



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

April 2026

Brother Hibernians _____



Like April weather, April is very much a transition month at the AOH, too, as we move out of the St. Patrick's season and ramp up to the many May activities, allowing us a bit of a breather. We look forward to seeing you **Friday, April 24th at 8pm** at our monthly meeting as we discuss all of those upcoming events, including our Communion Breakfast, distribution of scholarships and our annual Golf Outing, and our "New Member" event.

A big 'thank you' to all our members who donated and/or showed up to support the benefit for Kevin Haugh last Saturday. It was a great day and seemed like a big success, and Kevin and his family were hugely appreciative.

Also, a very big congratulations to our Meals on Wheels team, led by Dennis Madigan. The concerted effort to expand and continue our coverage of Pearl River routes was recognized by the AOH National Board's Hibernian Hunger Awards with a \$500 grant which will be used to support local efforts to fight hunger. Well done!

Please make sure that you've got our Hibernian Mass on May 3rd at St. Margaret's Church (9am Mass) on your calendar, as well as the Communion Breakfast that follows at the Hibernian House.

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the soul of associate member Donnie Lyver – may he rest in peace. Please also pray for Rich Reidy and continue to keep John Crilley, Kevin Haugh, and Ann Walsh (mother of Sean and grandmother of Tyler, Dylan and Liam) in your prayers, as all are dealing with 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
AOH NYS Board Spring Meeting	Sat., 5/2; 10am	at the Shamrock House in East Durham, NY
Hibernian Mass & Communion Breakfast	Sun., 5/3; Mass at 9am, breakfast follows	Mass at St. Margaret's and breakfast back at the Hibernian
PR AOH Annual Memorial Golf Outing	Fri., 5/8	Bluehill Golf Course – see fliers
New Member Night	Fri., 5/15	More details to come
Pearl River Memorial Day Parade	Mon., 5/25	Parade steps off at 10am
Boozy Bingo Night	Sat. night, 5/30	At the Hibernian House

Annual Golf Outing



We're making great progress on the Golf Outing. Golf Committee meetings are occurring weekly until the event on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 at the pub. Note, too, that sign-up for foursomes is filling up, so please get your foursomes planned and make sure to get your name(s) on the list (and get your money in too – it will really help us stay organized!).

Again, this year's outing is in memory of Phil Lane whom we lost in 2024.

It takes a lot of work to pull off such an all-day event – we need volunteers to:

- Supply or collect donations to be included in the tricky tray raffles to be held after golf. Also, there's still time for your business to consider corporate sponsorship if you've got the connection.
- Help with setup the day before, and
- Support the many tasks the day of the event – from working the registration table at the beginning to helping with the raffles and making sure everything runs smoothly in the after-golf cocktail hour and dinner.

Involvement doesn't have to mean dedication of a full day – lots of people providing 2-3 hours will get us where we need to be – and it's a great way to meet other division members. If you want to volunteer, please reach out to committee chairman Scott MacMaster at scottmac31@gmail.com. And as always, you can always reach out to us at praoh3@gmail.com.

Hibernian Mass



On Sunday, May 3rd, we'll have our annual Hibernian Mass and Communion Breakfast. The Mass will be held at St. Margaret Church at the regular 9am Mass, and the Communion Breakfast will be held in the upstairs hall at the Hibernian House immediately thereafter where our 10 scholarships will be awarded.

As an Irish Catholic organization, this is an important event on our annual calendar, and we ask all members to attend both events if you can. We should be very well represented at the Mass, as our Chaplain, Father Raaser, is usually the celebrant. The breakfast is only \$10 per individual (\$20 for families). In order to get a headcount estimate, let us know if you're coming at praoh3@gmail.com. Thanks to John Edwards for organizing the event for us again.

New Member Night



On Friday, May 15th, we're having a party focused on our newer members – those who have joined AOH Division 3 since 2024. We view this as an opportunity to have a fun night getting to know our newer members (and their spouse or significant other). We also plan on sharing a much better understanding of what the AOH does – our priorities, how we're organized, and an overview of our events calendar – all key insights into what we focus on that we can't deliver in a new Brother's initial Division meeting. All Division and House Officers, as well as Committee Chairs, will be there to talk about our various activities and answer questions. It will be a fun night – we plan on having Irish music by Fergal Hayes, finger food, and of course, drinks.

An invite was sent out to all new members' emails that we have on file. Please try to make it to this event, and please make sure to RSVP – there's nothing worse than throwing a party and having no one show up!

Hibernian House



We're currently serving up NHL and NBA playoffs, and the summer sports season is right around the corner. Also, we're looking forward to the festive weekends when we see various golf and softball crews visit.

We're planning a "Boozy Bingo Night" on Saturday, May 30th – more to come on that, so look for the fliers. We are looking at a variety of upcoming events for the spring / summer season.

On the House improvement front, we're looking forward to moving onto the next phase of the House renovations, including the replacement of the windows in the upstairs Hall. More to come on that as progress is made.

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The Ghost Ship of 1916: The Audacious Mission of the *SS Aud*



When we think of the 1916 Easter Rising, we see it as a Dublin phenomenon: we speak of the heroism at the GPO, the sharp crack of rifles in St. Stephen's Green, and the ultimate sacrifice of the signatories. But there is a chapter of the 1916 Rising that played out far beyond the cobblestones of Dublin on the violent swells of the North Atlantic; a little-known story that directly shaped the course of the Rising. This is the story of the **SS Aud**.

Ironically, for a ship planned to play a key role in the Irish fight for freedom, the ship we

remember as the *Aud* was born as the *SS Castro*, a British merchant vessel built in Hull in 1907. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, she was captured by the Imperial German Navy in the Kiel Canal and renamed *SMS Libau*.

When Roger Casement and the IRB Military Council finally succeeded in securing German military aid, the plan was for the *Libau*, refitted and disguised as a neutral Norwegian freighter, *SS Aud*, to slip through the British blockade that was currently strangling German ocean access.

Under the command of 28-year-old Captain Karl Spindler and crewed by 22 German naval volunteers dressed as Norwegian civilians, she departed Lübeck on April 9, 1916, on one of the most daring covert operations of the war. Below her decks lay the material for a nationwide insurrection: 20,000 rifles, 1 million rounds of ammunition, 10 machine guns, and explosives.

An oft-quoted myth is that the weapons supplied by the Germans were obsolete, perhaps sparked by Casement's belief that Germany was supporting Ireland on the cheapest possible terms. They were not standard German weapons, but captured Russian Mosin-Nagant Model 1891 rifles, taken after the German victory over the Russians at the Battle of Tannenberg. While they were indeed useless to the Germans (they were of a different caliber than German-supplied ammunition), they were modern rifles known for being easy to use by inexperienced troops and highly effective. They would have dramatically changed the scale of the Rising beyond Dublin.

Captain Spindler's route was a masterclass in evasion. To avoid the British 10th Cruiser Squadron, tasked with enforcing the blockade, he steered far north along the Norwegian coast, crossed the Arctic Circle, and then turned south toward Ireland.

The voyage was punishing. Off Rockall, the ship was battered by violent storms, with waves threatening to tear her apart. Yet despite weather and patrols, the *Aud* reached the southwest coast of Ireland undetected on Holy Thursday, April 20, 1916.

However, from the outset, the mission depended on precision. In its guise as a civilian Norwegian freighter, the *Aud* carried no radio, relying entirely on prearranged signals, timing, and coordination with the Volunteers ashore.

The original plan called for a landing between April 20 and April 23 at a rendezvous point off Inishtooskert Island in Tralee Bay. A pilot boat displaying two green lights would guide the ship in.

But the plan unraveled. Fearing premature discovery, the Military Council attempted to delay the landing through messages routed via the United States. Those changes never reached Spindler.

The *Aud* arrived exactly on schedule—and found nothing.

As the *Aud* waited offshore, events on land collapsed into tragedy. Volunteers dispatched to secure wireless equipment necessary for signaling the ship met disaster at Ballykissane Pier, when their car plunged into the River Laune, drowning Donal Sheehan, Con Keating, and Charlie Monaghan; the first fatalities of the 1916 Rising. The loss was not only tragic but also ensured there would be no contact with the *Aud* and extinguished any chance of salvaging a mission that already depended on fragile, prearranged coordination.

After nearly a day without contact, Spindler knew the mission had failed. On April 21, the ship was intercepted by HMS *Bluebell*. Despite his best attempts at bluff, the British commander saw through the deception; British intelligence had already been alerted by intercepted communications and had communicated a warning to patrol boats.

Escorted toward Queenstown (Cobh), Spindler made his final decision. Near Daunt Rock at the entrance to Cork Harbor on April 22, the crew donned their previously hidden German naval uniforms, raised the German Imperial flag, and scuttled the ship.

Explosive charges were detonated. Within minutes, the *Aud* slipped beneath the waves, taking with her the arms that might have changed the Rising.

The Rising had been hopelessly compromised; with Casement, who had been separately arrested on his return to Ireland, and the *Aud* captured, there was no option but to proceed. MacNeill's countermanding order was unrealistic and only deepened confusion at the moment clarity was most needed.

When the Rising began on Easter Monday, it did so largely confined to Dublin, lacking the arms and coordination its planners had envisioned for a broader rising. It turned its objectives from military to political.

Today, the *Aud* rests at roughly 30 meters (100 feet) of depth outside Cork Harbor. In 2012, her anchors were recovered; one now stands in Cobh, the other in Fenit.

The *Aud* was not a failure of courage, but of coordination. She navigated the storms of the North Atlantic and the British blockade, only to founder in the fog of war.