permanently. Parity of esteem for those who seek an identity through the Irish language is still to be found. Britain's pursuit of Brexit in clear defiance of the will of the people of Northern Ireland could jeopardize the open, demilitarized border.

"He who forgets the past is doomed to relive it," but history also shows us the warning signs that, if we heed can avoid the tragedies of the past. Irish America made Good Friday possible by petitioning for a Special Envoy and signaling that the peace of Ireland should be a priority; it is now time that we call for the job started in 1998 to be finished,

*It has been over 650 days since there has been a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland; in that time, the administration has appointed 30 other Special Envoys to other posts while inexplicably arguably the post of the most successful Special Envoy remains unfilled. The Hibernians are currently running a campaign petitioning the President to appoint a Special Envoy immediately. By going to <https://www.congressweb.com/AOH/1> or using the QR code and filling out some basic information, you can send a preformatted mail to the President telling him that peace in Ireland should be a U.S. priority.*

