



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

January 2025

Brother Hibernians



I hope you were all able to enjoy the holiday season – both a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy start to the new year. Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House this **Friday, January 24th at 8:00pm**. Key agenda items include covering off on the many activities on the calendar through St. Patrick's Day as well as installation of officers for 2025. Congratulations to all the Division Officers, all filling an additional term – thank you so much for your time and dedication to your essential roles.

Thanks, and congratulations to Sean Walsh who wrapped up the Pot Of Gold fundraiser with a great grand prize drawing party. The party was well attended and enjoyed by all, and the Pot Of Gold raised a substantial amount to support our many charitable endeavors, including our annual high school scholarships. On that topic, see the article on how to apply – very important if you have a High School Senior in your home!

Many thanks to **all our members (and your friends)** who supported the Christmas Family Fund Drive. This year, we raised \$8,000+ to help 28 families with over 50 children. Well done!

Also, a “well done” to Tommy Moore and team for a successful ski trip to Catamount. See the article on that below.

There's a lot going on at the Hibernian House – see the House Report below and make sure to get in on the monthly raffle drawing in support of House improvements.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Mulcahy, mother of members Billy and Mike Mulcahy, Padraig Gargan, son of member Patrick “Francie” Gargan, and Eleanor Casey, mother of associate member Pat Johnson – may they rest in peace. Also keep Kevin Haugh and Scott Hansen in your prayers for a quick recovery as they battle several health challenges.

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

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



Event	Timing	Details
Halfway to Summer Party	Sat., 1/25, 5-8pm	Rich Meyer – One Man, One Guitar”; a taste of summer in January!
NFL Conference Championships	Sun., 1/26	Pub moving upstairs, food & football!
Bus Trip to Fink’s BBQ *	Sat., 2/17	Finks in Suffern – a great outing
Emerald Ball	Sat., 2/24	Pearl River Hilton
“Passion for Murder” - \$35/person includes show & 1 drink	Fri., 2/14	A great murder mystery theater show at the Hibernian.
Florida “Snow Bird” Social	Thurs, 2/20, 12-3pm	Tim Finnegan’s, Delray Beach, FL
Book Launch, “Lost Gaels”	Sun, 2/23, 2pm	At the Rockland GAA; co-sponsored by AOH and GAA
Live music at the Hibernian	Sat., 3/1	Live Irish music with Fergal Hayes
St. Patrick’s Day Senior Luncheon	Sat., 3/15	As always, need lots of volunteers



The day of the Special Needs Reverse Parade was quite cold, but hearts were warmed by the Christmas spirit of all (and lots of hot chocolate!).

Emerald Ball



On Saturday, February 22nd, 2025 the Rockland AOH will hold our annual Emerald Ball at the Pearl River Hilton. At this event, we honor individuals for their contributions to promoting our organization and for their accomplishments in their personal lives. This year's honorees are:

- **Hibernian of the Year:** Chuck Parnow
- **Businesspersons of the Year:** Bernie (Foley) Fitzgerald, Tara (Tonner) McDonald & Tina (Segatta) Murphy, The Gracie Rose, Pearl River, NY
- **Parade Commander:** Patrick Casey, Orangetown Police Dept.
- **Rockland County Grand Marshal:** John W. McGowan
- **Aide To the Grand Marshal, NYC:** John B. Kelly, Jr.

As you can see, this year's honorees **are stacked with Division 3 members**, and we need to make a good showing of support. So, attend the Emerald Ball if you can – it's a great night out that starts with a tremendous cocktail hour, includes a great band for dancing, and a dinner and open bar. If you can't make the Ball, please show your support by taking out a Journal Ad. All information on the Emerald Ball and the Journal can be found at: <https://www.rocklandcountyaoh.com/2025-emerald-ball/>

Hope to see you there!



For the Wren Night, we had a packed House and there was plenty of music, skits, dancing and holiday craic!

AOH Scholarships



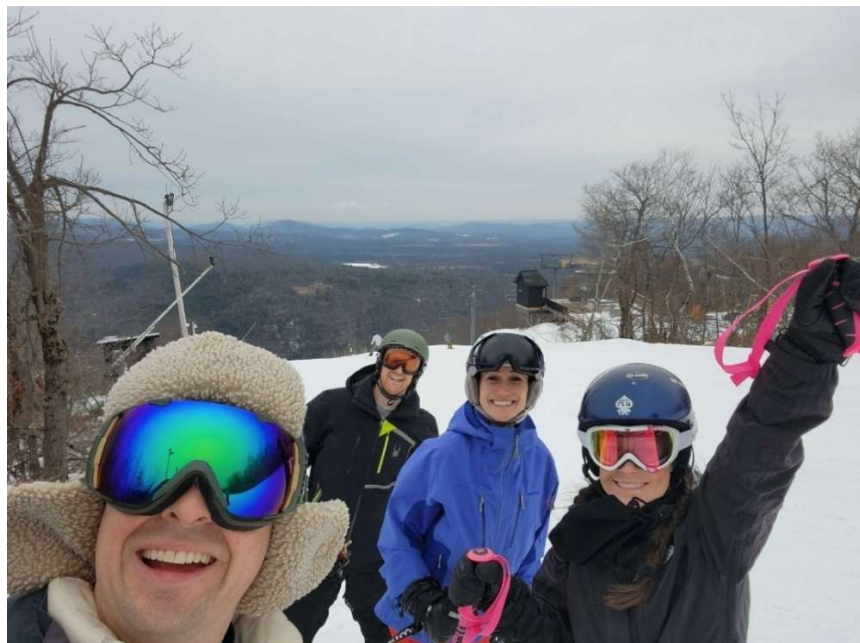
The state scholarship competition is now open for High School Seniors, and applications are due by February 28th. See recently sent emails or for details email Dermot Moore at dermotmoore@gmail.com or call him at (646) 302-5111. Applications for the Division scholarship process use the same application with the same deadline. For the Division scholarship, children of Division members (who have been members for three years) are eligible. 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>

Ski Trip



Division 3 Ski Trip – We were out on the mountain as a group last Saturday for the first time since 2020. It was a great day for the 35 people who attended, and we had a great time at our new venue, the Catamount Ski Resort (sits right on the NY/Mass border). Again, a big thanks to Tommy Moore for all the organizing and his many helpers who made it a great day out – see some of the pictures, and if you ski, join us next year!



We may not have gotten a lot of snow prior to the trip, but Catamount had great snow-making coverage and beautiful vistas.



A late afternoon rain shower made sure everyone retreated to the lodge where we enjoyed a great band (when we weren't turning our back on them for a group shot!).

Hibernian House



As mentioned in Chuck's letter, we've had a number of events over the last month, including the last two weekends when the pub "moved upstairs" for both Saturday and Sunday to take advantage of the great space and the TVs. There's a lot on the agenda for the next couple of months, so keep an eye out for fliers at the pub and updates in email and on Facebook.

Also, keep in mind that it's time to re-up for the monthly raffle in support of House improvements. The money collected via last year's raffles helped us replace the refrigerator in the kitchen, and we're in the process of refurbishing the Hibernian House sign that hangs outside the building. Your contributions at work!

Pot of Gold



The Pot of Gold was a huge success for us as a fundraiser. And congratulations to the various winners! A big thanks to Sean Walsh for organizing and driving the raffle sales and to the many people who pitched in on the two parties, including the organizers, the cooks and those who helped throughout the day. Funds raised will help us to continue all the good work we do, for our culture and our community.

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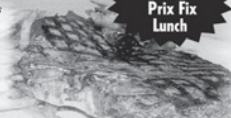


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The Great Hunger: The Indelible Evidence of Cruelty and Exploitation



THE GREAT HUNGER MEMORIAL IN DUBLIN

The Great Hunger (1845–1852) is not just a story of suffering; it is a cautionary tale of man's cruelty, prejudice, and exploitation of his fellow man. Inexplicably, modern revisionists seem intent on whitewashing this horrific chapter of history, framing the suffering and the death of one million people to starvation and the forced emigration of another million as a tragic but unavoidable environmental disaster. A more recent defense runs along the lines of "Yes, Ireland lost a quarter of its population, but this was due to incompetence, not hatred," as if political

leaders had no responsibility for the people on whom they inflict their governance.

Through all this, these revisionists ignore a glaring and inconvenient truth, the actual contemporary words of those who framed Britain's response to the crisis in Ireland expressing their motivations and goals —statements that irrefutably show the calculated indifference and exploitation that used an ecological disaster as a tool of policy, turning "the famine" into "The Great Hunger":

"A want of food and employment is a calamity sent by providence; except through a purgatory of misery and starvation, I cannot see how Ireland is to emerge into a state of anything approaching quiet and prosperity." - Charles Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer August 1846

"I have always felt a certain horror of political economists since I heard one of them say he feared the famine of 1848 in Ireland would not kill more than a million people, and that would scarcely be enough to do any good." - Benjamin Jowett, referring to Nassau Senior, economic adviser, 1848

Charles Trevelyan, assistant secretary to the British Treasury and the key architect of famine policy, epitomized the British government's callousness. He described the famine as "*a direct stroke of an all-wise and all-merciful Providence,*" one which laid bare "*the deep and inveterate root of social evil...*" the famine was "*the sharp but effectual remedy by which the cure is likely to be effected... God grant that the generation to which this great opportunity has been offered may rightly perform its*

part, and we may not relax our efforts until Ireland fully participates in the social health and physical prosperity of Great Britain."

"They are going! They are going! The Irish are going with a vengeance. Soon a Celt will be as rare in Ireland as a Red Indian on the shores of Manhattan." – London Times Editorial.

"...we feel it will be gratifying to your Excellency to find that although the population has been diminished in so remarkable a manner by famine, disease, and emigration between 1841 and 1851, and has been since decreasing, the results of the Irish census of 1851 are, on the whole, satisfactory, demonstrating as they do the general advancement of the country." - The Census of Ireland for the Year 1851.

These quotes are irrefutable proof of British motivations and exploitation during the Great Hunger. Unlike revisionist narratives, which attempt to soften or reframe history, these words cannot be massaged or dismissed. They reveal the famine as not merely a failure of governance but the cynical act of colonial oppression it was.

However, amidst the cold calculus of famine as a tool of government policy, one cautionary and prophetic note was raised:

"If this [exodus] goes on, as it is likely to go on...the United States will become very Irish...So an Ireland there will still be, but on a colossal scale, and in a new world. We must gird our loins to encounter the Nemesis of seven centuries' misgovernment. To the end of time a hundred million spread over the largest habitable area in the world, and, confronting us everywhere by sea and land, will remember that their forefathers paid tithe to the Protestant clergy, rent to absentee landlords, and a forced obedience to the laws which these had made." - The London Times.

As Hibernians, we are part of that "an Ireland there will still be, but on a colossal scale, and in a new world;" it is our duty to remember and, where necessary, to confront in the name of justice. The suffering voices of our ancestors echoed through the damning words of their oppressors, compel us to remember, educate, and act. We should be offended that the politically correct or politically motivated seek to excuse the death of over a million people in Ireland, something they would never contemplate doing to any other mass killing of any other people. Let us fulfill our obligation to them and to future generations by ensuring that the Great Hunger remains a testament to resilience, justice, and truth.