

Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

Division Website: www.dutchessaoh.com

Gene Noone - Editor genenoone13@optimum.net (914) 469-6661



Presidents Message

Brothers and Friends of the AOH

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday and could spend time with family and friends. While we all have several intentions to keep in our prayers and endure the inevitable challenges of life, it helps to recall the numerous blessings given to us by God and reflect upon our overall good fortune.

Let's start off with financial items. Through the diligence of Treasurer Robert Shephard and Financial Secretary Gerry McVicker our current financial posture is very solid. In fact, 2017 will be a year in which we look to broaden our charitable activities. Thanks to all for your generosity and financial support! The Annual Charity Dinner/Dance was a very successful fund raiser that will help enable additional 2017 activities. Thanks again to Michael Shephard for his leadership on this event. In addition, the Football Ticket Raffle was another rousing success as a fund raiser. Thanks to Jack Fedigan for his selfless leadership on this event, as well as Matt Fitzgerald on his super sales skills.

We already are moving on donations. At the November meeting our Brothers unanimously agreed to make a \$250 gift to the AOH National Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) Project. Let us always be diligent and help drive the reunification of one Ireland across all 32 counties.

Let us extend appreciation to Brother Matt Fitzgerald for organizing the participation of our Division to remember the passing of our patron Msgr. Joseph Sheahan at the November 6th Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. Thanks to all who attended!

I have already reported that the 2-year tenure of our current Division Officers is ending. I appreciate the wonderful support of all during my term as President and look forward to participating as much as possible from our new family residence in Boston. Thanks to the Election Committee (Jack Fedigan, Matt Fitzgerald, Michael Quinn, and Kenny Brown) for establishing a fantastic slate of nominees who will be formally voted upon at our December Dinner meeting. As always, this newsletter communication serves as a notification of the Nominees. There is still time to place your name in nomination for a position if you are interested. Contact the Nomination Committee before 12/10.

Here are your nominees:

President: Michael Shephard;	Vice President: Gerry McVicker;
Financial Secretary: Jack Fedigan;	Treasurer: Robert Shephard;
Recording Secretary: Michael Quinn;	Standing Committee: John Kelly;
Sentinel: James Englishby;	Marshal: James Sweeney.

Please join us on Thursday, December 15th at Mahoney's near the Poughkeepsie Train Station for our Christmas Dinner Meeting in the upstairs private room. In addition to the Officer Elections mentioned above, we will have a short business meeting before enjoying our usual amount of brotherhood and happy cheer. The meeting will start at 7:00PM and dinner at 7:30PM. Dinners will be individually ordered off the menu. Plenty of Brothers will arrive in advance of the meeting to share in comradery. We hope to see you there!



Yours in Brotherhood and Motto,
Stephen Ren – President
AOH Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan Division One

December
2016

DIVISION OFFICERS

Chaplain:
Deacon
Robert Horton

President:
Stephen Ren

Vice President:
Michael
Shephard

Financial Secretary:
Gerry McVicker

Recording Secretary:
William
Schimpf

Treasurer:
Robert
Shephard

Marshal:
James Sweeney

Sentinel:
Jim Brady

Historian:
Matt Fitzgerald

Standing Committee:
John Kelly



*This Christmas may you have...
Walls for the wind, and a roof for the rain,
and drinks by the fire, laughter to cheer you,
and those you love near you, and all that your heart may desire.*





Historian's Corner

Here we are nearing the end of 2016; the year in which we celebrated the Centennial of The Rising by gathering on the steps of the Poughkeepsie post office and listening to a reading of The Proclamation of the Irish Republic; after which we retired to Mahoney's Irish Pub for merriment. A highlight of that luncheon was recognizing our Brother Hibernian, The Honorable William O'Hare, for his long-standing support of Irish Hibernianism. At our upcoming December meeting we will have our annual elections and Christmas party, also at Mahoney's. As I was reviewing these happenings, I was also engaged in a second attempt to preserve my vast collection of 35 mm slides dating all the way back to the mid-1950s. In May of 1956 [That was the year I was winding up my military service. I was stationed in Germany and took the opportunity to visit Ireland for the first time.] A lot of things happened during that trip, and I still have very fond family memories about that. One day we were driving [or being driven] around the Ring of Kerry. While traversing that part of The Kingdom [my family is from there, as you may know], I spied a sign which read "Leprechauns Crossing", a sign we have all seen at one time or another. So, I decided to put aside the picture work, and trail off onto this tangent.

We have all read stories or heard tales of "The Little People" or "The Wee Folk". But, do we know the full and true story of this denizens of the field. As in most stories involving folklore and superstitions, we find there is also much nonsense spoken of our "beloved" leprechauns, some mistaken, some misguided and some deliberately misleading. Many are the tales of intoxication, wild revelry and, sorry to say, malicious damage to livestock. But much of this is all blather. In truth, leprechauns are hard-working cobblers, turning out exquisite shoes for all manner of sprites. If you happen across an industrious little fellow at the bottom of a garden hammering out a shoe, look closely - for he may be a leprechaun. Step quietly, for leprechauns will avoid humans, knowing them to be foolish and greedy. Although I have made previous reference to leprechauns in other newsletter submissions, I will take this time to present some other useful information.

For instance; have you ever seen a leprechaun? Would you know how to spot one? Suppose you were walking in a woodland and heard a low sound like a "whisperer" singing. Well, along with that, if you were curious about a small shape that you spied, here's how to tell if you are in the presence of a leprechaun. First, look at his clothing. A leprechaun usually dresses in old-fashioned clothes of green, with a red cap, multi-pocketed leather apron, and buckled shoes. However, on special occasions such as St Patrick's Day or when he attends the Galway Races, a leprechaun will doff his leather apron, brush his beard, shine his buckles and sport a green top hat. Like all the Irish, a leprechaun understands the importance of dressing appropriately.

Secondly, smell his smoke. A leprechaun is quite fond of a smoke from his foul-smelling clay pipe. It's always close by so breathe in deeply to see if you can smell it.

Third, smell his drink. A leprechaun is frequently in a merry state from home-brewed poteen. The smell of the homebrew is quite strong and, depending upon your familiarity with the aroma of this delicacy, you will detect undertones of a pungent, piquant, peaty nature. While he may frequently partake of poteen, a leprechaun never becomes so drunk that the hand which holds the hammer becomes unsteady and his shoemaker's work affected.

Fourth, listen for the sound of tap-tapping. If you hear the sound of a hammer, tap-tap-tapping from behind a hedgerow you know you have found one of the wee folk.

Bhuel then, if you have experienced a real sighting, you might be in what is called Leprechaun Country. In this place, leprechauns guard their ancient treasures, mainly their gold, which they store in iron pots or stone crocks.

Now, as I mentioned above, leprechauns are excellent cobblers to be sure, but they have another trade and this one may be of greater interest to us. Leprechauns are bankers, and the Guardians of the Ancient Treasures. Much treasure was left by the Danes [Vikings] when they marauded through Ireland, and the leprechaun have buried it in those aforementioned crocks and pots. Rainbows reveal where the pots and crocks of gold are hidden, so a leprechaun will sometimes spend all day moving crocks from one spot to another to elude the tell-tale end of the rainbow. If you happen to catch a leprechaun, don't let him out of your grasp before he reveals the whereabouts of his gold! And be aware and forewarned that he is a shrewd and crafty individual. He'll try to distract you with all manner of tricks and, in the blink of an eye, will dash and be gone. For such a sturdy little chap, he can move with the speed of a rabbit. A leprechaun always carries two leather pouches. If you despair of getting to his crock of gold, then you are advised about accepting a proffered coin. Be on your guard for his tricks! In one pouch, there is a silver shilling, a magical coin that returns to the purse each time it's spent. In the other there is a gold coin for bribing his way out of difficult situations. [Don't accept this coin - it turns into a rock]. So there you have the conundrum. Once you decide to take a coin you have only the time it takes to say *Begorrah!* before both pouches, and the coins, will disappear. And so will the leprechaun. But a leprechaun can be generous if you do him a good turn, like letting him go after you have caught him.. Your kind deed may be repaid by the granting of wishes. Depending on the good deed that you have done and his mood, the leprechaun may grant you 3 wishes. But be careful, making the wrong wish could results in a life time of bad luck.

It is also important for us to know that are two distinct species of Little People: leprechauns and cluricauns.

A cluricaun dresses very stylishly with a jaunty cap, large silver buckles on his shoes, beautiful gold laces and pale blue stockings. You will never see him wear an apron or carry a hammer. He has a jolly grin, a slightly pink-tipped nose and is almost always drunk and cheerful. Pass by the cluricaun, for he never has any money, or any idea where treasure is buried. Cluricauns are downright pests! A cluricaun will steal or borrow almost anything, making merry and creating mayhem in your house during

(continued on next page)



the hours of darkness. He will happily busy himself raiding your kitchen, pantry, larder and cellar and after dinner he will harness your pigs, sheep, goats, and even your domestic fowls to ride away. Through the countryside he will race them, over the fields, through the woodlands and slap bang into the bog. Leprechauns denounce cluricaun behavior! Disregard the theory that cluricauns are just leprechauns on drunken sprees.

Now as we near the end of this treatise on leprechauns, there are one or two more things that will be of interest to you. The first is how to get your hands on your own crock of gold. There are two simple ways. You may have read, or been told by the old ones, that the only way to get yourself a crock of gold is to work hard and save but this isn't necessarily true. I'm about to reveal the secret. The best ways are first: after a shower of rain, follow the trail to the end of the rainbow; second, catch your own leprechaun. What's that you say, you don't know how to catch a leprechaun. Well, now, that's the second of these final pieces of information...and that is to build a leprechaun trap. It's pretty simple to make a leprechaun trap. You need only these common household items - a net, a cardboard box, green paint, green tissue paper and an old shoe, and to follow these simple directions:

- ◆ Paint the cardboard box green and place the old shoe inside
- ◆ Cover the opening with thin green tissue paper
- ◆ Place the trap near some trees or hedgerows. Make sure it's disguised well and blends into the surroundings
- ◆ Conceal yourself nearby with the net
- ◆ When the leprechaun sees the shoe, he will want to examine it [with his cobbler's keen eye]
- ◆ He will step onto the tissue paper; it will break and he will fall into the box
- ◆ Now quickly throw the net over him!

What's that you say...you don't have an old shoe. Don't despair, you can also lure a leprechaun with some poteen instead of an old shoe. Go ahead and make the cardboard box inviting but, instead of the old shoe, carefully place a small jug of poteen inside. [The leprechaun can smell his favorite drink from up to 5 miles away]. When he falls into the box he will drink the brew, get drunk and then you can grab him! No one has yet caught a leprechaun, but don't be discouraged. Start looking today.

Note: As we approach the celebration of Our Savior's birth, I decided to switch hats for this month. I doffed my historian's hat and donned my storyteller's one. With a little work, you can relate the above story to your chlann clainne as your families gather for Christmas festivities. As I always say, there is a little seanchaí, in us all.

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

Financial Secretary Corner



Brothers,

Let me start by wishing everyone A Blessed and Happy Christmas. We have heard back from most of our brothers regarding their 2016 dues payment and I am happy to report that most have sent in payment. However, there are still some outstanding dues. I will wait until after the Christmas party to submit termination forms for those whom I have not heard back from. As I have previously mentioned, it is our custom to carry brothers who may not have the funds readily available. Please advise if you think this is appropriate for you. Hope to see as many as possible at the Christmas Party at Mahoney's.

PS: 2017 dues will start to be collected after the New Year.

Please consider a worthy applicant that you know who would benefit from joining our brotherhood, and sharing in our Motto of "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. If you have not done so already, please return your dues payment as soon as possible. Your support is the foundation of our division.



In Brotherhood & Motto,
Gerard McVicker
Financial Secretary
101 Brothers Rd
Stormville, NY, 12582

***It's always time for membership, ask your friends, neighbors, even members of your church!
The only requirements are that you need to be a male, at least 16 years old, Irish and Catholic.
Help make our Division grow. Bring someone to a meeting!***

Sponsors Page


INDEPENDENT BENEFIT PLANS
WILLIAM J. SCHIMPF
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SPECIALIST
WILLIAM.SCHIMPF@YAHOO.COM
107 PROSPECT AVENUE (845) 427-2957
MAYBROOK, NEW YORK 845-427-0820
12543-1019

Robert G Shepherd Jr CPA PC
Robert G Shepherd Jr
Certified Public Accountant
488 Freedom Plains Road
Suite 139 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
PHONE 845-485-3000
FAX 845-485-3257
bshepherd@optimum.net


 Custom Machine Embroidery
Vicki Dunning
7 Jordan Court
Poughquag, NY 12570-5038
(845) 724-3986

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



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.



Division Activities

AOH Activities

Our Annual Christmas Party meeting is being held at Mahoney's Irish Pub & Steakhouse, Thursday December 15th, meeting will be at 7PM with dinner at 7:30PM. Dinners will be individually ordered off the menu. Plenty of Brothers will arrive in advance of the meeting to share in comradery.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

- ◆ December 15th, Annual Christmas Party / meeting / voting!
- ◆ January 19th, Installation of Officers, Regular Business Meeting.
- ◆ February 4th, Emerald Ball.
- ◆ February 16th, Regular Business Meeting.

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

Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!

Important Dates

- December 15th; Annual Christmas party meeting / VOTE
- December 25th; Merry Christmas
- January 1st; Happy New Year
- January 19th; Installation of Officers, Business Meeting
- February 16th; Regular Business Meeting

Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker
Nathan Redmond
Jim Sweeney

Noel Morris
Bill Schimpf

* 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.

"IRELAND IS RICH IN LITERATURE THAT UNDERSTANDS A SOUL'S YEARNINGS, AND DANCING THAT UNDERSTANDS A HAPPY HEART."

~ Margaret Jackson ~

