



The Hibernian

The Newsletter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Morris County, Division One

January-February 2009

Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Vol. 11, No. 1

Meeting Notice

Our next **General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 27th** at 8:00 p.m. at **St. Peter the Apostle Church Hall** (Entrance is on the side of the Church facing Baldwin Road). Please try to attend this meeting. Your participation and input is extremely important to the success of our Division. The General Meeting will be limited to no more than an hour so that our brothers may enjoy the Social, which follows afterward.

Directions to St. Peter the Apostle are included on the last page of this newsletter and on our website at <http://morriscountyaoh.tripod.com>.



Your Officers for 2009

President:	Greg Seán Canning	(973) 347-2034	Grioghar@mac.com
Vice-President:	Michael E. Griffin	(973) 515-0933	michaelgriffin@optonline.net
Financial Secretary:	Arthur W. Vespignani	(973) 335-3368	Art724@aol.com
Recording Secretary:	Patrick C. Tuohey, Jr.	(201) 475-2552	tuohey@northjersey.com
Treasurer:	Joseph F. Connolly	(908) 647-0201	joencarm@verizon.net
Standing Committee:	Edward P. Harrigan	(973) 263-4657	prummh@aol.com
Marshal:	Michael E. Griffin, Jr.	(973) 515-0933	gem767@yahoo.com
Sentinel:	Mark Bradish	(973) 585-4026	mejbradish@optonline.net
Newsletter Editor:	Greg Seán Canning	(973) 347-2034	Grioghar@mac.com



Dues are now due for 2009

Your **financial support** to our Division is **essential** in maintaining our continuing operation. For each Brother, there is a yearly assessment that must be paid to both the **State and National AOH Boards** by February 15th. Our National & State assessment for \$2008 is \$627.

It would be **greatly appreciated** if you would complete the enclosed **"Dues Invoice"** form and forward payment of your dues (**\$30 at this time (if you have not done so already.)**)



Due to individual circumstances and commitments, there are many Brothers throughout the Divisions of the AOH where the extent of their involvement is payment of yearly dues and (when feasible) support of major functions. Your Executive Board is working diligently to provide our Brothers with meaningful activities and engaging in membership drives to expand our Division. We sincerely appreciate your involvement and continued support at the level you are able to participate.

Super Bowl XLIII Party

Mike & Maureen Malloy will be hosting their annual **Super Bowl XLIII Party** at their house (**1948 Valley Road in Millington**) on Sunday, February 1st.

All AOH Brothers are invited to join together and attend this **special sporting event**.

Greg's famous Irish Coffee and Coddle will be served. The party begins at 4 p.m. If you are able to attend, please **R.S.V.P.** by **January 27th** to the **Malloy's** at (908) 542-1188 or at mmalloy@phoenixcolor.com. You may also contact Greg Seán Canning at (973) 247-2034 or at Grioghar@mac.com. Car pools will be organized if necessary.

To help with expenses, please bring your favorite dish and drink to share.



Please pray for peace and unity in Northern Ireland.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Will Hold their 2009 State Convention in Mount Holly



The AOH State Convention will be held in Mount Holly, NJ, on Friday, May 15th to Sunday morning, May 17th. Information pertaining to the State Convention is listed below. Please contact Greg Seán Canning for further information.

- Hotel Reservations: \$128 per night at the Best Western, Exit 5 off NJ Turnpike
 - Transportation from lodging to activities
- Banquet to be held in Mount Holly’s Historic Prison on High Street
- High Street Bar will cater the banquet; Dinner and dancing, open bar with Guinness & Smithwicks
- Meetings to be held at Burlington Community College
- Ice Breaker Friday evening, May 5 at Dubliner Pub; Installation Banquet Saturday evening, May 16 at Historic Prison

AOH Shamrock and Major Degrees 2009

On Saturday, April 18, 2009 the New Jersey State Board will be offering the Shamrock and Major Degrees in Forked River, New Jersey at the Lacey Elks Hall (609) 693-9831.

If you are interested in making these degrees or are interested in attending this event in support of those brothers making the degrees please contact Greg Seán Canning via: email -- Grioghar@mac.com or phone -- [home (973) 347-2034] [mobile (201) 787-6650].

Car pools will be organized for those interested in attending. The Major Degree is a worthy and wonderful ceremony. All brothers should make every effort to obtain this degree if you have not already done so.

Registration will take place at 10:00 AM, followed by a State Board Meeting at 11, the Shamrock Degree at 12, and the Major Degree at 1. The cost for both candidate and observer is \$35.00. A continental breakfast will be served during the registration period. Immediately following the ceremony, dinner and entertainment will be provided.

Each Division must submit to the State Vice President a **completed registration form** no later than **March 27, 2009**.

All candidates and observers must have in their possession their 2009 traveling card (membership card) signed by the Division Financial Secretary (Art Vespignani). Registration will not be accepted without this card. In order to obtain this card, your 2009 Division Dues (\$30) must be paid.

Blessing of the Tri-Colours

The 27th anniversary of the Annual Blessing of the Tri-Colours (hosted by the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, Morris County), will be held on Sunday, February 22nd 2009 at St. Virgil’s R.C. Church in Morris Plains. The Friendly Sons have extended an open invitation to our Brothers to join them in their traditional celebration of our faith and commitment to our beliefs and our Irish heritage.

The service will begin at 2:30 PM and will include readings, a guest speaker, songs and bagpipes.

This year’s service will be followed by the traditional marching of the Tri-Colours to the Bretton Woods Inn for a reception with food, Irish music, cocktails and the annual unplanned awards presentation.

Participants who own kilts are encouraged to wear them for this event.

Several of our Hibernian brothers will be attending this remarkable and first class event.

If you are interested in joining us, please duplicate and complete the form below and return it to Brian Quinn at the address below or bring it with you to our January 27th AOH meeting. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact either:

Greg Seán Canning @ either (201) 787-6650 or (973) 347-2034 or

Brian Quinn (Chairman of the event) @ (908) 879-7344 [25 Cooper Lane, Chester, NJ 07930]



Blessing of the Tri-Colours, February 22nd, 2009

Donation: \$55.00 Per Person

\$10.00 Discount if received by February 12th, 2009

In order to be listed in the Program prepaid monies must be received by February 12th, 2009

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Guests: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Past State President Thomas J. Corcoran

Past State President Thomas J. Corcoran, 84, of Ladewood, NJ, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2009. He was surrounded by his loving family. Tom's funeral was held at Holy Name of Jesus church in East Orange on Monday, January 19 at 11 AM. Interment took place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover.

A World War II veteran, Tom served in the United States Army with the Third Armored Division in the European Theatre. His unit saw action in five major campaigns, including Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. In 1951, Tom joined the Newark Police Department, where he worked for 39 years, retiring as a captain in 1990. At his retirement, he was the senior captain in the department. An active member in many organizations, Mr. Corcoran served as post commander of Newark Police Post 1439 and district commander of District 4 (Essex County) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also served as New Jersey State president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, as well as the organization's national director of charities and missions. A participant in the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade starting in 1948, he served in many leadership roles with the parade committee, including parade adjutant and financial secretary. Tom was honored in 1998 by the parade committee for his many years of service.

His other memberships included the Knights of Columbus, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Newark Police Superior Officers Association, PBA Local 3 (Newark), and the Retired Police and Firemen's Association of Essex County. Mr. Corcoran served as an elected Democratic district leader in Newark's 32nd district. He was elected and re-elected by the people of his district for over 30 years. His devotion and dedication to this elected position was often commended. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Marie Corcoran (nee DeLorme); five children, Patricia Corcoran, Maureen Timber and her husband Eric, Sharon Merriman and her husband Ken, Thomas Sean Corcoran and his wife Nancy, and John Corcoran and his wife Elizabeth; and 13 grandchildren.



St. Patrick's Day Celebrations



Belmar's St. Patrick's Parade: **Sunday, March 1st**

Our Division will be marching on **Sunday, March 1st** in the **Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade**. All brothers and family members are invited to join us in a day of fun and celebration. For those who would like to attend Mass before we depart, some of us will be attending the 7:30 AM service. **We will then meet at 8:30 AM in St. Peter's parking lot.** Car pools will be arranged at that time to facilitate an organized transportation to the day's events. **Arrival in Belmar is anticipated for 10:00 AM.** At that time, will be attending a morning Hibernian social at the home of our Past State AOH President, Bill Young (303 Ninth Avenue). Following the morning social, we will join other AOH Divisions with our banner and flags at 11:45 AM for a joint AOH march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. A post-parade party will follow at Reilly's Funeral Home, where free beer and food (minimal cost) will be made available.

Morristown's St. Patrick's Parade: **Saturday, March 14th** (Our Main Event!!!)



Our Division will be marching as a unit on **Saturday, March 14th** in the **Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade**. All brothers and family members are invited to join us in a day of fun and celebration. We will meet at 8:00 AM on the corner of Elm Street and South Street for a morning Breakfast Social at the Morristown Deli.

Following this, we will gather at **Assumption Church** on Maple Avenue for a **St. Patrick's Day Mass** at 10:00 AM. After the conclusion of the Mass, our brothers will walk to the parking lot behind the Municipal building to line up for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Following the Parade meeting on Monday, March 10th, I will notify all members as to which Division we will be marching in. As of this date, that information is not yet available.

Somerset AOH St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner & Dance

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Somerset Division will hold its **Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance on Saturday, March 14th**, at St. Mary's Hall, 1900 Brooks Blvd., Hillsborough. The Dinner/Dance will begin at 6:30 PM and last until midnight. The Willie Lynch Show Band, Irish Dancers, and Pipers will provide entertainment. Corned Beef or Chicken, beer, wine, and soda will be served. Tickets are \$50. Our Division will reserve a table for a group of our Brothers and their wives. If you are interested in attending, please call Greg at home (973) 347-2034 or mobile (201) 787-6650.



Events Calendar

- ▶ **February AOH Exe. Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 10 @ St. Peter's Church Hall, 8:00 PM
- ▶ **State Board Meeting:** Saturday, February 21 @ 11 AM; Msg. Crean Div. 1, Hamilton, NJ
- ▶ **February AOH General Meeting:** Tuesday, February 24 @ St. Peter's Church Hall, 8:00 PM
- ▶ **Belmar's St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Sunday, Mar. 1 @ 1 PM; Pre-Parade AOH Party at 10 AM.
- ▶ **South Amboy's St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Saturday, Mar. 7 @ 2 PM)
- ▶ **Mandatory Parade Orientation Meeting:** Monday, Mar. 9 @ 7:30 - 8:30 PM (VFW Hall, 45 Tabor Rd, Morris Plains) *Executive Board members will be attending on behalf of our Division*
- ▶ **Morristown's St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Saturday, Mar. 14 @ 11:30 AM (See page 3 for further information)
- ▶ **Somerset St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance:** Saturday, Mar. 14 @ St. Mary's Hall, Hillsborough, 7-12 PM
- ▶ **Somerset St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Sunday, Mar. 15 @ 12:00 Noon
- ▶ **March AOH General Meeting & St. Patrick's Social:** Wed., March 18 @ St. Peter's Church Hall, 8:00 PM
- ▶ **NJAOH Irish Heritage Mass:** Saturday, March 28 @ St. Ann's Church, 11:00 AM (Carr Ave in Keansburg)
- ▶ **Major Degree:** Saturday, April 18 @ Lacey Elks Hall, 900 Beach Blvd., Forked River, NJ 08731
- ▶ **AOH State Convention:** Friday, May 15 to Sunday morning, May 17

This is your newsletter! If there are events, concerts, or shows you would like added, please contact **Greg Seán Canning** at (973) 347-2034 or send an email to Grioghar@mac.com.

Irish Programs

- ▶ **Out of Ireland** Television program, every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and repeated on Saturday at 5 p.m. on WLIW, Public Television Station on Long Island. Please check your local listings.
- ▶ **A Thousand Welcomes with Kathleen Biggins every Saturday, 9:00 am -12n, on WFUV 90.7 FM.**
- ▶ **The Sunday Session with Ron Olesko every Sunday, 9:00 – 10 a.m., on WFDU 89.1 FM.**
- ▶ **Ceol na nGael** with Deirdre McGuinness & Liz Noonan every Sunday, 12–4 pm on **WFUV 90.7 FM.**
- ▶ **The Irish Hour** with Brother Joe O'Sullivan from the Somerset Division and his friends every Sunday, from 5:30 -7:00 p.m., on WRSU 88.7 FM.

Sick and Vigil

Please remember the following in your prayers:



- ▶ Our American soldiers killed or injured serving our country in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.
- ▶ Our family and friends who have special needs.
- ▶ The passing of our AOH Brothers and family members in 2008.



Irish Language and Irish Dance Classes

Irish language classes are held every Monday evening at the **Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey** Club House in Wharton, New Jersey. Taught by Liam Hart, **intermediate/advance sessions** begin at 6:30 p.m.. **Beginner sessions** begin at 8 p.m.. For those interested in learning how to speak in the Irish language, contact Marge at (973) 366-8483.

Irish dance classes are taught by Jack Regan and are held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.. Beginners and improvers are welcome at 6:30 p.m.. Instruction includes Set Dance, Ceili, and Two Hand. Contact Jack Regan at (973) 853-7047 (e-mail: Ajhack1@aol.com).



Free Irish Music Seisiun

The **Somerset County AOH** sponsors a free **Traditional Irish Music Seisiun** on the **4th Sunday** of February, March, April, September, October, and November. The Seisiun is held from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 495 East Main Street, Somerville.

The **Somerset Division** states that you will not find better Irish traditional music and entertainment anywhere, west of Ireland. **Admission, tea, Irish soda bread and Irish brown bread are FREE!** A cash bar is available for your pleasure. All traditional Irish musicians are cordially invited to attend and join in the seisiuns. **Novice musicians** interested in improving their skills on accordion, tin whistle, bodran, mouth organ, etc. can receive instructions one hour before regular seisiuns begin. For more information, call Mike Berry at (908) 685-3168.

St. Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland



WHO WAS ST. PATRICK ?

St. Patrick, the **patron saint of Ireland**, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery.

Many of the stories traditionally associated with **St. Patrick**, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland (there have not been snakes in Ireland since the last Ice Age), are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

Taken Prisoner By Irish Raiders

St. Patrick was born near the end of the fourth century in either Scotland or Wales to a wealthy Roman father and a Welsh mother. His birth name was Maewyn Succat (a Welsh name). However, Patricius (Patrick) became his Roman name. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that **Patrick** came from a particularly religious family.

At the age of sixteen, **Patrick** was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity.

There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Many believe **Patrick** was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim. Other historians believe that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.

During this time, **Patrick** worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. It is also believed that **Patrick** first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.



Guided By Visions

After more than six years as a prisoner, **Patrick** escaped. According to his writing, a voice (which he believed to be God's) spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

To do so, **Patrick** walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast.

After escaping to Britain, **Patrick** reported that he experienced a second revelation -- an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, **Patrick** began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission -- to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

Bonfires and Crosses

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, **Patrick** chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs.

For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when **Patrick** arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of **Patrick's life** became exaggerated over the centuries -- spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.

WHY MARCH 17th?

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on **March 17**, his religious feast day and the **anniversary** of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.

On **St. Patrick's Day**, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast — on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage, lamb, or roast.

The First Parade

The **first St. Patrick's Day parade** took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through **New York City** on **March 17, 1762**. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.



Over the next thirty-five years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies, like the **Ancient Order of Hibernians** and the **Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick**. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes and drums.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the **Great Hunger** hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated, Catholic Irish began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and unwelcome accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual **St. Patrick's Day parades** became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended **New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade**, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Wearing of the Green Goes Global

Although North America is home to the largest productions, **St. Patrick's Day** is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, and Russia.

In **modern-day Ireland**, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use **St. Patrick's Day** as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. In 2008, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and fireworks shows.

Directions to St. Peter the Apostle Church: located at 179 Baldwin Road (off of Route 46 West) in Parsippany

From Denville and points west:

Take Route 80 East to Exit 45 toward Lake Hiawatha (make sure you take the local lanes on the right as you pass Route 287 or you'll go past the exit and have to double back). Turn left at the light at the top of the ramp onto South Beverwyck Road. At the next light, turn left onto Route 46 West. Just past the Outback Steak House and before you reach the next light, take the turn right toward Baldwin Road and turn right onto it. Take the very next left into St. Peter the Apostle Church parking lot. The entrance to the hall is straight ahead. Take the nearest available parking space and come in.

From Wayne and points east:

Take Route 80 West to Exit 47 towards Parsippany. You will merge onto Route 46 West. When you pass the 2nd set of lights, you will be passing Beverwyck Road. Just past the Outback Steak House and before you reach the next light, take the turn right toward Baldwin Road



**Mailing address: Morris County, Division One, Ancient Order of Hibernians
P.O. Box 1732, Morristown, NJ 07962-1732**

Website: <http://morriscountyaoh.tripod.com>