



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

September 2026

Brother Hibernians,



As laid out in my email earlier this week, our Fall calendar filled up fast. We hope those of you involved in the school year are able to ease into getting back on schedule.

Our next division meeting will be at the Hibernian House on **Friday, September 18th** at 8:00pm. We have a number of key agenda items to cover including: (1) nominations for Hibernian House offices that are up for election (President and Treasurer) and (2) taking any nominations for Grand Marshal and Aide to the NYC Parade Grand Marshal.

We'll also continue to present opportunities for volunteers to step up into various roles. We have a variety of events and fundraisers coming up, and we're always looking for new ideas and for people to run them!

Congratulations to our own Pat Reynolds for being recognized by the Irish Echo in their 2026 Labor Awards – see the article on Pat here:

<https://www.irishecho.com/events/2026-irish-echo-labor-awards/awardees/patrick-reynolds-president-twu-local-1400-twu-international-executive-committee-and-board-member> (Pat - thanks for including your AOH ties in your bio!)

There's an extended list of upcoming events – make sure to read through them all. We also cover a variety of topics via articles. Please read through, as there are opportunities to volunteer for charitable activities (see: Meals on Wheels), meet your AOH obligations (see: Major Degree), and help our fundraising endeavors (see: Pot of Gold).

Good & Welfare – Please pray for the repose of the souls of our brothers Larry Connell and John Tully, for longtime member Larry Cronin, for Annmarie O'Sullivan, sister of Neil O'Sullivan and for Eileen Duffy, mother of Nancy McKiernan – may they rest in peace. Also continue to keep John Crilley and John B. Kelly in your prayers as they battle health challenges.

We hope you're enjoying your summer and that you and your family are healthy.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Chuck Parnow

Upcoming Events



Event	Time / Location	Details
NYS AOH 9/11 Remembrance	Sat., 9/19 11am at St. Peter's	https://www.nyaoh.com/calendar/observation-of-the-25th-anniversary-of-september-11-2001
Friendly Sons Halfway to St. Pat's	Sun., 9/20, 4-7pm	At Rockland GAA. Friendly Sons Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party, open to all . Food, open bar, live music and giveaways! For those interested, they'll be available to discuss joining.
Half-way to St. Pat's Party	Sat., 9/26, 5-8pm	At Hibernian House. Music by Roddy Harrington from 5-8pm followed by a sing-song. The event also benefits the Ciaran Green Foundation with a 50-50 drawing (\$20 tickets). Tickets now available.
LAOH Jukebox Bingo	Fri., 10/16	At Hibernian House. Doors open at 7pm; 50/50, prizes!
Walk to End Alzheimer's	Sun., 10/18 th at 10am at Boulder's Stadium	Larry DeGenarro and family have walked as "Team False Echoes" for 20+years. If you're interested in fundraising or contributing, see the flier for details: https://praoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FalseEchoesWalk2025.pdf
AOH Major Degree	Sat., 10/24 at 11am in lower Manhattan	Presented by NY County AOH; at Archbishop Hughes Center, 32 Prince St. Registration at 11am, ceremony starts at noon; see the NYS AOH calendar for details: https://www.nyaoh.com/calendar
NYS AOH Board Meeting & Testimonial Dinner	Sat., 11/14	At Eisenhower Hall at West Point. The day's events include the Fall state board meeting, as well as a joint President's testimonial dinner for both the AOH & LAOH NYS Presidents. Talk to Chuck or Dermot if interested in attending.
Thanksgiving Seniors' Luncheon	Sat., 11/21, 12-2pm	Get it on your calendar! Need volunteers starting at 9am – more to come.

Stay connected! At our website: www.praoh.org and on Facebook: PearlRiverAOH.

Pot Of Gold



Once again, we're happy to announce that our big fall fundraiser is kicking off once again. Tickets are \$100 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 entry to two Sunday afternoon parties at the end of the year.

Due to the large attendance of the parties, we have to scale back to ensure a safe number of guests. So, your ticket will grant entry to *just* the ticketholder, and we're limiting guests to age 21 or older. First drawing cocktail party will be Sunday, November 22nd from 4-6pm and the Second (big) drawing party is Sunday, December 20th.

Once again, the Pot of Gold committee will be led by Sean Walsh. A huge thank you to him and the members of the committee who put in a tremendous amount of effort to sell tickets and plan the parties to create such a successful fundraiser.

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.

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 or you need a ticket, please contact Sean Walsh at aohpotofgold@gmail.com. As always, tickets are available at the pub.

Hibernian Hunger



Congratulations to our Meals on Wheels team who are entering their fourth year of coverage! ***If you're looking for an easy local volunteer opportunity*** – we've always got room for additional delivery drivers and could use the help of one or two new team members. All it requires is roughly an hour once a month, a driver's license and a smile! Please get in touch with Dennis Madigan if interested at (914) 714-8287.

Also, in conjunction with our focus on *Fighting Hunger*, we're collecting food regularly in support of St. Aedan's Food Pantry. You're encouraged to drop food goods to a box at the bar.

Hibernian House



We are looking forward to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday, September 26th – we hope to see everyone there! We're gearing up for the Fall and the football season, and we're looking to schedule a number of events in the upstairs Hall. Stay tuned for more!

As mentioned in an email, we're scaling back our collection of Irish cultural and history books upstairs. There are some books left upstairs – take a look to see if you'd like to take any before we clear them out after the meeting Friday. Hope to see you at the pub soon!

Major Degree



When we all took our oath upon joining the Ancient Order of Hibernians, our entry was conditional that we “receive the lessons and take the test of the Order”, also known as taking the Major Degree. There is a great opportunity for those who still need to get their Major Degree to do so, as the New York County Division of the AOH is hosting a Major Degree ceremony on Saturday, October 24th. Registration begins at 11am and the ceremony lasts from noon through 3pm.

The cost for candidates is \$60; however, our Division will pick up that cost. In addition, we'd like to bring enough candidates that we can coordinate carpooling (or even a small party bus). Conducting a Ceremony is a big undertaking for a Division, and we thank the NY County AOH for the invite – let's take advantage! If you'd like to go or want to know more, please talk to any of our Officers – Chuck Parnow, Sean Walsh, Neil Cosgrove, etc.

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1169: The Invasion That Changed Ireland



On 1 May 1169, three foreign ships cut through the gray surf off the coast of County Wexford and beached their keels on the gravel spit of Bannow Island. Out from the hulls stepped roughly thirty Norman knights encased in chainmail, accompanied by sixty mounted men-at-arms and three hundred archers and foot soldiers from the Welsh marches, led by Robert FitzStephen.

For generations, the conquest that followed was justified by portraying medieval Ireland as a backward land in need of outside order. Yet that version of history is a self-serving English myth.

Gaelic Ireland possessed its own sophisticated legal tradition in the Brehon laws, renowned centers of learning, a deeply rooted Christian tradition, and its own political and cultural institutions.

What landed at Bannow was not the forces of order. It was a force of military adventurers.

The man who summoned these foreign warriors was Diarmait Mac Murchada, the deposed king of Leinster. Driven into exile in 1166 after being defeated by his Irish rivals, Mac Murchada sought foreign military power to regain his kingdom.

He eventually reached an agreement with Richard de Clare, the Earl of Pembroke known to history as Strongbow. In exchange for military assistance, Strongbow secured a promise of marriage to Diarmait's daughter Aoife and succession to Leinster.

But what Mac Murchada unleashed would soon grow far beyond the restoration of one deposed Irish king. Strongbow's followers were not simply warriors seeking payment and passage home. They were feudal freebooters seeking land and lordships of their own.

By late August 1170, Strongbow landed at Passage East, Waterford with two hundred heavily armored knights and approximately one-thousand-foot soldiers. His vanguard, led by Raymond le Gros, had already entrenched itself at Baginbun. When several hundred Irish defenders from Waterford attempted to dislodge them, the invaders drove a captured herd of cattle into their ranks, scattering the defenders.

The aftermath revealed the calculated brutality of the newcomers. Gerald of Wales, himself an enthusiastic chronicler and defender of the Anglo-Norman conquest, records that seventy captured town leaders and warriors had their limbs deliberately broken before they were beheaded and hurled from the sea cliffs into the waves below.

Waterford soon fell in a ferocious assault that reportedly left 700 defenders dead. Strongbow then celebrated his wedding to Aoife in the captured Irish port. Not long afterward, the invading force marched north toward Dublin. High King Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair marshaled an army to block the customary approaches, but the invaders bypassed the Gaelic force through the Wicklow Mountains, stormed Dublin, and established an armed garrison there.

The English Crown watched this private baronial expansion with growing suspicion. Henry II had no intention of allowing Strongbow to establish an independent power across the Irish Sea. In October 1171, Henry landed at Waterford with a formidable royal expedition of some four hundred ships and approximately four thousand troops. His arrival brought the expanding conquest under the authority of the English Crown.

The political settlement was more complicated than outright conquest of the entire island. Gaelic kings continued to rule substantial territories, and the Treaty of Windsor in 1175 recognized Ruaidrí as king over much of Ireland, though subordinate to Henry. The English Crown had asserted a claim to sovereignty in Ireland.

Religion was invoked to justify that claim.

The Crown pointed to the papal bull *Laudabiliter*, allegedly issued by Pope Adrian IV, the only English Pope elected, around 1155. Its authenticity, wording, and later use have long been disputed. Gerald of Wales would make it part of his justification for English intervention, portraying Henry's involvement as necessary to reform abuses within the Irish Church.

Bannow marks the beginning of a relationship that would shape Irish history continuing to today. English control over Ireland would expand and contract over the centuries. But the claim first asserted in the twelfth century, that an English crown had the right to exercise sovereignty over Ireland, endured.

Ireland would become a testing ground for methods of conquest and control that Britain would later employ across a much larger empire: military occupation, land confiscation and plantation, displacement of native elites, suppression of language and culture, religious discrimination, and laws separating the colonizer from the colonized. Ireland was not simply another chapter in the history of British imperialism. In important ways, it was its laboratory.

This history deserves particular attention as Europe prepares to mark 2027 as the European Year of the Normans. There is much in Norman history worthy of study. But commemoration should not become hero worship, and history should not become hagiography.

Ireland provides the reality of the Normans.

The Norman story looks very different from Bannow Bay than it does from Bayeux. Ireland was not an empty canvas awaiting civilization. It possessed its own laws, learning, Christianity, political institutions, language, and culture.

The ships that arrived at Bannow carried soldiers. They did not carry civilization.