



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

*February 2025*

**Brother Hibernians**



We finally got a small hint of Spring the last few days – hopefully, you were able to get out and enjoy it. Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House this **Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm**. Key agenda items include reviewing actions needed for the many activities on the calendar through St. Patrick's Day.

Congratulations to all those responsible for the Emerald Ball for a great night. A special shout out to Ball Chairperson Mary Mulcahy and Journal Chairperson Joan Moore for doing a fabulous job in creating a great night and driving the key fundraising for the Rockland County St. Patrick's Parade. Also, congratulations once again to all the honorees, especially the impressive list of Division 3 members who were recognized. See photos later in the newsletter.

We had a number of great events at the Hibernian House – congrats to Dennis Madigan and the team for continuing to put together great events and bringing in the crowds. More on that in the Hibernian House roundup.

On the national AOH front, you should have seen an email asking for you to spend a couple of minutes to send an email to your representatives to support a Northern Ireland Envoy. This is a critical focal point for the AOH, as it's an important element of making sure Britain is sticking to the Good Friday agreement. Please take the time – this is one of those cases where numbers count! Also, thanks to everyone who attended the book launch of "The Lost Gaels" at the GAA Field this past Sunday.

**Good & Welfare** – Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Sorohan, father of member Sean Sorohan – may he rest in peace. Also keep Kevin Haugh, John Kelly and Scott Hansen in your prayers for a quick recovery as they battle different health challenges. Also, please say a special prayer for Pope Francis who is battling his own very tough health issues.

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
Irish Heritage Night	Tues., 3/4 – 7pm	Ramapo Town Hall, featuring Irish dance, music, NYPD Pipe Band
St. Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon	Sat., 3/15	As always, need lots of volunteers
NYC St. Patrick's Parade	Mon., 3/17	If interested in marching, let us know at <a href="mailto:praoh3@gmail.com">praoh3@gmail.com</a>
Rockland County St. Patrick's Parade	Sun., 3/23	Steps off at 1:30pm – see article for details

## AOH Scholarships



**LAST AND FINAL CALL!** The state scholarship application process, open to High School Seniors, closes on February 28th. See recently sent emails or for details email Dermot Moore at [dermotmoore@gmail.com](mailto: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> . Again, if you have challenges or questions, reach out to Dermot immediately as your window is closing! Good luck!

## Senior Luncheon



**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hall:** We're once again hosting the senior citizens of our community for a St. Patrick's Day luncheon, complete with corned beef, cabbage and plenty of Irish music and dance. **We really need** a couple of brothers to step up to man the kitchen, helping with food prep. In addition, it is an opportunity for any youth who has community service hours to help out. Kitchen work starts around 9am, and we'd need youth help from 10am to about 2:30pm for final cleanup. Luncheon officially runs from Noon to 2pm. If you can help, please contact Larry DeGennaro at [ldegenn931@aol.com](mailto:ldegenn931@aol.com).

## Rockland Parade



The Rockland County St. Patrick's Parade will once again be held in Pearl River on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, stepping off at 1:30pm. Not only is this the day for Irish and Irish Americans in Rockland County to celebrate their heritage, but it is held in our own backyard. As the largest AOH Division in the country, we should be a huge presence in the parade.

If you joined the Division in the last year or two, you should make every effort to march with your brothers. If you are in town that day and able to cover the less than 1-1/2 mile walk, you should march with your brothers. We know that a number of members already have huge commitments to the parade itself – whether running it or running the Hibernian House at the end of the parade – but even if you have your own house party to focus on after the parade, you should still be able to take 2 hours out and help us proclaim our pride in our heritage. We meet in the appointed spot every year at the Pfizer parking lot, and we'll share more details in the run up to the parade.

***Hope to see you there!***

## Golf Outing



Preparations are already under way for the 2025 Pearl River AOH Golf Outing. This year, the outing will be a memorial to all those members we've lost in the last five years (2020-2024). The date is booked at Blue Hill Golf Course – **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**! Early planning is already under way, and we'll be having organizational meetings starting shortly. We have had a number of new members and new committee members join us to help make this day a huge success. Keep in mind, we only have two main fundraisers each year (the golf outing and the Pot of Gold), so if you can help, please join us. If you have any questions, let us know at [praoh3@gmail.com](mailto:praoh3@gmail.com)



As mentioned in Chuck's letter, there were a number of fun events in the last month. The Conference Championship weekend saw a great turnout upstairs, and we are discovering the cooking talents of a number of our members – nice job, Tom Murray! The Half-way to Summer event drew a great crowd – the music and beach vibe was great (even if there wasn't sand). One learning – next year, we're going to hire a lifeguard for the kiddie pool. 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, at the January meeting, we awarded \$1,400 in cold hard cash (1<sup>st</sup>: \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$250; 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$150). This monthly drawing raises funds so that we can continue to upgrade various elements of the House and Pub, so please consider supporting it. Cost is \$10/month paid up front. So, \$100 will buy you entry to all 10 drawings from March through December.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Boera at 845-596-9047 ([wboera@gmail.com](mailto:wboera@gmail.com)) OR Michael Mulcahy at 845-548-6013 ([mookie2sba@aol.com](mailto:mookie2sba@aol.com)).

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Since 1991, presidents of both parties have proclaimed Irish American Heritage Month, recognizing the profound impact of Irish immigrants and calling on all Americans to celebrate their achievements.

Yet, how often does this recognition translate into national consciousness?

Despite greater success, Irish-born Commodore John Barry was overshadowed by John Paul Jones, whose Scottish heritage was more palatable to early historians. How many realize the Irish, driven by starvation and British neglect, built America's canals, railroads, and cities? Or that tens of thousands fought in the Civil War, only to be met with 'No Irish Need Apply' signs and the poisoned pen of Thomas Nast, who claimed they could never be 'loyal Americans,' an accusation JFK still faced a century later?"

The story of the Irish in America is not just an Irish story—it is an American story. It is the quintessential immigrant narrative, setting the template for later waves of immigrants. It speaks to themes still relevant today: the struggle against oppression and the quest for freedom, the power of perseverance, and the ongoing fight for fair recognition. The Irish arrived in America starving, desperate, and unwelcome. They fought valiantly in its wars, yet for years were told they were not truly American. Their faith and culture were used as reasons for scorn. Still, they endured. Cut off from Ireland by an ocean and excluded from mainstream America by prejudice, Irish immigrants forged a new identity, one that made their children and grandchildren successful in every field of endeavor. They took the hyphen designed to keep "Irish" at a safe distance from "American" and made it into a badge of pride. Like the tracks they laid that spanned a continent, the contributions of Irish Americans extend beyond their communities to people of all heritages,

However, that pride and identity are fading, making recognition of Irish American Heritage Month more crucial than ever.

Sadly, what was once exclusion due to prejudice now faces a new kind of erasure—one ironically cloaked in the language of inclusion. In today's conversations about history and identity, some narratives receive greater recognition while others are overlooked. Irish

Americans, who once faced systemic oppression and violence, are now categorized with the very nativists who once sought to exclude them. Their history of struggle, sacrifice, and perseverance should be understood, not dismissed or rewritten to fit a modern ideological framework. Unfortunately, while Irish American achievements are erased from history, the negative stereotypes and tropes of the 19th century persist, dismissed as 'harmless humor.' Yet, if these same stereotypes were applied to other heritages, they would be met with indignation and rightfully condemned.

As the history of Irish Americans is erased and corrosive stereotypes persist, the traditional ways of preserving heritage are also fading. For generations, Irish Americans passed down their history and values through family gatherings, church communities, and organizations like the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The lessons not found in textbooks were told at kitchen tables, in the laughter of family gatherings, and in the quiet reminiscences of grandparents who had seen hardship and exemplified faith and determination. The music, history, and traditions of the Irish have always been written in hearts and minds rather than on scrolls or pages, beyond the reach of conquerors and oppressors.

But today, these traditional means of preserving heritage are under threat. Due to inequitable immigration laws, America's personal connections to Ireland are not being revitalized. The conversations around the kitchen table have fallen prey to the hectic pace of modern life. Beloved Irish American institutions that served as incubators of heritage for generations are closing due to shifting demographics and economic challenges.

The Irish statesman Edmund Burke warned, *'People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors.'* If we fail to act, Irish American identity will fade—not by coercion, but by apathy. Irish American Heritage Month must be more than a presidential proclamation; it should be a national moment of reflection and education.

This year, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is ensuring that the legacy of Irish Americans is not forgotten. They have created a video showcasing the contributions of Irish Americans from the past to the present, highlighting the struggles, sacrifices, and achievements that helped shape the United States. The video may be found at <https://youtu.be/dgabjL3E7Vs>. Throughout March, the AOH will also feature daily biographies of prominent Irish American men and women, shedding light on their invaluable contributions to history, politics, labor movements, science, and culture. These biographies may be found at [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) and on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

Heritage is not just a gift we receive but a gift we give. Heritage is not just something we inherit; it is something we must actively protect, celebrate, and pass on. Heritage is more than the results of a DNA test.

Honor those who came before us—not just in words, but in deeds. Teach the history that schools neglect. Above all, ensure the next generation knows who they are not just in name, but in soul.