



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

February 2023

Brother Hibernians _____



Irish American Heritage Month is around the corner ...

We're doing things in somewhat reverse order this month, with the newsletter coming out after our monthly meeting which was held last night (and well attended – thanks to all who came!).

I hope this month's newsletter finds you and your family well. Not only are on about to enter the St. Patrick's Day "parade" season, but it means we are also about to enter Irish American Heritage Month. Please make sure to read the article at the end of the newsletter by Neil Cosgrove about respecting our heritage and making sure to pass that respect and history on to your children. Also, The national AOH will be commemoration the start of Irish American Heritage Month with a video promoting the month along with a profile each weekday of a prominent Irish American and their contribution to our nation on the National's Facebook page and their website at www.aoh.com. Please like and share these videos and posts with your family and friends.

And speaking of sharing our history, we heard last night that we got a good crop of applications for the Division HS scholarship – another opportunity for our young adults to learn about our (and their!) history through that process.

Welcome to our newest members sworn in at the January meeting: Robert Vyskocil of Portchester, Kevin Larkin of Pearl River and James Owens of Nanuet.

Thank you and congratulations to Michael O'Sullivan and team for pulling together a great Rambling House at the beginning of February. About 50 people and numerous musicians braved the coldest night in at least five years for a great night of music and craic. Also, congratulations to Dennis Madigan for another sold out night for Dueling Pianos – these events are becoming the hottest tickets in Pearl River!

As mentioned at our meeting, we've got a number of opportunities to volunteer and get involved in a number of areas. We are looking for new members for our scholarship committee, as some long-standing members step down. We will also be looking for

volunteers for an upcoming fundraising event for Homes for Heroes, and finally, we've got a lot of work ahead of us with our annual golf outing (see the following article).

Good & Welfare –Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Eileen Emsworth – she was a booster and wife of brother Kevin Emsworth; and Barbara Gallagher, wife of brother Frank Gallagher – may they rest in peace. Also, please continue to pray for Craig Basler, recovering from a terrible car accident, Pat Kelly who is now in home hospice care and Dennis Toal, home recovering from double-knee surgery.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



- **Lenten Fridays** – Fish Dinners available every Friday in Lent (see following article).
- **Initial Golf Committee Meeting** – Thursday, March 1st, 7pm, American Legion upstairs meeting room (see following article)
- **Pearl River School of Irish Music fundraising concert** – Sunday, March 12th, 4pm, at the Saloon – A great afternoon of Irish music by the band Sliabh Notes. Full info here: <https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TradMusic-1.jpg>
- **Rockland County St. Patrick's Day parade** – Sunday, March 19th, stepping off from the Pfizer parking lot. Article follows.
- **Rockland GAA Memorial 5k Race** – Saturday, March 25th, 11am at the GAA fields.

Annual Golf Outing



Division 3 sponsors only two major fundraisers a year, and our spring event is our annual golf outing. The outing takes a tremendous amount of effort by a large group of people and that effort will kick off this coming Thursday, with an organizational meeting of the Golf Committee – meeting will be held upstairs at the American Legion (next door to the Hibernian House), at 7pm.

This year's outing is in memory of our brother, Ciaran Green, whom we lost far too young in December. We want to make this a great event, both as a memorial and as a fundraiser. We'd like to thank Tom Lynch for taking over as chair of the committee, as well as Sean Walsh for his years at the helm. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved in a great event and to meet lots of your brothers!

Rockland Parade



We will once again be marching in the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day parade, and we are thrilled to be marching behind numerous Division 3 honorees. This year, Hibernian of the Year is Larry DeGennaro, and our Aide to the NYC Parade Grand Marshal is Dennis Toal. Rockland Parade honorees include Kevin Haugh as our Aide to the Grand Marshal and Dennis Madigan as our Battalion Commander. Please let's make it a point to have a strong contingent, smartly dressed, marching behind Dennis in our battalion. More details to come but please try to carve out the time to represent the AOH on this, "our day".

Fish Fridays for Lent



Throughout Lent, the Ladies' AOH Pearl River Division will be sponsoring a Friday Fish Fry to benefit their charities. Dinners are \$20 and include two pieces of fish and plenty of fries. See the flier for full details:

<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Fish-Fry.png>

On Friday, March 10th, the Fish Fry will specifically benefit the Lourdes Kids of Rockland. There will be music, a 50/50 and more that night. See the flier for more details:

<https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Fish-Fry-2023-1.pdf>

And a quick note on national membership cards – there were some delays in the national AOH cards being mailed out from national to our Financial Secretary, Dan Sullivan. But we do have them now – if you're around, drop by the pub and you can pick it up in person. If not picked up in the next couple of weeks, we'll get the remainder mailed out before St. Patrick's Day! And please keep our national secretary, Ed Halligan, recovering from a stroke (and we understand making great strides in his recovery) in your prayers.

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The Reason for the Season



IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN THOMAS NAST CARICATURED THE IRISH, WE SHOULD NOT DO IT TO OURSELVES. DON'T BE THIS GUY, BE A HIBERNIAN.

We once again look forward to another March, and the celebration of our Irish Heritage centered around the feast of St. Patrick. There is indeed much to celebrate. At the same time, to steal a phrase from another holiday, we should never forget "The Reason for the Season."

While the first St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City is recorded as a church parade by Irish soldiers in the British Army stationed in colonial New York, it soon evolved to have another significance with the influx of Irish Catholic immigrants in the mid-19th century. These immigrants were greeted by open hostility and prejudice, and the St. Patrick's Day parade was a time to show the falsehoods of their propaganda. They claimed that Irish Catholics could not be loyal Americans; well, look at the battalions of veterans marching in the parade. They claimed that the Irish were incorrigible criminals; well, look at the ranks of Irish American police officers. They claimed that the Irish were perpetual paupers, look at how many state and national leaders are marching, not to mention teachers, nurses, firefighters, and people contributing to every aspect of American society.

Very sadly, as a society, we have, in many cases, lost the true meaning of St. Patrick's day, and we should be concerned. We see it trivialized as "St. Patty's Day" [sic] and as Mardi Gras II. We hear that *"Everyone is Irish for the Day,"* but too often that is used as an excuse for drunken revelry, as one T-shirt currently for sale states, *"Let's Get Drunk and Blame it on the Irish."*

As Irish Americans, we need to return to the roots of our holiday and, on a broader level, embrace and promote Irish American Heritage Month, established yearly by Presidential proclamation. Sadly, our own children in school are learning about every other heritage but our own; in a cruel irony, Irish Americans (and, to be fair Italian Americans, Jewish Americans, and others) are now lumped in with the very people who displayed bigotry against them. To cite one example, it is incredibly sad that Kathleen McNulty, born in Donegal and one of the first programmers of the first electronic computer, and

Sister Mary Kenneth Keller, Ph.D., a daughter of Irish immigrants and the first woman and only the second person to earn a Ph.D. in Computer Science, continue to remain "Hidden Figures." "The Woke" are strangely asleep regarding the anti-Irish bigotry of Thomas Nast, Louise May Alcott, Samuel Morse, and others. We should not be calling for the removal of statues, but we certainly shouldn't accept it being hand-waved away because the targets of their bigotry were Irish.

Heritage is not a gift you receive; it is a gift you give to the next generation. Are ancestors passed our Irish pride and heritage onto us, often at considerable risk and sacrifice; how sad if we do not do the same. -Edmund Burke noted, *"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."* We have seen that proved in our own lifetime as other ethnic groups, which once had big parades, celebrations, and organizations, have faded away and disappeared; we need to learn from their example. Show your pride in marching in this year's parade, and more importantly, take some time to tell the stories of your parents and grandparents to your children and grandchildren. Remember, if you don't, their story and the story of the Irish in America do not go on.