

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,

The month of June marks the end of our first half of 2015. I am very proud and thankful for the many hours of volunteer support provided by our Division as we set our focus on the last big event prior to the summertime hiatus... the yearly picnic luncheon at the Castle Point VA Hospital which will take place on Saturday, June 20th. As always, please try to arrive by 11AM to assist with setup, food preparation, and moving the Veterans into place in the outdoor pavilion.

We resume activities in September, but summer will not be one of slumber for our Brothers. Planning is already underway for the yearly Charity Raffle of NFL football tickets, as well as the annual Charity Dinner / Dance that will take place again this year at the Wappingers Falls Elks Hall on Saturday evening, October 24th. Mark down that date and tell your friends that the BEST Irish event in the latter half of 2015 west of Doolin will be held that evening! Also, we are again asking for your help in lining up donations to stage a Silent Auction. Many local businesses and individuals were very generous in providing gift certificates last year and the proceeds in the name of Charity were wonderful. Thank you in advance!

We had a very good monthly meeting in May which included the planning of the previously mentioned VA Picnic. It is the intent to hold a Shamrock Degree at the June monthly meeting. Please let us know in advance if you have not yet taken this step and we will make preparations. If you recall, there are three important steps in a Brother's involvement with the AOH: 1) Initiation with the St. Patrick's Pledge, 2) the Shamrock Degree done locally by our Division, and 3) the Major Degree which is an all-day event held periodically throughout the year in various drivable locations within New York State.

I will conclude by wishing you all of the best and hope that your family and friends are in good health.



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

JUNE
2015

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MATT
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GLEN KELLY



*MAY GOD BE WITH YOU AND BLESS YOU,
MAY YOU SEE YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN,
MAY YOU BE POOR IN MISFORTUNE, RICH IN BLESSINGS.
MAY YOU KNOW NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD.*





Historian's Corner

Ostensibly, the Historian's Corner is dedicated to the presentation of certain aspects of Irish history selected by the writer or as requested by Division members. Since I have received almost nothing in the way of requests, I pretty much have gone my own way. In this, our last newsletter for the program year, I am going to write about some matters that are of more contemporary concern, to me, at least, as I hope they will be to you. We closed out last month's article with a reference to the term "Plastic Paddys". All of us are pretty much aware of the derogatory use of the term "Paddy". It is understandable [however unacceptable] about how the origin of this anti-Irish appellation came about. I won't bore you with the history of its use which you can Google for yourself, should you be so inclined. However, I will highlight two instances: one old and the other a relatively newer one. Obviously, the term "Paddy Wagon" came into use in the 19th century in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, spreading then to other similar cities. Although there are variations of the origin of the term, the general theory is that the Paddy Wagon was a prisoner transport vehicle, and was so named because of the ethnicity of the prisoners being transported or the response by the vehicle to certain crime ridden areas; to wit, those inhabited by the Irish. There are revisionists who have tried to alter the origin of "Paddy Wagon" by saying that it was sometimes called "Patty Wagon". So, we might look at this and say that is just a variation of Paddy, etc. Actually, these folks are trying to convince us that the term "Patty" comes from the term Patrol Wagon, highlighting the use of the letter "T" instead of a "D"; yeah right! It is alleged that the term Patty is short for Patrol Wagon. If that were the case, we should have seen the term Patty Car when Patrol Cars eventually came into use. It's interesting that when other ethnic or nationality groups entered into this high-crime arena, the term Paddy Wagon was not changed to reflect those groups. And isn't it further ironic that many of the "original" drivers of those wagons were themselves Irish.

The other phase of this topic deals with the term "Plastic Paddys". That term was originally used to describe the Irish who were raised in a foreign country [specifically the UK] and who identified themselves as being Irish. More recently, however, the term seems to be aimed at those Irish who immigrated here, and those of us who identify as Irish-American. The Irish Central News Online recently presented two articles on the topic. It seems that some Irish over there and here take issue with the manner in which we display our "Irishness". It also seems they have a distorted perception of Irish-Americans; and it is no wonder that they think the way they do, if you look at the way some people here act, dress and parade around on St. Patrick's Day, But, if they took the trouble to find out the truth, they would find out that most do not fit the mistaken stereo-type of beer-guzzling, Danny Boy singing amadáns. The second of the two articles even goes so far as to bring in the subject of our use of team names like Redskins, Braves, Warriors, etc. The one that I found misinterpreted by that writer was our use of the term "American Indian". He presented the premise that if we can't get all that right, then we truly do not respect Ireland or its people. He gets into a lot of arguable issues, but seems to do it from an angry perspective. Specifically, he criticizes us for the way we responded to the proposed sit-com on the Irish Famine. I get the feeling that the writer was more ethno-centered in his quest to maintain a purity of Irishness, and dismisses the contributions that "American-Irish" have made to Irish dance and other forms of musical activities, as well as the Irish economy. I guess he feels that it's okay for Irish immigrants living here to have a foot in both camps. While living here and attempting to change immigration laws to suit them, these "ex-pats" still maintain the limited right [if not the duty] to return home to vote on major issues as was done this past month on the same sex marriage issue. [See more on this below]

Well, the historic vote is in. Ireland overwhelmingly approved a referendum that will permit same sex marriage, or as it is officially dubbed "marriage equality". The Irish cast 1.2 million Yes votes in favor of same sex marriage with 734,300 voting No, making Ireland the first country in the world to introduce gay marriage by popular vote. I don't intend to present and analyze all the issues involved. To be sure there will much of that done by the experts in the near and long-term future. One of the current concerns is the ability of émigrés to vote in Ireland's elections. There currently is a time frame which rules at this time. The current voting laws only allow citizens to vote if they have been out of the country for no more than 18 months, and are willing to come home to cast a ballot. Obviously, absentee voting as we know it does not exist.

(Continued on next page)



There is a move underfoot to correct that. Ireland is moving in fits and spurts to address the issue. The government has appointed a Minister for the Diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan. One of the first steps was to rebrand Ireland as a “Global Island” connected by people, culture, and investments to the rest of the world. [I wonder where “Plastic Paddys” fit into that project.] The controversy over same-sex marriage will continue, obviously. As important is what the referendum means for the future of Ireland. The turnout for this election and its results were greater than that for the Irish Constitution, leading to the establishment of the Irish Republic. The legalizing of divorce in Ireland was okayed by a narrower margin than this vote; and it looks like the next major issue to be tackled will be the expansion of abortion. There were 3 million persons eligible to vote, but just some 2 million did so. And finally, the “gay” population in Ireland, according to the Irish Times is about 4%, although some would say it’s higher, which is pure speculation. The 4% figure is within a 1.5 % margin of error, and seems to be consistent with similar figures in England and Australia, and the United States. [I believe it was Disraeli who said something like there is no stopping an idea whose time has come.] By the way, the Irish Tourism Board has already started an advertising campaign to attract same-sex couples to have their nuptials performed in Ireland, and list a variety of romantic venues in which to do so. I wonder if photographers, bakers, and other such persons will have the problems that those in the U.S have experienced. And really “next to” finally, it seems that a major group opposed to same-sex marriage consisted of Muslims. AND really finally, even though the influence of the Catholic Church has been waning over the past generations, the Church is accused on of not mounting a strong enough offensive to support its responsibility for moral equivalence. Approximately 72% of Ireland’s population identify as being Roman Catholic.

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brothers,

Sheila and I want to thank all of you for your kind words of sympathy on the loss of Sheila's sister, Joanne Sciascia. She was taken from us way too soon and we will miss her dearly. Also, thank you to all who sent Mass cards. They was deeply appreciated.

I want to congratulate you all on the tremendous success of our Hibernian Hunger Project and Memorial Mass. It is truly inspiring that we have such a wonderful, compassionate, and caring brotherhood. Thanks to all of you who donated to make our contribution of \$1500 to the Hyde Park Food Pantry. I want to especially thank Jack Fedigan & Matt Fitzgerald for their undying dedication to our division, without each one of them this project would have not succeeded. I also want to thank Fr. Patrick Curly for hosting us at "Our Lady of The Rosary" Chapel. The Chapel means so much to our division, and we will never forget the welcoming of Hibernians to its altar's by Fr. Garisto.

We still have a few members who have not returned their membership dues. I will be contacting them individually to determine their status. If you may be one of them, please, stay the course and submit your dues. By the way the Salmon Fishing on the River Finn, in Donegal, Ireland was fabulous and I am already making my plans for next year, if you want to join.

In Brotherhood & Motto,

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



Shamrock Degree

Gentlemen, At our June 18th, monthly meeting, we will be holding a Shamrock Degree. Any member that is in need of this Degree should plan to attend. You should also make it known to our President or Financial Secretary that you plan on attending so arrangements can be made before hand.



Veteran's Picnic at Castle Point

The date for this annual event is June 20th. Many hands will be needed as we transport the Veteran's, cook for them, serve them food and beverage, and need to transport back to their units. This is always an inspiring day as you give back to the Veteran's whom served our great country!



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 will be made available soon 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.



- ◆ June 18th, regular business meeting
- ◆ June 20th, Castle Point Picnic
- ◆ June 21st, Fathers Day
- ◆ July - August, activities on hiatus
- ◆ September 17th, regular business meeting
- ◆ October 15th, regular business meeting
- ◆ October 24th, Charity Dinner / Dance

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

Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!

Happy
Father's
Day

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Robert G Shephard Jr
Certified Public Accountant

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E-mail: oharelaw@optonline.net

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Here!***



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IMPORTANT DATES

- June 18th: Regular Business Meeting
- June 20th: Castle Point Picnic
- July & August: On Hiatus
- September 17th: Regular Business Meeting
- October 15th: 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.

*If you're Irish, it doesn't
mater where you go -
you'll find family.*

~Victoria Smurfit~



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

