

DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Thanksgiving, especially with so much travel as families get together to share a feast and enjoy good cheer. We were lucky that the weather in our vicinity cooperated. Let's hope this holds true in December.

Our yearly member Christmas Dinner Meeting will be on Thursday, December 17th. This is always a fun time and will contain a short piece of Division business involving confirmation of the slate of Officers for 2016 as they carry over the tradition of serving a 2nd year term. The one exception in that John Kelly has been asked to serve as Chairman of the Standing Committee due to Glen Kelly's move. We will conduct a vote to confirm the following principal slate at the meeting:

President - Stephen Ren, Vice President – Michael Shephard

Treasurer – Robert Shephard, Financial Secretary – Gerry McVicker, Standing Committee – John Kelly

Two important items about the Dinner meeting:

- 1) The location will be West Main Street Grill in Wappingers Falls. Drinks will start at 6:00 PM, and dinner at 7:00PM
- 2) RSPV please to Michael Shephard at 845-489-8240 or mshephea@hotmail.com

Finally, thanks to Gerry McVicker for running the November meeting when both Michael and I were away on business. The presentation of the Appreciation Plaque to Mike and Glen Kelly was finely accomplished. We wish them all of the best and will miss them tremendously as Brothers!



That is it for now. Will see you at the December Dinner Meeting!

Yours in Brotherhood and Motto,
Stephen J. Ren
President - Dutchess County,
Div 1, Msgr. J. Sheahan

DECEMBER
2015

DIVISION OFFICERS

CHAPLAIN:

DEACON
ROBERT
HORTON

PRESIDENT:

STEPHEN
REN

VICE PRESIDENT:

MICHAEL
SHEPHEARD

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

GERRY
MCVICKER

RECORDING SECRETARY:

KEN
MCCORMICK

TREASURER:

ROBERT
SHEPHEARD

MARSHAL:

JAMES
SWEENEY

SENTINEL:

JIM BRADY

HISTORIAN:

MATT
FITZGERALD

STANDING COMMITTEE:
GLEN KELLY



*MAY PEACE AND PLENTY BE THE FIRST,
TO LIFT THE LATCH TO YOUR DOOR,
AND HAPPINESS BE GUIDED TO YOUR HOME,
BY THE CANDLE OF CHRISTMAS.*





Historian's Corner

You might remember a movie from the early 1960s [1964 to be exact] entitled "Seven Days In May"; for my piece this month I am capitalizing on that title by calling it "Fourteen Days In April". This month's article [the first of several] deals with The Easter Rising in Dublin, alternately called The 1916 Rising, in which an Irish Republic was announced with the reading of The Proclamation by Padraig Pearse on the steps of the Dublin General Post Office. That event took place on Monday, April 24, 1916 and for some 14 days, starting on the 25th, this historic happening dominated the news on the front page of the New York Times. There has been criticism, however, over the accuracy of the reporting. Some of that misinformation can be attributed to the David and Goliath nature of the battle, and the fact that Britain was engaged in the First World War and had been so for some two years; 11 more months would pass before the U.S. would enter that war. Three days prior to the Rising on Good Friday the German ship, the *SS Aud*, was discovered off the coast of County Kerry with a reported shipment of up to 20,000 rifles for Irish rebels who were planning the Easter Rising of 1916 set to take place in Dublin. After capture, and while under British escort on the way to Cork Harbor, the *Aud* was scuttled by its crew who were taken into custody as prisoners of war and interred for the remainder of the war [WWI]. In the meantime, Roger Casement was captured by British forces after he landed off the coast of County Kerry at Banna Strand from a German U-boat. Casement, who at one stage was a prominent English diplomat and British consul, would be charged with treason and executed. [Casement was held in Pentonville Gaol in London; he was tried in that city on charges of High Treason under a 565 year old statute and was found guilty. On August 3, he was hanged in the Pentonville site.]

As originally planned, the *Aud* had arrived in Tralee Bay on April 20 at which time they were supposed to meet Casement and a group of Volunteers to off-load the arms. The *Aud* did not have a radio, which proved to be disastrous for this arms smuggling operation. The ship with its cargo, which included machine guns, a million rounds of ammunition and explosives, in addition to the above mentioned rifles under a camouflage of a timber cargo, had evaded patrols of both the British 10th Cruiser Squadron and local Auxiliary patrols. The *Aud* was scheduled to land at the village of Fenit [*An Fhianait*, meaning "The Wild Place"] which was on the north side of Tralee Bay, approximately 6 miles from the Town of Tralee. Due to the lack of communication availability, the *Aud* crew did not know that Roger Casement had been captured, nor that the date for the ship's arrival had been changed from April 20 [Holy Thursday] to April 23 [Easter Sunday]. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the unloading of the arms shipment might not have taken place on a timely basis, or even at all. The car-load of Volunteers who were supposed to meet the *Aud* had crashed some 26 miles away near Kenmare so there would have been no hope of an organized transfer of arms.

As is widely known, The Rising was originally planned for Easter Sunday, April 23, but due to "internal" problems, was canceled on the day amid much confusion. At about 11:00AM on Easter Monday, Patrick Pearse and the Volunteers, along with James Connolly and the Irish Citizen Army, assembled at various prearranged meeting points in Dublin, and before noon set out to occupy a number of imposing buildings in, and around, the inner city area, these sites had been selected to command main routes into the capital, and because of their strategic positions in relation to the major military barracks. The locations included the General Post Office, the Four Courts, Jacob's Factory, Boland's Bakery, the South Dublin Union, St. Stephen's Green, and later, the College of Surgeons. There was little fighting on that first day since the British Intelligence Services had dropped the ball on securing necessary information; the sites were taken with very little resistance, with the rebels immediately setting about making them defensible. The GPO was the nerve center of the rebellion. It served as the rebels' headquarters and the seat of the provisional government, which they had declared in the formal reading of the Proclamation on the steps of the GPO. Five of the members of this provisional government served there - Pearse, Clarke, Connolly, Mac Dermott and Plunkett. The major pushback from British forces, which the rebels had fully anticipated, did not at first materialize. When the Rising began, the authorities had just 400 troops to confront those approximately 1,000 insurgents. The immediate priorities of the British authorities were to amass reinforcements, gather information on volunteer strength and locations, and protect strategic points, including the seat of government, Dublin Castle, which had been virtually undefended. The day after the taking of the GPO by the rebels, a British force of 4,500 men had been moved into and secured the Castle.

As Easter Week progressed, the fighting in some areas did become intense, which was exemplified by prolonged and fiercely contested hand to hand street battles. Military casualties were highest at the Mount Street Bridge, a key crossing point for the British Army across the Liffey. The newly arrived troops at that location made continuing and tragically inept attacks...frontal attacks on determined and disciplined volunteers occupying several strongly fortified positions. The British force lost 234 men who were either killed or wounded, while only five rebels died. A major problem in military operations also occurred. The Crown Forces experienced lapses in military discipline; soldiers were alleged to have killed 15 unarmed men in North King Street near the Four Courts building during intense gun battles in that area on the 28th and 29th of April.

(continued on next page)



The best known civilian victim of the week was Francis Sheehy-Skeffington. Skeffington, a resident of Rathmines, a suburb of Dublin, was from County Cavan; he was an suffragist, pacifist and writer. He was arrested in Dublin on the second day of the Insurrection [the 25th], taken to Portobello Barracks, and shot by firing squad on the morning of the 26th. He was executed without benefit of a trial.

Lest we get the wrong idea, the Crown Forces generally responded to The Rising in a competent manner. Reinforcements were speedily introduced into the capital; by Friday, the 28th, the Irish Rebels, whose numbers had increased to some 1,800 by that time were now facing 18 – 20,000 British soldiers. From Thursday the GPO was entirely cut off from other rebel units. On that next day the building came under a ferocious artillery attack which also destroyed much of central Dublin. Having well learned the lessons of the Mount Street Bridge engagement, the troops did not attempt a mass infantry frontal attack. Their strategy was direct and effective. It compelled the leaders of the insurgency based at the Post Office to evacuate the Post Office and later to accept the only terms that were offered---unconditional surrender. Their decision was then made known to, and accepted in some cases reluctantly, by all the rebel units still fighting in both the capital and other such areas.

In total, the Rising cost 450 persons killed, 2614 injured and 9 missing, all pretty much in Dublin. The only other significant action elsewhere was at Ashbourne, 10 miles north of Dublin. Military casualties were 116 dead, 368 wounded, and 9 missing as above; the Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Dublin police forces had 16 killed and 29 wounded. A total of 254 civilians died; these high figures were largely due to the fact that much of the fighting had occurred in or near densely populated areas. It is widely accepted that 64 rebels lost their lives in the fighting. Their casualties were lower because in Dublin they were the defending force. Additionally, they fought with discipline and skill until, acting under instructions from the leaders of the Rising, they surrendered their strongholds rather than “fight to the last Volunteer”. The few other insurgents in the counties of Meath, Galway and Wexford joined in the surrender,

During the next several months leading up to the Centennial Memorializing of the Rising on or about April 24, I will deal with various other aspects of the Rising. As you know, I have presented a range of topic pieces on “1916” in the past. If you have anything in particular you would like me to deal with, please let me know.

Matt Fitzgerald
irishrm@juno.com
845-454-5308

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

As Financial Secretary of Msgr. Sheehan, Div. 1, Dutchess County AOH, I have been asked to update our membership records. As you know members of the Clergy do not pay any membership dues. Please advise of current address and phone number. Also, if a preferred email address should be updated. I would appreciate your feedback by years end. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

In Brotherhood & Motto,
Gerard McVicker

- ◆ December 17th, Christmas Party Dinner meeting
- ◆ December 25th, Merry Christmas
- ◆ January 1st, Happy New Year
- ◆ January 21st, regular business meeting
- ◆ February 6th, Emerald Ball
- ◆ February 18th, regular business meeting
- ◆ March 5th, DC St. Patrick's Parade

Just some of the activities your Dutchess County, Division 1, AOH is involved in.

Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!



Jets Charity Raffle

Brothers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who, again, helped to make our annual Football Fund Raiser a huge success.

To Matt Fitzgerald and Kenny Brown a special thank you for always going above and beyond and also, to our President, who sets the example of what Christian Charity truly is.

This year we raised approximately twenty-five hundred dollars.

A Job well done!!



In Brotherhood,
Jack Fedigan

IRISH ACTIVITIES

Brothers,

We are passing on again this year the following information provided by Mary Connolly, wife of deceased Brother Michael Connolly:

Christmas Mass Cards from Our Lady's Shrine in Knock County Mayo, Eire
This Christmas Season, give the gift that keeps on giving!

When Our Blessed Mother appeared at Knock with Saint Joseph and Saint John on August 21, 1879, She didn't speak. But didn't have to. All three had their attention fixed on the Altar, our reminder that the Mass is the most important gift we have.

This gift is now yours to give! We have Christmas Mass Cards from the Shrine and you can enroll your loved ones, living or deceased, in the Knock Shrine Friends' Association.

Contact Mary Connolly by phone, snail mail or email. Give her the names, include a donation of \$10.00 for each Mass (checks made out to Knock Shrine) and your family and friends will be remembered in 2 daily Masses for 1 year in Ireland. That's over 730 Masses, graces and blessings! Once she receives the donation and names (with your return address :)) she'll send the cards directly to you. It's that easy!

After the Christmas Season is over, you can still have your Masses offered for General Intentions, Get Well or Deceased. Give a bit of Ireland to those you love!

Mrs. Mary Connolly
204 East Main Street
Beacon, New York 12508
H(845) 831-5577
email: MaryEConnolly@aol.com



Merry Christmas! One and All!

Reported on Wednesday 12/2/2015

The Concerned Members of the Affiliated Organizations Congratulate John Tully on His Election as Chairman of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Last night, 140 delegates of the Affiliated Organizations of the Parade elected as per the current Parade bylaws Mr. John Tully as Chairman of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. A lifelong New Yorker and a product of Catholic education, including the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Tully is Of Counsel in the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright. Irish American Magazine honored him as a member of its Irish Legal 100. He is descended from grandparents from counties Galway and Cavan. He is the immediate past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 7; a member of the Knights of St. Patrick and served as an aide to the grand marshal for the 2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. He is also chair of the Celtic Cruise to benefit the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and serves as the chairman of the board of trustees at his alma mater, St. Francis College.

We also congratulate newly elected Vice-Chairman Tom Beirne, who has a historical connection as the son of previous long serving Chairman Frank Beirne. Further congratulations go to Cathy Micelli as Recording Secretary, Rosemary Lombard as Treasurer, Dennis Grogan as Controller, Dennis McCarthy as Corresponding Secretary and Frank O'Keefe as Sgt. at Arms. We believe the collective wisdom of the Affiliated Organizations when given a chance to speak through democratic elections is well proven by their choice of such qualified elected officers.

The Concerned Members of the Affiliated Organizations (CMAO) also thank Mr. John Dunleavy for his years of service and dedication to the Parade and the Irish American Community. Current controversies should not detract from his decades of dedication and service to the Parade. It continues to be our hope that Mr. Dunleavy and the members of the Board who have worked so closely for years can come to an amicable resolution of their differences out of mutual respect and in the spirit of the Saint whom we all revere.

From its inception, the CMAO's only goal was the preservation of the parade as a tribute to St. Patrick as the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of New York and Ireland and protecting the voice of the men and women who make up the parade as represented by the affiliated organizations. With the election of Mr. Tully and his officers it is our fervent hope that Chairman Dr. John Lahey and the Board of the Parade Corporation will now take this opportunity as a fresh beginning; to proceed in the sentiments that Dr. Lahey expressed in the past of greater engagement with the Affiliated Organizations. It is time to stop the public display of divisiveness and work together to honor the heritage that unites us.

SPONSORS PAGE


INDEPENDENT BENEFIT PLANS

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***Your Ad
Here!***



Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you or someone you do business with wants to advertise with us, just get a business card to the newsletter editor. And the money to our Financial Secretary the cost is just \$25.00 per year.

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 17th; Elections & Christmas Party
- December 25th; Merry Christmas
- January 1st; Happy New Year
- January 21st; Regular business meeting
- February 6th; Emerald Ball
- February 18th; Regular business meeting

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Paul Becker	Deacon Bob Horton
Noel Morris	Nathan Redmond
Bill Schimpf	Richard Whalen

‡ IN MEMORIAM ‡

On the Radio 91.3 FM: “A Little Bit of Ireland”

Hosted by our own Brendan Daly and broadcast from Vassar College.

Saturday’s from 1 PM to 3:30 PM.

*“Even when they have nothing,
the Irish emit a kind of
happiness, a joy”*

~Fiona Shaw~



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

