

# DIVISION NEWSLETTER

DUTCHESS COUNTY MSGR. SHEAHAN DIVISION # 1

Division Website: [www.dutchessaoh.com](http://www.dutchessaoh.com)

Gene Noone - Editor [genenoone13@optimum.net](mailto:genenoone13@optimum.net) (914) 469-6661



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

The cool nights and brisk mornings signal that Fall is upon us. Pack up the beach chairs and swimming costumes. October sees the youngsters back at school and a pause before the holiday season consumes our time. Please take a moment to thank our Lord for the many gifts which he has bestowed upon us and also for the safe journey to the United States of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

What a spectacular time to be a Catholic in this country and share in the richness of spirit and compassion for those less fortunate that are exemplified in our Shepherd of the Flock here on earth. And what a magnificent opportunity for our own AOH Dutchess County Brothers Gerry McVicker and James Englishby to take part in the Papal Mass at Madison Square Garden. Congratulations on being selected, Brothers, and doing our Division proud. Well done!

The 2015 Charity Dinner/Dance will be held again at 7PM at the Elks Club in Wappingers Falls. Please bring your family and friends for a truly Irish evening. Great food, fun, music, dancing, and some good old-fashioned Criac are all in store. We look forward to the spirited and moving music of the Irish brothers band, MacCana, as well as a performance by the always wonderful Kevin Broesler School of Irish Dance. Please consider donating to the silent auction. The prizes are always superb and have enabled a fine raffle with proceeds going to the several worthy causes that our Division supports. Please see the following link for the reservation form on our website or call Michael Shephard at 845-489-8240 for more information or tickets:

<http://www.dutchessaoh.com/2015%20AOH%20Dinner%20RSVP%20Letter.pdf>

That is it for now. Our next monthly meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup> and I can't wait to see you there!



Halloween is coming soon, watch for the children on the street & be kind to the kiddies at your door!

Yours in Brotherhood and Motto,

Stephen J. Ren

OCTOBER  
2015

## DIVISION OFFICERS

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ROBERT  
HORTON

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STEPHEN  
REN

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JIM BRADY

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MATT  
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STANDING COMMITTEE:

GLEN KELLY



*MAY YOUR NEIGHBORS RESPECT YOU,  
TROUBLE NEGLECT YOU,  
THE ANGELS PROTECT YOU,  
AND HEAVEN ACCEPT YOU.*





### Historian's Corner

Some years ago I met a man while we were each pumping gas in a local filling station. Spying my license plate, he asked what the "IRISHRM" meant. I told him, and, in turn asked about his plate which read "Eire 31". Naturally, curiosity got the better of me and I asked him what his stood for. He said that he was of Irish Heritage [In fact, he owned an Irish pub of some note, which is no longer in business.]; that the use of the name Eire was obvious, and that the "31" was his favorite number. I then explained to him why I asked specifically about the number, noting the total number of counties in Ireland, as well as referencing the bumper stickers of the time indicating that "26 + 6 = 1". By the way, he was not aware of the significance of that slogan either. But, he did say that once someone yelled out to him. "Hey stupid!, there are 32." [Lest I besmirch the good name of the current crop of knowledgeable Publicans in the county, this person has been off the radar for some 15 to 20 years.] Now for the purpose for the foregoing preamble, or blather as some of you might call it.

There has been a running informal competition as to which of two New York State counties could truly be called "The 33rd County of Ireland". Some say that the honor belongs to Greene County due to the Town of East Durham and it's plethora of Irish festivals and other events. Then there are others who say that it's the Bronx. One thing I do now is that no one has ever seriously considered the Rockaways for that designation regardless of its history of famous pubs, boarding houses, and entertainers. As I began this piece, I was sure that I would only be dealing with New York State's Greene and Bronx counties. However a Google search for assistance resulted in some other interesting suggestions.

There is an Immigrant assistance group in New York City championing the cause of the undocumented Irish in this country which claims that the Undocumented Irish are the 33rd County of Ireland. Then there is Wee Marie's Blog which says that the label belongs to the City of London [Contae Londain] basing her opinion on the wide range of craic one can enjoy in the various "Irish-towns" in that city. Much also has been written in the past about the possibility of Ireland really being the lost City of Atlantis [and not ... "that little piece of Heaven that fell from out the sky one day..."] Well---who knows! A recent piece on the website of New York Irish Arts claims that an underwater search off the coast of County Wexford has uncovered "Atlondis", which the author claims is the famous 33rd county. Traveling now to the northwest in County Sligo, we find that a swath of land some 600 square kilometers in size [making it smaller than Ireland's recognized smallest county Louth] is also vying for the title. This is in the area of Ardmeen, near Strandhill. There are those who believe that the 33rd County is really West Cork. To finally sum up, what credence would this article have if we did not resort to Irish Mythology for an answer? Tír na nÓg is the final entry in this article, but believe it or not, we could have added at least a dozen or so more...and legitimately so.

As I have told you several times in the past, my writing takes a turn all its own just like the gift of gab one gets from kissing the Blarney Stone; and I am sure you will remember my telling you that I did so twice. The original theme of this piece was prompted by a New York Times article my son sent me about the re-opening of the High Bridge in the Bronx.

Some of us old BICs remember the Bronx terminus neighborhood called Highbridge, which was one of those famous Irish immigrant enclaves of New York City, in general, and the Bronx, in particular. Yankees fans will remember it as that neighborhood just north of the Stadium. Jack Fedigan and my pal, Jimmy Tierney, will remember with fond memories their days as members of the "Bronx Gardai". I, on the other hand, will remember Maura W., the first girl I dated outside of my beloved neighborhood of St. Luke's Parish farther to the south and east in the South Bronx.

The High Bridge is the city's oldest bridge and is now open for the first time since the 1970s. Built in the 1840s, the High Bridge is not just a vital link between Manhattan and the Bronx; it's also a bridge to the city's distant past. The work force was mainly made up of Irish immigrants who settled in the area. The bridge opened in 1848 initially as an aqueduct to deliver water to the city from upstate. More than 1,400 feet long and 123 feet high, it was considered a marvel of civil engineering while emulating the aqueducts of the Roman Empire. In the 1970s, it fell into serious disrepair. The bridge took some nine years to build, and a little over three years to do the renovations and repairs, at a cost of some \$61 million. The original cost of building the bridge was \$905,000.00

Matt Fitzgerald  
[irishrm@juno.com](mailto:irishrm@juno.com)  
845-454-5308

## AOH ACTIVITIES

### Charity Dinner / Dance



Our Annual Charity Dinner Dance will be held on October 24, 2015 at the Wappingers Elks Club, Rte. 376, Wappingers Falls. Tickets are available through the Dinner Chairmen, as usual a pair will be mailed to each member. Help is needed in procuring donations for our silent auction, so if you frequent a preferred business ask if they would be willing to help us with a gift certificate or donation of their product or services. (see flyer, following)



Gentlemen,

I will be bringing the dinner dance tickets to the meeting, so please come with cash or checks on hand. I would also like to request everyone in attendance to bring at least one raffle prize. Last year we did quite well raising money, and I would like to try and do better this year. I currently have a few baskets, and silent auction prizes that I will discuss. Also, if you could let me know who wants full tables, so I can start planning that out as well.

If you are unable to make the meeting and want to attend the dinner dance please e-mail me: [mshephea@hotmail.com](mailto:mshephea@hotmail.com) -or- call my cell. (845)-489-8240.



Thank you for your support. Look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Sincerely,  
Michael Shepheard

### NY Jets Raffle!

Our annual NY Jets ticket raffle is under way, with the drawing scheduled for our Charity Dinner / Dance, October 24th. With the proceeds to benefit our many charitable causes.



The winner will receive 4 tickets to the Sunday, November 29th game against the Miami Dolphins. It is a 1:00 PM game at MetLife Stadium. Donation price per ticket is \$5.00. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact: Jack Fedigan (914) 474-8706. (See flyer, next page)



### FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

It is vitally important that our records stay current, to that effect please contact me with any changes to your address, e-mail, phone numbers, etc.. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

Gerard McVicker  
Financial Secretary  
101 Brothers Rd  
Stormville, NY, 12582

- ◆ October 15th, regular business meeting
- ◆ October 24th, Charity Dinner / Dance
- ◆ October 24th, Jets tickets raffle
- ◆ November 19th, regular business meeting
- ◆ November 19th, Nominations for Office to be held

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

*Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!*

Look for my experience with the Pope, on the next page.

## MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE POPE



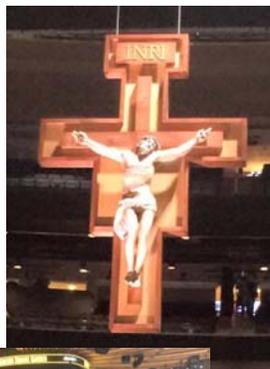
Brothers,

It is with great pride that I write this bit about the AOH attendance at the Papal Mass, at Madison Square Garden. The AOH was asked to provide volunteer ushers to help with the distribution of the Holy Eucharist. This honor was bestowed on us through the hard work of Thomas Beirne (NY County AOH.) After an early rehearsal back on Aug 18th, with Archdiocesan deacons and many volunteers from the AOH, Knights of Columbus, and the Knights of Malta, a steady stream of emails with clarifications, and changes followed. Unfortunately, the required number volunteers was reduced and a lottery was initiated to select the final cut. Fortunately, Brother Jim Englishby and I, were selected to represent Dutchess County Division One, at the Mass.

The day started at 9:30AM Friday morning with a long wait for credential badges. We had to previously submit SS#'s and pictures for Secret Service clearance. After entrance to the garden, we congregated in an area known as the theatre, and AOH brothers proceeded to muster together. We were assigned to a Deacon Marshal and were give our section. We then proceeded to the sections for a rehearsal on the distribution of Communion. After rehearsal, some of the brothers decided to take a grand tour of the Garden which afforded us the opportunity for some group pictures and of course some great banter. We assembled as a contingent in front of the altar, and had more pictures taken than one can possible imagine.

At approximately 4:00 PM we took are stations at the various sections in the garden and proceeded to enjoy the Pre Mass Spiritual entertainment, which was very moving. Our Holiness Pope Francis (Papa Francesco) appeared to an overwhelming loud welcome. He circled the floor of the garden twice and proceeded to the altar. The Mass was beautiful and one could sense the presence of the Holy Spirit. Joy and happiness filled the hearts and minds of the congregation as truly one body of Christ. I consider myself very fortunate and Blessed to have been a part of such a momentous event. I am also very fortunate to be part of the Great Fraternity of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In Brotherhood & Motto,  
Gearoid.



*Some pictures of the experience!*





**ANCIENT ORDER**  
**OF**  
**HIBERNIANS**  
IN AMERICA

*Dutchess County*  
*msgr. Sheahan*  
*Division # 1*

# *Jets Ticket Raffle*

**Sunday, November 29, 2015**  
**1:00 PM Game Time @ MetLife Stadium**  
**4 Tickets to**  
**NY Jets vs Miami Dolphins**

**Drawing Date:           October 24, 2015**

**Donation:                 \$5.00 each**

***PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S***  
***MANY CHARITABLE CAUSES***

For more information or to purchase tickets  
contact any AOH member

-or-

Call: Jack Fedigan  
(914) 474-8706 (cell)

E-mail: [info@addspace.com](mailto:info@addspace.com)





*Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Dutchess County - Msgr.  
Sheahan - Division 1*

## *Annual Charity Dinner Dance*

**Saturday, October 24, 2015 7:00 PM**

**Wappingers Elks Lodge  
Route 376**

**Complete Roast Beef Dinner  
With Dessert & Coffee  
Irish Step Dancers, Raffles and Prizes**

**Music by:  
"MacCana"**

*Donation: \$40.00 per person*

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE AOH'S MANY CHARITIES**

For tickets or more information contact:

Stephen Ren  
(845) 214-5664

Michael Shephard  
(845) 489-8240

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**Robert G Shephard Jr**  
Certified Public Accountant  
488 Freedom Plains Road  
Suite 139 PHONE 845-485-3000  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 FAX 845-485-3257  
bshephard@optimum.net  


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web page: [www.embroideryd.com](http://www.embroideryd.com)

**Stephen P. O'Hare**  
Attorney at Law  
488 Freedom Plains Road Tel: (845)452-4090  
Suite 103 Fax: (845)452-4615  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 E-mail: [oharelaw@optonline.net](mailto:oharelaw@optonline.net)

***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

- October 15th: Regular Business Meeting
- October 24th: Charity Dinner / Dance & Raffle
- November 19th: Regular Business Meeting
- November 19th: Officer Nominations

## 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.

*“Irish poets, learn your trade,  
Sing whatever is well made,  
Scorn the sort now growing up  
All out of shape from toe to top”*

*~William Butler Yeats~*



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

