



Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

April, 2014



Brother Hibernians, _____



Brother Hibernians,

I wish you and your families a happy and blessed Easter.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, April 25th at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Ed Day, Robert Condon, Mike Natirboff, Jim Carbin, Pete Dowd, Pete McDonald, Neil Courtney, Pete Drespel, Mike Daly, Brian McIntyre, Brendan Delaney, Brendan Bane, Tim Dillon, Pat Chapman, and Pat McGovern.

Thanks to all the member volunteers who helped out at the Senior's luncheon and to those high schoolers who helped with the serving to earn their community service stripes.

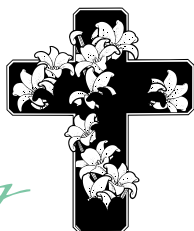
Many thanks to all those members who marched in the St. Patrick's Day parades. Congratulations to all the honorees and thanks to all the parade volunteers, especially our traffic detail of Don McKallen, Mike Mulcahy, Tom Healy, and Bill Ford.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...

Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of John Kennedy's dad Jim, Rich and Ed O'Neill's mom Mary and John and Gary Coyle's dad John. John Draper, Sr. had a chip inserted in his chest to keep tabs on his heart rate, John Draper, Jr.'s bride Kelly has a new knee and is doing well, the Bobsy twins Tom O'Halloran and Dan Holland are doing well after a bout of bronchitis, and Gene Flood is doing well with his outpatient rehab at Helen Hayes. Please keep John Kennedy in your prayers as he prepares for surgery while dealing with the tragic loss of his father and also for Bill Kenny who is very ill.

Please remember to say an extra prayer for our wounded warriors and their families and especially for those at Fort Hood.

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



Happy Easter

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Vice President
VINCE TYER

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Vice President
PETER DUNNE

Treasurer
PHIL SHERIDAN

Recording Secretary
JOHN GANNON

CALENDAR _____

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| April 25 | Division meeting |
| April 26 | Bobby Sands Memorial |
| April 27 | Communion Breakfast |
| May 4 | Billy Keenan Fundraiser |
| May 16 | Division 3 Golf Outing |



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Ancient Order of Hibernians

HIBERNIAN HOUSE

In a last minute act, Guinness withdrew their support for the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade after they had made sure they had sold as much of their product as possible. We have now withdrawn our support of Guinness. John Draper, Sr. did his duty finishing off the last pint in our pub on April 4th supervised by Pete Dunne.

But fear not, after a taste test by Pete and John Gannon, the House Committee has found an excellent replacement with a very fine stout brewed locally by one of our own brother members. Please stop into the pub and give it a try.

AOH COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday April 27th, 2014

Immediately following the 9:00 Mass at St. Margaret's

Guest Speaker: Councilman Denis Troy

Presentation of 2014 Scholarships

Location: Hibernian House

Cost: Adults \$20

Children under 12 - \$5

Please contact Kevin McNulty @
kmcnulty@shp.org for reservations.

GOLF OUTING

Each year AOH Division 3 hosts an annual charity golf outing as a primary fundraiser. This year it will be held on Friday May 16, 2014 at the Blue Hill Golf Course in Pearl River, NY at 12pm.

During this year's golf outing we will once again honor the memory of our longtime member and friend, Joe McKiernan.

The success of this major fundraiser depends upon our membership support and as such, we respectfully request your support of our efforts one way or another. As always, your participation as a golfer is greatly encouraged; however, if you are unable to golf that day, please consider making a donation, volunteering your time during the golf outing and reception or soliciting sponsors from a friend or business organization on behalf of the division.

Your generosity will help us in our endeavor to continue to provide charitable support to our local community as well as across this great nation.

LAOH

March was a great month for the ladies of LAOH Div.3! We had a great turnout at our annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner at Slattery's!

All the ladies who came out to march in the Rockland County Saint Patrick's Day Parade looked great and we were so proud of our members being honored as Aides to the Grand Marshal and Battalion Commander - Terry McGeever as Battalion Commander, Nadine Green as Aide for LAOH Div. 3, and Kay McGinnis Aide for LAOH Rockland County!

We ended the month with a lovely Saint Patrick's Day party for the ladies at St. Zita's home in Monsey, and a special thanks to Dermot Moore and the children from the Pearl River School of Irish Music for providing the entertainment!

Looking forward to a great Spring and wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Kate Basler, *President*

2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kevin Parnow, Brian Hanson, Kristin Hanson, Megan Donnelly, Allison Rogers, Aidan Noonan, Kaitlyn Delaney, Niamh Glynn, Patrick Guerin, Marykate O'Meara.

33rd ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS MASS & SOCIAL

Rockland Irish American Cultural Center

284 Convent Rd, Blauvelt NY

Mass at: 7PM, Social to Follow

Guest of Honor - Dermot O'Connor Moore

Music by Jan Lynch & Tommy Dunn

Hot Buffet Provided by SLATTERY'S LANDING

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Jimmy Teague (845) 359-3851

or Brian Pearson (845) 735-1418

BILLY KEENAN FUNDRAISER MAY 4th

Billy Keenan is a gifted Irish musician, husband, and father who had a terrible accident that left him paralyzed.

John Dolan has left raffle tickets at the pub. Please consider purchasing some. There will be an impressive line-up of musicians who will be performing at a series of concerts over the weekend of May 3 in Mineola, Yonkers, and Tappan.

The local one will be at the German Masonic Grounds in Tappan on Sunday, May 4.

Please go to <http://www.keenanstrong.org> for more details.

History

Clontarf 1014



While the rest of Europe plunged into darkness with the fall of the Roman Empire, the light of learning and western civilization was kept flickering in Ireland, preserved in the monasteries established by the followers of St. Patrick. However, it would only be a matter of time before the “*light*” attracted the unwanted attention of those more interested in plunder than learning. A period of warming weather and a population explosion in what we now know as Scandinavia combined to unleash upon Europe a terror the likes of which had never been seen before: *the Vikings*.

In 795, the Viking attacks on Ireland began with the sacking and burning of a monastery on Rathlin Island. Hit and run raids along the Irish coast would continue for the next forty years. The Viking tactics changed however in 837; sixty Viking longboats appeared in the river Boyne while another sixty appeared in the river Liffy and began to raid inland and plunder the great monasteries such as Clonmacnois. In the winter of 841-842 the Vikings wintered in Ireland at a defensive position they had established: Dublin. The Vikings were now no longer raiders, they were occupiers and colonists. The Vikings began building fortified towns, longphorts, near the sea which was the source of their strength. These Norse settlements would be the basis for the future Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Wicklow, Limerick and Stangford. The drawback to these settlements for the Vikings is that they provided fixed targets for the Irish to attack. The result was the establishment of a chaotic and often violent status quo, with Viking Jarl and Irish Chieftain making alliances and breaking alliances as part of ongoing power struggles in both communities.

It was into this turbulent world, in the middle

of the 10th century, that Brian Boru was born. One of the contributing factors to the success of the Viking invasion was that the Ireland of that time was made up of dozens of small kingdoms and competing kings and chieftains. Brian was the younger son of Cennedi, the King of the Dal Cais of north Munster. (“Boru” meaning “of the tributaries”, a term indicating a great lord, was a title given after his death.) The Dal Cais had recently risen in power due to the strategic position of their lands straddling the river Shannon, which combined with knowledge gained from Norse tactics allowed them to become a formidable military force. Brian’s older brother, Mathgamain, succeeded to the kingship of Munster and successfully captured and sacked the Viking settlement of Limerick. Mathgamain’s success was short lived, he was betrayed by supposed allies and murdered. Brian avenged his brother’s death and assumed the throne of Munster.

For the next twenty years Brian would increase his power with a vision of becoming Ard Ri, “High King” of Ireland. The title of Ard Ri was an ancient one, that had long been held by the O’Neill’s of Ulster, but it was more honor than substance, with the minor kings giving or withholding support as suited them. This was to change with Brian. In 999 Brian captured Dublin, the last of the Viking cities yet to fall under his control. Brian became High King in name and fact with the submission of the then current High King, Malachy the II, in 1002.

The next decade of Brian’s reign was a period of relative peace and prosperity in Ireland. Under Brian’s protection, the plundered monasteries were rebuilt. It is said that Brian sent emissaries abroad in an attempt to acquire and return treasures and artifacts that had been taken from Ireland. Relative peace and stability gave rise to

a new golden age of Irish culture.

However, such a Golden Age would not last long. In an attempt to consolidate his power through reconciliation, Brian had allowed Sitric, the Viking King of Dublin, and Mael Mordha King of Leinster to retain their positions after swearing loyalty to Brian. Combining forces along with Viking allies that had been recruited by Sitric from the Orkney Islands, they decided to challenge Brian at Clontarf, located outside of what was then Dublin, on Good Friday April 23, 1014. What resulted was one of the largest and bloodiest battles of the Dark Ages. The battle swayed back and forth throughout the day when finally Brian’s forces gained the advantage. The result was a slaughter; Sitric and Mael Mordha killed and many of the Orkney Vikings drowning as they attempted to flee in panic to their Longships as the tide was coming in. However, in winning the battle the Irish had also lost; Brian’s son and grandson were both killed in the battle. Legend says that Brian, now an old man in his seventies, was killed by a fleeing Viking who found the old man at prayer for his lost son, grandson and in honor of Good Friday. Without Brian’s strong leadership, Ireland rapidly reverted to the disjoint and feuding kingdoms that had preceded Brian’s reign. It was such a fractured Ireland that the Normans under Strongbow invaded 55 years later and conquered; one wonders what might have been the result if Brian Boru’s united Ireland had persisted.

Legend says that Brian Boru drove the Vikings out of Ireland. Brian’s victory at Clontarf marked the last time the Vikings would attempt a major landing in Ireland, but the Norse of the longphort’s had been in Ireland for generations and had become, and would continue to be, an integral part of Irish Society. It would be equally wrong to view the end of Brian’s High Kingship at Clontarf as a hollow victory that brought to an end Brian’s vision of a unified Ireland on that Good Friday 1014. It was memories of the Golden Age of Brian’s reign that would keep alive the vision of Ireland’s nationhood in the face of conquest and oppression; that would inspire the volunteers who rose in Dublin on Easter Monday 1916, not far from where Brian had asserted Ireland’s right to independence 900 years before, and set Ireland once more on the path of independence and unity. On another Good Friday, 984 years later, 10 April 1998, the light of the promise of a free, peaceful and united Ireland was lit again with the Good Friday agreements. Despite the winds of politicians and voices of division that light continues to flicker we as Hibernians and Irish Americans must nourish and protect that small flame of freedom until all of Ireland is illuminated by it as it was in the time of Brian Boru. Let us on this the Millennial anniversary of Clontarf rededicate ourselves to the United Ireland of Brian Boru.

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