



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

March, 2012



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



Our next meeting will be held on Friday, March 23rd at 8pm. Welcome aboard to new members Steve Walsh, Shane Rogers, Dennis Toal, Brad Luff, Mike Gilbride, and Joe Sheehan. February 25th marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of Division 3's AOH Charter and every one had a grand time that night at the Emerald Ball where brother Ray Sheridan and brother Pat Moroney's son Mike were among the honorees. The Barrys would like to thank everyone who helped on the night as well as with raffle tickets and the journal.

Please say a prayer for the peaceful repose of Mark Ralston's dad Phil and Kevin Lennon's niece Patricia Ricker. Also please continue to keep in your prayers Larry McKeever, Christine Gallagher, and Brendan Malley as they continue along the long road to recovery and, as always, please keep our troops in your prayers. Say one for the Troops.

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

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

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**PHIL SHERIDAN**

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**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**LARRY MCKEEVER**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## PARADES AND VOLUNTEERS FOR COLOR GUARDS

While the celebration of our Heritage during St. Patrick's Day should always be a special event, this year it should be more so. This year the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade falls on a Saturday, meaning that more people can attend and march. The County Board is providing a bus free of charge for all marchers but tickets are going fast so sign up now in the pub. For those with children this is a special way to share and celebrate our Heritage while making a family memory that will last a lifetime and passing on the tradition to the next generation. Our own Rockland County Parade will be held the next day in Pearl River. This is an especially proud day that we should all want to support as it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Parade, the 50th Anniversary of the Division and the 30th Anniversary of Hibernian House. One of our own, Ray Sheridan, is the Grand Marshal, Pat Moroney's son Mike is the Parade Commander, John McElligott is our Aide to Grand Marshal, and Bill Ford is our Battalion Commander. His Eminence Cardinal Dolan has indicated that he will march. We are the largest AOH division in the country and should have a presence in the parade to match, to show our commitment to our heritage is alive and well. We as a Division do a lot of good work for our community "behind the scenes", this is our one day where we make a public presence as a Division and Hibernians. For both parades, let's try to dress appropriately as befits these special days. Lets try and look like a unit with dark slacks and shoes and not jeans and sneakers. Let's reject the trivialization of our day by leaving the green "Cat in the Hat" headgear and Mardi Gras beads for the "once a year Irish". We are in need of several people for both parades to carry our flags and banners. Anyone interested should contact Neil Cosgrove at [ncosgrov@optonline.net](mailto:ncosgrov@optonline.net).

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

Mar. 17 NYC Parade

Mar. 18 Pearl River Parade

Mar. 31 Scholarship Exam

April 15 Communion  
Breakfast

May 17 Golf Outing

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Ancient Order of Hibernians



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## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

The Dedication for the new improvements to the House was well attended by our original as well as new members along with many AOH Officers from around the State. Our Chaplain, Msgr. O'Keefe, had forgotten about the dedication and the conflict with his trip to Rome, so Father Brian Taylor was kind enough to do the blessing. We wish to thank Father Brian for doing this on such short notice, and his father John Taylor for contacting him while he was on vacation.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade is upon us again with a big celebration this year of the 50th Anniversary of the Parade and a visit by Cardinal Dalton. The Hibernian House will be open again upstairs as we have done in the past few years. This will be limited to members and their guest only. As in the past there will be Corned Beef Sandwiches available. Please remember your dues were due by February 29th. You are not eligible to win the Shamrock if your dues are not paid.

The Hibernian House Board

### WHEN WE SPEAK IN UNITY, PEOPLE LISTEN!!!

Recently the wife of one of our members noticed that a kiosk in the food court of the Palisades mall was selling t-shirts that were very offensive towards the Irish. When she protested, the vendor asked her "Why don't you take the shamrock out of your a\_\_?" Many members on hearing this called the Palisades Mall management. The result was the shirts have been removed, the vendor reprimanded, and an apology issued by the Palisades Mall.

Don't let anyone tell you that speaking out doesn't accomplish anything, when we speak in unity people listen. Let's keep speaking out against these bigoted stereotypes wherever we see them, no other ethnic group is asked to accept insulting stereotypes as a "joke". Our national president recently was featured on Fox News lashing out at Urban Outfitters who recently came out with a line of products that are extremely degrading to the Irish. Please do not subsidize bigotry by purchasing at Urban Outfitters, and email Urban Outfitters and tell them why you stopped shopping there at: richard.hayne@urbanout.com or call 215-454-5500 and ask that these products be removed from the shelves and an apology issued.

## PHILIP J. MURPHY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

The 2012 Philip J. Murphy Golf Outing will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at Blue Hill. It will be a 12pm shotgun start with the after golf reception to be held at Emmett's Castle. Cost is \$125 per player. We need golfers, volunteers & sponsorships to make this a success. Please contact Sean Walsh at 845-300-1718 or email: seanwalsh@optonline.net if you would like to help. More details coming soon.

## 2012 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications must be hand delivered by the applicant or a representative to a member of the Scholarship Committee on Friday March 9 between 6 PM and 9 PM at the Hibernian House. The second part of the scholarship process will take place on Saturday, March 31. A scholarship test will be administered at the Hibernian House at 10 am. The scholarship committee will notify all applicants of any changes of date or time. All of the questions on this multiple choice test will be taken from material that the Division will supply on the Scholarship Section of the website, <http://www.praoh.org>. Winners will be notified by mail and, with at least one family member, must attend the Division Communion Breakfast on Sunday, April 15th.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention will be held at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in scenic upstate New York from Monday, July 9th through Thursday, July 12th. Our own Division 3 member Brendan Moore is running for president and it would be nice to have a big division turn out. Rooms can be reserved now by calling 1-800-771-7711 and mentioning "Hibernians" for the convention rate of \$115 a night. Hotel accommodations can only be made by telephone. Please note that hotel rooms are available in many areas of Turning Stone Resort. Specifically, we have secured rooms at "The Hotel," "The Tower" and "The Inn" (*near main resort site*). Descriptions and location of each of these areas is available online at [www.turningstone.com](http://www.turningstone.com). Free Wi-Fi is available throughout Turning Stone.

## LAOH

Hello All! The Busy season is upon us to show our Irish Pride. The Emerald Ball was a great success and it seems all had a good time. Congratulations to all honorees. Thank you to all who helped make it a success. This month's meeting will be a St. Patrick's Day celebration at Slattery's Landing located at 5 Roundhouse Road (*Piermont Landing*), Piermont, New York beginning at 7pm, the cost is \$40.00. If you are interested in attending please contact Katie Basler at [kbasler79@gmail.com](mailto:kbasler79@gmail.com) - 845-596-6754 or Carmel Reilly at [carmelreilly@reillysrocklandreport.com](mailto:carmelreilly@reillysrocklandreport.com) - 845-828-0982. Please RSVP by March 9th. Reminder that 2012 Dues were due as of 01/01/2012 - please contact Linda Sheridan, 40 Railroad Ave., Pearl River, NY 10965 or [ls231946@hotmail.com](mailto:ls231946@hotmail.com) - 845-735-3612 to make payments if you haven't already. The bus for the NYC St. Patrick's Parade will be leaving the Irish Culture Center on Blauvelt Road at 11AM Saturday, March 17, 2012. Sign up sheets are located in the Pub at the Hibernian House and Irish Cultural center or Call Cy Hughes at (914) 804-7162 to reserve a seat. We line up on East 46th Street between Madison and Vanderbilt at 1:20 PM. On Sunday we are in the Third Battalion and should be in the Wyeth Parking lot by 1PM. The NYC PARADE Committee has asked that the dress on Saturday be "Sunday Best" business attire and Sunday is Aran sweater, black pants and black shoes. If you have a sash, be sure to bring it. Reminder that we are planning a Communion Breakfast in June to honor the Essay and Scholarship winners. Please plan to attend.

Next Meeting will be April 10th at 7:30PM at Hibernian House

May 8 Regular meeting

May 17 Ascension Thursday Dinner

June 10 Communion Breakfast/Scholarship/Essay Awards Presentation

June 12 Regular Meeting

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Joan Moore, *President*

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# The Statutes of Kilkenny:

## A Cautionary Tale For Us Today

# History



In the year 1366, English rule in Ireland was facing a crisis. The English had been in Ireland since the Norman warlord Strongbow had invaded and conquered Ireland for the crown in 1170. Yet 200 years on, the English were seeing their control of Ireland slip away, not through rebellion or an invading army but what was to be their most unyielding foe in resisting Ireland being degraded from a proud nation to just another English province: Ireland's history and culture. The descendants of the Norman-English lords that had arrived as conquerors had themselves been conquered by the rich traditions and culture they sought to dominate. With great embarrassment it was reported to the English kings that "Hibernia Hibernescit" (*Ireland makes all things Irish*) with the lords and the settlers they sent there "adopting Irish ways and Irish laws" and more threateningly devotion to Ireland itself.

To save their conquest, Edward the III through his son the Duke of Clarence fired the first shot in what would turn out to be a centuries old war on Irish culture and history. The English would no longer satisfy themselves with conquering the lands of Ireland, now they sought to conquer the conscience of her people. On February 18, 1366 the Statutes of Kilkenny were issued in an attempt to destroy the ancient Celtic

culture and ensure it was replaced with an English one. Among the proscriptions, violation of which was punishable by fines, loss of lands or imprisonment were:

- The elimination of Irish Brehon Law, now considered by many to have been some of the most progressive in Europe at the time, particularly in recognizing the rights of women.
- Marriage between English settlers and the Irish was forbidden as well as the adoption by English settlers of Irish children and vice versa.
- The use of the native language of Gaelic was forbidden.
- The Irish game of Hurling was now outlawed.
- Native Irish were forbidden to attend churches that were designated as being English.
- In an effort to destroy the Clans, Irish names were now forbidden, instead of the names of the great clans, the native Irish were to use their trade (*Taylor, Carpenter, Butler*), a color (*Black, Brown*) or a place name such as a town or river for their last name.
- It was illegal to support any Bard, Harper or Irish Musician, as they were the keepers of Irish history and identity.

While doing irreparable harm, thankfully the Statutes of Kilkenny never succeeded in their goal of destroying Irish history and culture. In the face of Irish resilience, future English monarchs in desperation became more ruthless in their tactics to conquer Ireland by destroying its soul. Elizabeth I, popularly portrayed today in movies and TV as an empowered woman while neatly circumventing her record of persecution and destruction in Ireland, perceptively stated "We shall never conquer Ireland while the bards are there" and put her observation into cruel action when she issued orders to her lieutenants in Ireland to "Hang the harpers wherever found, and burn their instruments." A

few decades later, the war on Irish culture would reach its crescendo in the Penal Laws of William of Orange, denying the native Irish the most basic of human rights and dignity.

The true significance of the Statutes of Kilkenny is that it marks the start of using division of the Irish population as a tool for a foreign government to maintain control. Many talk about sectarianism as pertains to Ireland as though it is as much of the Irish landscape as its mountains and streams. In fact it was imported and carefully cultivated for over 700 years as an instrument of base political ambition from Cromwell to Churchill. History has proven that the English were right to fear the power of Irish history and culture more than pikes. It is no coincidence that the greatest step on the path of Irish Independence, the Rising of 1916, was taken by men and women who had their love of country enflamed by the Gaelic Revival of the late 19th and early 20th century.

As we enter Irish American Heritage Month the lessons of the Statutes of Kilkenny are particularly significant. Look at the targets that those seeking to destroy the Irish people historically picked: our language, culture, history, music and sport. Are commercial interests such as Urban Outfitters, Hallmark, Guinness, etc., through the stereotypical representations of the Irish in March, not doing the same? Our schools and public institutions celebrate many Heritage Months throughout the year, but are silent on ours, sending a message that it is not worthy nor as significant as other cultures. Our forefathers fought at great consequence to preserve our heritage and culture. Are we going to let it slip away as others mock and abuse it for commercial exploitation of "St. Patty's Day" [sic], the cheap laugh of the stage Irishman, or choose to ignore it while favoring and pandering to other cultures?

Our Irish history and heritage has survived the best efforts of powerful monarchs and armies to destroy it, are we now to see it slip away through our silence?



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