



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

September, 2012



Brother Hibernians, _____



Our next meeting will be held on Friday, September 28 at 8pm, there will be a House meeting as well. Welcome aboard to new members Scott Hanson, Rich Stewart, Dennis Donohue, Philip Lane, Brian Moran, Justin Brennan, Kevin Haugh, and associate member Jim Morrison. Many thanks to Chris Gallagher for running yet another superb Saratoga trip. Congratulations to Brendan Moore on his election as National President and to Neil Cosgrove for being selected as Anti-Defamation AOH Chair at the national convention. What an honor for Division 3! Many thanks go out to all our members who attended the convention to support Brendan. Please get your Pot O'Gold raffle ticket now and support all our numerous charities and scholarships.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of Kevin Spillane's father Joseph, Walter Murray's bride Mary, Brendan Malley's mother-in-law Mae Walsh, and Ray Gallagher's daughter Christine who was also the sister of James, Chris, and Brian. More prayers are needed for the recoveries

of Bob and May Kreider who both received hip replacements, Larry Kaine who had a bladder removed, Pete Dunne's sister Barbara who's recovering well from a hip replacement in Florida, Dan Callanan's mom Marj who took a brodie at the Jersey shore breaking an arm and shoulder reaching for a banister that wasn't there, Larry McKeever who has additional health issues to deal with before he can be released from Summit Park to his newly modified homestead, and "Belfast Richie" Stewart who is recovering from a severe infection in a Florida hospital.

Congratulations to our chaplain Msgr. O'Keefe on the celebration of his 40th anniversary as a priest and to Tim and Mary Callanan upon presenting grandpa Dan with his 18th grandchild Keira.

We hope you and your families had a great and safe summer. As always, please keep our troops in your prayers, especially our wounded warriors.

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

ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION _____

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DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE

Vice President
VINCE TYER

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
PHIL SHERIDAN

Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
LARRY MCKEEVER

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

Sept. 18 County Meeting
8pm

Sept. 27 Division/House
Meeting 8pm

Nov. 11 First Pot O'Gold
Drawing Party

Pearl River, N.Y. 10965
28 Railroad Avenue

Ancient Order of Hibernians



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HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Well the summer is over and we are getting back to the regular routine. Hope everyone had a great summer relaxing at whatever you like to do.

Things here at the house have been quiet also. Hibernian House would like to congratulate Mr. Brendan Moore, one of our own Division 3 members, for being elected President of the national AOH. Special thanks also to members Tom Healy and Sean Collins for the carpentry and finishes in the upstairs hall, splendid job guys.

As always if anyone can donate time to do some small repairs around the house here it will be greatly appreciated. John Ovchinnikoff, and a few slaves he was able to capture, have put in some long hot hours to bring Larry McKeever's home around to what he needs to come home to. God bless you for the care put into this project, it looks great.

There will be a House meeting in conjunction with the Division meeting in September.

Phil Sheridan, *President*

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LAOH

Welcome Back!

I can't believe the summer is almost over. I hope you all had a great summer.

A big Thank you to all the ladies that visited all our sick ladies this summer, they were certainly busy. Also thanks to the group who were faithful to St. Zita's during the summer.

September is busy once again and we have a lot to cover at our division meeting on September 11. We will be holding the meeting a little later in honor of the 9-11 memorials that will be taking place. *(Please say a prayer for those that were lost that day.)*

Our meeting will be at 8:15 PM at the Hibernian House. Come and brainstorm on new fundraising ideas, nominations of new officers and honorees for the 2013 year. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Our next County meeting will be on September 25th at the Hibernian House at 8PM. You are all invited to attend.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Joan Moore, *President*

845-735-8793 (h) • 845-536-2742 (Cell)

or email: joan55mmoore@msn.com



It is that time of year again where we turn to you for support of AOH Division III numerous charities as we begin to sell tickets for our annual raffle.

Our "Pot O' Gold" raffle, is one of our main fundraisers, and is our hope that you will once again be generous in supporting us by purchasing one of our \$100.00 tickets.

The bearer of each ticket, along with a guest are entitled to attend both of our drawing parties. You have the opportunity to win the grand prize of \$10,000.00 at the drawing on December 23rd and \$1,000.00 at the drawing on November 11th, along with a \$500 prize and numerous \$100.00 and \$50.00 prizes.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Bill Lee at:

(845) 558-4148, (845) 735-4390

or via email at:

mr.williamplee@gmail.com

History

Chief Francis O'Neill A Reel Irish American Hero



When someone wants to quickly set an atmosphere of “Irishness”, whether it is a major motion picture or a local Irish restaurant, they invariably use the same element: *music*. Music is an essential element of Celtic life; the harper, piper and the fiddler holding a place of honor and esteem. Wherever the Irish have traveled they have taken their music with them as one of their prized possession, and the sound of Irish Music can be heard in Dublin, Denver and Durban. Irish music is a highly personal art form; it is an aural tradition, passed on from generation to generation through playing and listening. It is one of our cultures’ most identifiable and enduring elements, yet it was nearly lost if it had not been for the tenacity and dedication of one man: Chief Francis O’Neill.

O’Neill was born in the town of Tralibane, West Cork on August 28, 1848, one of ten children. He was fortunate enough that his childhood was spared the horrors of the Great Hunger, but he would witness the scars that this tragedy left upon the land and its people and the pattern of massive emigration it set in motion. The O’Neill’s themselves appeared to have weathered the Great Hunger and subsequently prospered, by the standards of rural Ireland of the time, allowing young Francis an opportunity at a good education. The

O’Neill home was constantly filled with music, O’Neill’s maternal grandfather was respected as one of the last of the Gaelic clan chieftains and he would follow the ancient custom of extending hospitality to itinerant musicians. O’Neill’s mother naturally absorbed a great collection of the tunes and songs of Munster and through her singing passed them on to young O’Neill, creating what he would in later life describe as a “madness” for music. Francis taught himself the flute and soon became an accomplished player.

O’Neill’s education and quick mind seem to destine him to be a teacher or for the priesthood, but the quiet life of a scholar was not appealing to the young man. At the age of 16 he ran away to sea, circling the world at least twice and surviving a shipwreck in the South Pacific and a subsequent “Robinson Caruso” existence. O’Neill left the sea and settled down to marriage with a young Irish woman he had met on one of his voyages. He tried ranching in Montana and teaching in Missouri before finally settling in Chicago.

In the aftermath of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the city of Chicago earned a reputation for lawlessness and corruption. O’Neill was sworn in as a policeman in 1873 and a few months later was shot while apprehending a notorious gangster. The bullet was too close to the spine to be removed and O’Neill carried it for the rest of his life. Achieving top marks on every police exam he took he soon worked his way up through the ranks eventually obtaining its highest ranks as Superintendent, also known as “Chief”. Renowned for his honesty, he once locked up a powerful alderman and personally redesigned the Chicago Police Badge so that ID numbers were more visible and Officers could be held more accountable. O’Neill was so respected that even in an age where patronage was rife, he maintained his appointment over two different administrations.

However, music remained O’Neill’s passion. He soon found in the Irish immigrant community of Chicago, that he had within a few blocks radius, access to musicians from across the breadth

of Ireland and traditional tunes which were known only locally back home. However, O’Neill saw in this byproduct of the diaspora not only an opportunity, but a crisis: as the Irish spread across the world the aural tradition of Irish music, removed from the close confines of Ireland and its protective incubator, was in peril. O’Neill actively sought out Irish musicians and began collecting tunes. Following in his grandfather’s footsteps and giving a new connotation to his official title “Chief”, O’Neill would often sponsor Irish musicians in need of employment for jobs on the Chicago Police Department. A running joke at the time was, “What do you call an Irish Musician in Chicago? *Officer*. What do you call a great Irish Musician in Chicago? *Sergeant*.”

O’Neill had one limitation in his tune collecting; like many Irish Musicians he learned by ear and had a tremendous ability to retain tunes in his head, but he could not read nor write music. Fortunately, one of his officers, James O’Neill (*no relation*) was not only a respected fiddler but could read and write music. O’Neill would act as a human tape recorder going about the city mentally capturing tunes he heard and then playing them back for James O’Neill to set down on paper. What was unique in Francis O’Neill’s endeavor was that this was not the preserving of the music of Kings and Heroes of a bygone age, this was creating a permanent record of the music of the common people of Ireland, the music of the parlor and the ceili. When Thomas Edison’s phonograph was displayed at the 1893 World’s Fair, O’Neill was one of his first buyers. Thanks to Chief O’Neill we, today, can hear some of the legendary Irish Musicians of the age.

O’Neill eventually published eight books of traditional Irish Music, his “The Music of Ireland” considered a definitive reference. According to the Music Librarian of Notre Dame, “Without (Francis O’Neill) the music would have died.” Thanks to Irish American Francis O’Neill the rich legacy of Irish Music was preserved for generations. It is a reminder of how fragile our history and culture is and the duty of all of us to “Keep the tradition alive”.

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