



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

September 2023

Brother Hibernians _____



As mentioned in my email last week, summer flew by and activities and events are being scheduled fast and furious.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House on **Friday, September 22nd at 8:00pm**. Aside from typical business, we will have nominations for Hibernian House offices that are up for election (Vice President and Secretary).

Welcome to our newest members who were sworn in at our June meeting:

Eddie Coyle (Pearl River)

Chris Huber (Pearl River)

Robert Foley (Pearl River)

Chris Huber, Jr. (Pearl River)

Pat Frawley (Tappan)

Steve Martin (Blauvelt)

Kevin Hardy (Pearl River)

Sean Reid (Pearl River)

Thomas Hennessy (Pearl River)

The Hibernian House Comedy Night on Friday was another great success – congratulations to Dennis Madigan and the team for a great night and for the extra funds that went to the Christmas Family Fund. There are a lot more events coming up – see **Upcoming Events**.

Our big autumn fundraiser, our Pot Of Gold raffle, kicks off now. It's important as an organization that we support this effort. See the article to follow.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the soul of our brother Patrick Moore whom we lost over the summer – may he rest in peace.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



- **Bowling Night** – Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30pm; \$30 includes two games of bowling (with shoe rental), bus ride to/from the bowling alley and some beverages. The first trip in July was a blast – plan to join us! Sign up at the pub or call Dennis Madigan at 914-714-8287 with any questions.
- **Rambling House** – Friday, October 20th: Join us upstairs at the Hall for a night of Irish music, story and craic. Lots of great local musical talent. Being held in conjunction with the Fall AOH State meeting the next day; more information to come.
- **AOH Fall State Meeting** – Saturday, October 21st, 10am – being held at our own Hibernian House hall.
- **Halloween Howl** – Saturday, October 28th, 8pm to midnight – Live music by The Rummies; prizes for best costumes. \$10 per person (any extra proceeds plus a 50/50 to benefit our Christmas Family Fund). Any questions, contact John Edwards at 914-419-2252.

Meals on Wheels



As an Irish American organization, given our history (re: The Great Hunger), our charitable efforts have a special focus on hunger, food insecurity and food accessibility. A big 'thank you' to the members of our Meals on Wheels team who took over the Thursday Pearl River route in August. Our team makes sure that roughly a dozen different households have a day's meals. It is a few hours every Thursday, and an essential service for the people who depend on Meals on Wheels. Thanks to our full team for volunteering their time:

Tim Diviny

Kathleen Gannon

Kevin Haugh

Jimmy Johnson

Pat Johnson

Dennis Madigan (team captain)

Christine Madigan

Brian Murphy

Patricia Norton

Patrick Reynolds

Carole Slattery

Dan Sullivan

Quinton Van Wynen

Scott Wheatley

If you are interested in getting involved – obligation is a couple of hours roughly once a month (or less) on a weekday morning, please let us know at praoh3@gmail.com.

Pot of Gold



Our big fall fundraiser (and one of our best social events of yearend) has kicked off once again. Thanks to our Chairman, Bill Lee, for once again guiding the ship!

Tickets are \$100 dollars and not only give you the chance to win a variety of cash prizes including the grand prize of \$10,000, but the ticket affords you and a guest to two Sunday afternoon parties at the end of the year.

As noted, this is one of two major fundraisers we have each year, so we need our members to support it – not only by making sure to buy your own ticket but, more importantly, by helping sell tickets to our friends and the community. Our charitable giving does a lot of good work throughout the year, but we need the money to do it, so our fundraisers have to be successful.

This isn't a job Bill can do by himself, and we continue to need to get newer members involved in efforts like this. If you would like to get more involved in supporting this effort and join the committee, please contact Bill Lee at mr.williamlee@gmail.com.

Hibernian House



It was a good summer and we have seen a decent increase of visitors as well as more hall rentals, but we need to continue to patronize the pub. We are planning a number of Sunday events to take advantage of the upstairs layout for some key college and NFL game days.

As a reminder, we are having elections at the September meeting for Vice President and Secretary, and as always, we're looking for suggestions on how to improve things, so make sure to show up and contribute.

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Ireland's Brehon Law: An Ancient Legal System Ahead of Its Time



In the annals of legal history, there exists a remarkable but often overlooked legal system that predates many of the world's renowned legal codes. Known as Brehon law, this ancient Irish legal tradition, which has origins in pre-history, offers insights into a remarkably advanced and sophisticated society. Brehon law's unique approach to justice, its recognition of the basic value of life, and its intricate social hierarchy make it a fascinating and enduring legacy that deserves recognition.

While Brehon law dates back to the 7th and 8th centuries in ancient Ireland, its origins stretch into

antiquity, possibly reaching back thousands of years. Unlike many legal systems of the time, which were based on arbitrary rulings and the whims of autocrats, Brehon law was highly organized, codified, and based on accumulated wisdom by educated judges known as Brehons. There existed in Ireland several law schools where the younger Brehons were educated. In a time predating printed books, education was based on committing to memory the history and customs of the community and afterward applying them to imaginary cases suggested by the teachers.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Brehon law was its modern view of individual rights. At a time when many societies did not recognize women, Brehon law is notable for its enlightened treatment of women, particularly in matters of marriage and divorce. Unlike other societies of the time, the rights of women to inherit and own property were acknowledged and accepted. The code recognized the equality of spouses in decisions regarding the disposal of household property. In the event of divorce, both husband and wife divided their property based on their initial contributions of wealth, land, and livestock.

One of the most compelling aspects of Brehon law was its recognition of the inherent worth of every human life and its commitment to restorative justice rather than punitive measures. Central to this concept was the idea of '*body price*,' the *éraic*, a fixed fine, and a second fine, the *Log nEnech*, the '*honor price*' owed to the victim's family. The '*éraic*' fine, the amount of which was meticulously determined by a scale, reflecting the severity of the crime. The *Log nEnech* varied depending on the victim's social status and the closeness of their relationship to the next of kin (in essence, the monetary value of the deceased was assessed according to their social standing and impact on their family), reflecting the unique approach of Brehon law to justice. These notions encapsulated the concept that every life has intrinsic value and harm caused to any individual warranted justice and compensation.

Irish Brehon law had an advanced commitment to justice, unlike many other legal systems of that time. The emphasis was on restoring the victim to their previous state as much as possible, compensating the victim's family, and seeking reconciliation rather than retribution; the primary objective was to mend the harm caused rather than perpetuate a cycle of violence. While Capital Punishment was recognized, it was considered an absolute last resort. The emphasis was on seeking alternative forms of reparation and resolution, reflecting a more humane approach to justice.

With its ancient origins and modern ideals, Brehon law stands as a testament to the remarkable sophistication of ancient Irish society. In an era where the law's responsibility to the victims of crime and the value of each life is sometimes forgotten, Brehon law offers timeless principles that should guide us today.