



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

January, 2016



## Brother Hibernians, \_\_\_\_\_



I hope you and your families had a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 22nd. Welcome aboard to new members Pete Dan Mulligan and Kevin Cahill.

Many thanks go out to Frank McDonagh, Joan Moore, and all the volunteers who helped out at our Christmas parties this year. Congratulations to all our raffle winners and many, many thanks to all of you who supported this important fundraiser. A great job was done by the committee whose members are to numerous to mention here but especially to Chairman Bill Lee and his wife Trish. Our Christmas Fund took care of 33 children this year. Many thanks to all who donated to this noble cause and especially to John Gannon, Pete Dunne, Mike Lynch, and Larry and Denise DeGennaro for all their hard work.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News... Please say a prayer for the repose of Mark Rolston's father-in-law Tom Walsh. Congratulations to new grandpa Nick Doyle who was presented with

new granddaughter Gwendolyn by son Nick Jr. and his better half Gloria, and to John and Mary Dolan on the birth of twin grandchildren James Francis and Mary Grace via daughter Dr. Eileen and her husband Dr. Jim Sulzer. A couple of prayers are in order for Harry Stern who is back home from Helen Hayes recovering from a heart attack, for John Kennedy who is also home from Helen Hayes after a short stay, for John Ovichinnikoff's dad Larry who is at Westchester Medical after a severe heart attack, for Warren Hennessey who has reclaimed his regular stool at the pub after his second cataract surgery, for Jim Walsh who is battling a severe blood disorder and who recently stopped by the pub with his brother-in-law (our past Division president) Jack Mullins, and for Paddy Kelly who is scheduled for quadruple bypass at Good Samaritan.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our wounded warriors and their families.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,  
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*

## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

*President*  
**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

*Vice President*  
**CHARLES PARNOW**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**MARTIN DAVIN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**REV. MSGR. JOHN O'KEEFE**

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

Jan. 17 Div. 1 Communion  
Breakfast

Feb. 6 Ski Trip

Feb. 11-14 Wolfe Tone Play

Feb. 27 Emerald Ball

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## LAOH

The ladies of LAOH Div. 3 would like to wish everyone a very Happy & Healthy New Year! We are excited to be installing our new officers this month! We would like to congratulate all our newly elected officers and would like to introduce our new executive board - President Terry McGeever, Vice President Teresa Hartey-Adametz, Recording Secretary Helen Kilgallen Murphy, and Treasurer Linda Sheridan!

Katie Anne Basler  
*President, LAOH Div.3*

## SKI TRIP

Chuck Parnow and Dan Peterson hope to once again coordinate a ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on Saturday, February 6. Last year's trip was a blast and included bus trip with refreshments, lunch, and discounted rentals. The cost is the same this year with the same amenities. We'll look at the level of interest (as far as number of people signed up) on January 20, as that is when we must commit to the bus company. The sign-up sheet is at the pub. First paid, first seated. Contact Chuck or Dan for further info.

Chuck-Charles.Parnow@towerswatson.com or  
845-664-8183, Dan- sgtp3401@yahoo.com or  
646-210-9372

## 2016 ROCKLAND COUNTY EMERALD BALL

February 27th at the Pearl River Hilton

**Cocktail Hour 7:00-8:00, Dinner & Dancing  
8:00 -12:00 with the Bainbridge Avenue Band**

### HONOREES

Hibernian of the Year	Neil Cosgrove
Businesswoman of the Year	Margie Mulvihill
Grand Marshal	Dermot O'Connor Moore
Aide to Grand Marshal NYC	Kevin Donohue
Parade Commander	Cyril P. Kerr

*Tickets \$125 PP. Tickets and ads can be purchased  
via PayPal at RocklandCountyAOH.com  
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## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Fund, it was another great success. Special thanks to the DeGennaros for all their help. Christmas miracles never stop, John Lowry bought a drink at the AOH. The Captain is taking his pistol permit course. He told us it is to root out the lunatics. Oh boy. Fat Off is underway. The thundering herd came and went from the weigh in. The scale is still recovering. Hope to do better this year, last year I put on two pounds. Please come in and meet our Sunday bartender, BOO. John Crilly actually has 15 minutes of spare time left during the week, if anyone needs some help. Bob Scully is very happy with his new sports car. It takes him 32 seconds to get home from the pub. The Mook and Donnie are in mourning over the Giants. I have another dinner coming, again. Good to see Matt Dowling was in shape for Fat Off. Matty, you missed the weigh in. Work starting soon on the upstairs bathrooms, we're getting there. One more special thanks to Pat Benn and the Brew House in Pearl River for their generous donation, second year in a row, to the Children's Fund. If you are in the area stop in, say hello, and thank them.

Pete Dunne

## THE FINAL DAYS OF WOLFE TONE - A NEW PLAY

**Antrim Playhouse, Suffern - February 11-14**  
**Tickets \$25@ [www.amtrimplayhouse.com](http://www.amtrimplayhouse.com)**  
**or 845-354-9503**

**100% of proceeds to benefit Avon Breast Cancer  
Walk, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, PR School  
of Music, Rockland 1916 Commemoration,  
Homes for Heroes, Camp Venture**

## ROCKLAND COUNTY AOH DIVISION 1 COMMUNION BREAKFAST

**Mass 9 am at St Gregory's, Cinder Rd. Garnerville**  
**Breakfast to follow at Lynch's Rte. 9W, Stony Point**  
**Guest Speaker-Dermot O'Connor Moore**  
**Grand Marshal, 2016 Rockland County**  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**\$25 per person, contact Dan Donohue @  
914-261-7542**

# History

## Sean Mac Diarmada the Mainspring of the Rising



Sean Mac Diarmada was born in Corranmore, near Kiltyclogher in County Leitrim, the third youngest of ten children. He grew up in an area scarred by the sad history of Ireland's experience under English rule. Surrounding his boyhood home there was an ancient sweathouse, Mass rocks from when the penal law days when the Catholic faith was illegal and priests hunted like wolves and countless abandoned homesteads as the silent testament to when England allowed Ireland to starve. These atrocities were sadly not confined to the past, as a boy of fifteen Sean saw one hundred of his neighbors evicted by the local landlord.

Mac Diarmada, was remembered as "one of the schools best pupils, bright in every sense of the word, lively and fond of boyhood games, good natured and even tempered", a "dark-haired comely boy with a smiling face and dark-blue eyes". He was a voracious reader of Irish history. The commemoration of the 1798 Rebellion, protests against the Boer War and the cultural revival as spearheaded by the GAA, in which he was an active member, all shaped his political outlook.

Mac Diarmada, twice attempted the highly competitive national teacher's examination, but failed due to a weakness in mathematics. With few prospects in rural Ireland he, like many before and since, was forced to leave his home, first immigrating to Glasgow, Scotland where he worked as a gardener and then to Belfast where he took employment first as a tram conductor and then as a barman. However, such employment was obviously oppressive to a man of Mac Diarmada's talents and intelligence, which quickly

found outlet in politics. Belfast at that time was a center of the movement for an independent Ireland and Mac Diarmada, soon became acquainted with two of the driving forces of this movement, Bulmer Hobson and Denis McCullogh. Hobson and McCullogh had established a series of Dungannon Clubs which promoted advanced national ideals and development of native Irish industry and a recruiting ground for the more militant Irish Republican Brotherhood. They quickly appreciated Mac Diarmada's energy, intelligence and charisma and developed him into one of their most effective speakers. They hired him as an organizer for the clubs and swore him into the IRB. He would be a tireless recruiter for the cause of Irish nationalism and would continue in this role when the Dungannon Clubs were absorbed into another independent nationalist organization; Sinn Féin.

The turning point in Mac Diarmada's life was when he met Tom Clarke in Dublin in 1908. As did Hobson and McCullagh before, the old unrepentant Fenian saw in Mac Diarmada the energy needed to revive the near comatose Republican movement. The two men became close friends to the point of a father and son relationship. Under Clarke's guidance, Mac Diarmada joined numerous Irish Cultural organizations in search of other young men of talent and ability who had a deep commitment to their country. It was in the role of talent spotter that he identified the future leaders of the Rising: Padraig Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt and others. According to one observer it was Mac Diarmada's "energy and organizing ability" that was a significant factor "in creating a group and guiding events to make the Rising Possible". One of Mac Diarmada's notable achievements was a hugely successful and well attended showcase of Irish manufactured goods to promote native Irish industry. He became the manager of the *Irish Freedom* newspaper and went out on the speaking platform to protest a visit by King George V.

Yet, the countless hours of devotion to Ireland's cause, including numerous beatings from opponents to his public speaking in her defence, had taken their toll on Mac Diarmada's health. In autumn 1911, Mac Diarmada, was stricken with polio, leaving his right leg permanently lame and requiring him to walk with a cane. While the disease had crippled his body, it dampened neither his energy nor enthusiasm. Mac Diarmada, was a key figure in the organizing of the Irish Volunteers using the contacts he had built up among the members of the various cultural societies. During the Howth gun-running, Clarke and Mac Diarmada spent the day in a taxi travelling to and from Howth to transfer the weapons to Dublin. It was Mac Diarmada, who convinced James

Connolly to table an independent rising by the Irish Citizen Army and instead made Connolly part of the planning of the Easter Rebellion. Mac Diarmada, had initially convinced the head of the Irish Volunteers Eoin MacNeill of the possibility of a successful rising during Easter, only for MacNeill to lose his nerve when he heard of the capture of Roger Casement and the failure to land weapons from Germany in Kerry; issuing without consultation a countermanding order that put the success of the rising in jeopardy. Mac Diarmada, and the other members of the Rising's military council realized that the point of no return for the rising had been passed and delayed the rising for 24 hours as they frantically tried to undo the damage MacNeill had caused.

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, Tom Clarke and Sean Mac Diarmada traveled by car, because of Clarke's age and Mac Diarmada's infirmity, and met the Rebels at the GPO to see the Irish Republic Proclaimed. While holding no military rank, Mac Diarmada, ever the consummate organizer, stepped up to provide increasing leadership when required due to the wounding of Connolly and Pearse boarding on exhaustion. On the last day of the Rebellion, realizing the increasing civilian death toll resulting from indiscriminate use of artillery by the British, Mac Diarmada, convinced the remaining volunteers, most of whom wished to continue to fight, to surrender. Mac Diarmada, had no delusions what that surrender would mean for him personally. He reassured the volunteers that they would likely be only imprisoned for a "few years"; going on to say that the Volunteers "*had fought a gallant fight... that their duty now was to survive.... We, who will be shot, will die happy - knowing that there are still plenty of you around who will finish the job.*"

Upon his surrender, in an act of senseless cruelty, a sneering British officer remarked to MacDiarmada "Do the Sinn Feiners take cripples in their army?" as he confiscated Mac Diarmada's cane and forced him to march to his imprisonment, the exertion of which nearly killed him. As he predicted, Mac Diarmada, was tried by military court martial and executed in the Stonebreakers Yard of Kilmainham Gaol on 12 May 1916. His final words were:

*"I, Sean Mac Diarmada, before paying the penalty of death for my love of Ireland, and abhorrence of her slavery, desire to make known to all my fellow-countrymen that I die, as I have lived, bearing no malice to any man, and in perfect peace with Almighty God. The principles for which I give my life are so sacred that I now walk to my death in the most calm and collected manner. I meet death for Ireland's cause as I have worked for the same cause all my life.... God save Ireland."*



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