

Ancient Order of Hibernians
151 Watertown Street
PO Box 11
Watertown, MA 02471

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Division 14
PO Box 11
Watertown, MA 02471

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AOH President's Message

Our Scholarship Golf Outing and post tournament awards dinner turned out great. We could have not asked for a better weather day to golf. Many thanks to all who stepped up to help out. In no particular order; Noelle Daly, Sue and Sandra Morash, Carol Stockdale, Meg McAdam, Rita Stacy, Tom Lydon, Bob Daly, Jim Cunningham, Bobby McLaughlin, Mike Morash, Peter Moran and Jim Daly. A lot of work goes into organizing this event, it just doesn't happen on that one day.

A good group of Hibernian's from across the State went into Fenway to celebrate the Irish heritage day game. Unfortunately the game was postponed due to inclement weather. We still had a good time thanks to Vice-President Rick Connell and his wife Nancy for hosting a get together at the roof top of their condo.

I had the opportunity to attend the 175th Anniversary of the Shipwreck of the Brig St. John. The Father John Murphy Division of Plymouth hosted a number of events over the weekend ending up with their traditional Memorial Mass on Sunday afternoon. Division 14 members in attendance were Ed Falter, Patrick Nolan and his wife along with Division Historian John Murphy and his wife. I wish more could have attended, it truly is a sobering and inspirational event.

Please note that a Memorial Mass and State President's dinner is scheduled for Sunday November 3rd in Peabody. Tickets will be \$25/person, please see me or Lady President Dee Dee Walsh,

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Joe

LAOH President's Message

Dear Sisters,

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7th. The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the rosary. In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. To support these observances, we will hold our annual baby shower program to collect supplies that expectant mothers need to welcome their babies and give them a healthy start in life. A separate email will be sent with the wish list from the Archdiocese Pro Life office for the Pregnancy Help resource center.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, at 7 PM. Let me know if you need a ride.

Saturday, October 26, is our 4th annual craft. Janice Aucoin and her committee have been working hard to organize this event. This will be a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping!

Elections are coming up! We will be making nominations for offices in October and voting in November. Let me know if you are interested in being a member of the board and I can go over the officer duties with you. We work as a team and so that no one is burdened with all the tasks. WE NEED HELP!

Would you like to be more involved? Are you interested in volunteering for a committee or helping at an event? Let me know.

As always, please keep our brother and sister Hibernians in your prayers who are dealing with illness or hardship. If you know of a member who is not well, please reach out to me and Eileen Waldron so she can send a card and check in with that person.

Your 2024 dues are now past due. This means you are not eligible to rent the hall or participate in member only activities. Notices have been sent out to delinquent members. Reach out to Ellen Ridge or myself if you need assistance. Please make checks payable to LAOH Division 14 and mail them to LAOH Division 14, Attention: Ellen Ridge, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, MA 02472. The dues are \$30 up to and including age 64 and \$25 for ages 65 and over.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
DeeDee

UPDATES and NOTICES

AOH Membership Notice 2024 DUES

Regular Members pay \$55.00, Senior Members (age 65 plus and a member in good standing for at least 10 consecutive years) pay \$30.00. All Associate Members regardless of age pay \$55.00. You can mail your checks to A.O.H. Div. 14 c/o Rick Stacy, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, MA 02471. **Please see the insert below relative to incentives to pay early and/or on time. There will be penalties for late payment.**

LAOH Membership Notice 2024 DUES

2023 dues are payable NOW. When sending your dues please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail. This will provide us with an up-to-date listing. There are only two prices for dues, Members age 64 and below - \$30, 65 and over - \$25. You can make your checks payable to LAOH Division 14 and mail to Ellen Ridge, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, 02471.

Scholarship News

The Scholarship Golf Outing was a complete success, thanks to all the participants and especially the volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this happen.

New Class

We plan to be bringing in a new class in October

Bartenders needed

Anyone interested in helping out as a bartender please contact Bobby McLaughlin, Vice-President/Steward, 617.448.3400.

Sick Members and/or shut-in

Contact Joe McCusker at 508.386.6438. For the LAOH please contact Rita Stacy at 617.230.7408.



Known Members currently in constant care/recovery

Mary Flanagan is currently being cared for at Meadow Green Rehab and Nursing Center which is located at 45 Woburn St. Waltham, MA 02452.

Ellen Dupuis is currently residing at The Residence at Watertown Square 20 Summer St. Rm #505 Watertown, MA 02472.

Zita Callahan is now being cared for at Benchmark Senior Living at Waltham Crossings which is located at 126 Smith St. Waltham, MA 02451.

Eileen Waldron is currently residing at Benchmark Senior Living at Waltham Crossings which is located at 126 Smith St. Waltham, MA 02451.

Paul Connolly is currently residing at New Horizons Suite 130 which is located at 400 Hemenway St. Marlborough, MA 01752.

Please also note that Mary Hegarty and Jessica Scully are dealing with health issues. As soon as I get their contact information I will include in the next newsletter.

Dick Thompson Jr. is home resting, comfortably we hope, after surgery from a recent fall.

Recently Deceased Members of Division 14

Margaret "Peggy Gildea" Morash passed away on September 20, 2024, at the age of 90.

Jennifer Marina Smallwood passed away on September 19, 2024, at the age of 33.

May these ladies rest in peace.

**Thanks to all the folks listed below
who sponsored our 2024 Division Scholarship Golf Outing**

Platinum Sponsors

Dr. Francis Bane
Tom Doherty
McAdam Painting
Bill Sullivan
VFW Post #1105

Gold Sponsors

AOH Club, Inc.

Silver Sponsors

Dick Thompson Sr.
Maura Freddy
Joe McCusker
Pvt. Charles J. Shutt Detachment

Bronze Sponsors

Bob Casey
Dennis Deveny & Sons Monuments
Dick Thompson Jr.
Division 8 Lawrence
Harry Danis
Shane Gleason
Marllyn Petitto Devaney
Jim Kelsey
Rick Connell
The Daly Boys
Bob Duffy
Leo Falter
Katherine Kelly
Fergal Brennck
Mike King
Watertown Firefighters IAFF Local 1347
Joan O'Brien

Freedom for All Ireland / Political Education

It has been a busy month for justice regarding extrajudicial killing during the Troubles. The British Secretary of State Hilary Benn confirmed that the British Government will scrap the NI Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 but keep the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information (ICRIR) – an information retrieval body set up under the legislation.

The (ICRIR) has registered 85 enquiries since becoming operational earlier this year. One of the inquiries accepted for investigation was the killing of Pat Finucane. Pat was a human rights lawyer who challenged of the British government in several important cases during the 1980s including IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands. In 1989, he was murdered, and his wife wounded by loyalist paramilitaries as they sat together at the dinner table in the kitchen. In a press conference after the announcement, Pat's son John, who was eight years old in 1989 when his father was killed in front of him noted "The decision to announce a public inquiry into the murder of my father, Pat Finucane, was a pivotal moment and one which my family have campaigned for over three decades to achieve."

Taoiseach Simon Harris said Labor is taking the "right approach" to addressing outstanding legacy issues in NI. However, first Minister Michelle O'Neill only partially agreed, saying "Labor have rubbished the fundamentally flawed Tory legislation, but it's still not right".

- Other news of note: A UK government veto power over what sensitive material can be disclosed by a new Troubles investigative commission is unlawful, the Court of Appeal found.

On the Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) front, there was lots of talk, but sadly it was all light and no heat. Though Hilary Benn has ruled out a border poll on a united Ireland as there is "no evidence" the majority of people there would support it, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald said this week that voters should have their say on a united Ireland "in this decade". In related stories,

- Former Irish premier Leo Varadkar has proposed a two-stage referendum process for a potential future vote on the reunification of Ireland; an initial vote to decide whether voters agree "in principle" with constitutional change, and 2nd, "confirmatory" ballot once the structures and constitution of the new political entity were designed and presented to the public.

- Speaking to BBC Scotland News last week, former Scottish First minister Nicola Sturgeon predicted a "wider shake-up" of UK governance, including Irish reunification.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Rick Connell - AOH Political Education and FFAI Chair

From Division Historian John Murphy

Brendan the Navigator: The Irish monk who discovered America

St. Brendan the Navigator (c. 484 – c. 577) was an Irish monk and explorer, one of the first Irish Christian saints, born a few years after the death of St. Patrick. Brendan is best known for his legendary sea voyage to find the "Isle of the Blessed." Born in County Kerry, Brendan was educated in monastic schools and became a priest. He founded several monasteries, the most famous being Clonfert Abbey, where he served as abbot.

Brendan is best known for the legend of his *Navigatio Sancti Brendani* (The Voyage of St. Brendan), a story of his seven-year sea journey searching for the "Isle of the Blessed." According to the medieval legend, he and fellow monks sailed in a large leather-hulled currach-style boat westward across the Atlantic, encountering miraculous islands, strange creatures, monsters, and divine visions. *Navigatio Sancti Brendani* was one of the most popular stories of the Middle Ages, with surviving physical copies from the 9th century.



Some people believe that these accounts suggest that Brendan may have reached North America centuries before Columbus and the Vikings. They argue that some of the places Brendan supposedly encountered, such as islands with strange birds, vast forests, and unfamiliar landscapes, match features of the North Atlantic, Greenland, or even parts of North America. For example, the "Isle of Sheep" could represent the Faroe Islands, and the Crystal Islands could easily be icebergs.

In 1976, explorer Tim Severin decided to see if the voyage was possible. He recreated Brendan's supposed route using a traditional Irish currach, a wooden-framed boat covered in a leather skin only a quarter of an inch thick. Severin successfully sailed from Ireland to Newfoundland via the Faroe Islands and Iceland. While Severin's voyage did not prove Brendan reached America, it did prove it was possible.



Tim Severin's leather boat, the Brendan, which he sailed from Dingle to Newfoundland,

Financial Secretary Notes October 2024

As I mentioned last month, I was privileged to attend the AOH National Convention in Orlando where there were many discussions that impacted how we can grow our organization. Last month I focused on programs that provide benefits to younger members. This month I will be more about some of the newer technologies and different advertising avenues, that may help us reach out to a younger audience.

I said it last month and I will repeat it here: “For this organization to grow and thrive we need new, young members and it is everyone’s responsibility to promote the organization. Our Constitution allows for members as young as 16 and even a new 30-year-old member would help us get younger.”

I’m happy to say that unlike many other divisions, we have stepped forward into the current Century, but we are not utilizing the most current social media opportunities.

Yes we have a website which is kept up to date, while some divisions may indicate ‘upcoming events’ scheduled for March of 2021 or even earlier.

Yes, we have an active, up to date Facebook presence. For example, the page currently notes that on October 8, 2024 the Majestic Theater in Watertown will be showing the film “Heart of a Servant: The Father Flannagan Story” which had its World Premiere at the AOH National Convention. It is truly enjoyable.

But there are many avenues we, as a division have not utilized.

Platforms such as You-Tube, LinkedIn, Tik Tok, and ‘X’ each reach audiences that tend to be younger than Facebook.

The AOH National Website has links to AOH presence on You Tube, Twitter (‘X’), and LinkedIn.

Some of the Young Ambassadors that spoke during our convention mentioned apps that allow easy group video meetings. I don’t have details about it, but, THAT’S MY POINT!

If you have a good working knowledge of an App or technology that might be useful to improve communication and/or promote our organization, we’d love to hear from you.

Closing Note 1: We’re having an initiation ceremony at our October meeting. If you’ve sponsored someone reach out to them, let them know (and show up to support them).

Closing Note 2: On Saturday October 19 we will be hosting a Blood Drive AND Collecting Items for Operation American Soldier (details elsewhere in this month’s bulletin). This event helps us achieve mission, gives us a chance to recruit new members, and is a function that when you are recruiting new members (remember that’s your job too) you can mention when people ask ‘what do the Hibernians do?’

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Rick Stacy

Financial Secretary

Membership.AOHDiv14@gmail.com

(617) 575-9585

Retirement Celebration

Mini Golf Day

In support of the

THE HAWAIIAN OPEN

Please note that donations of any amount graciously accepted

Saturday 12 October 2024

2:00PM – 6:00PM

Open to all (kids and kids at heart)

Location – The Hibernian Hall 151 Watertown St

We are celebrating the retirement of Joe McCusker after working for 39 years at General Dynamics. The intent of this mini-golf day is to get people together, have a few laughs and in the process support a good cause.

The Hawaiian Open (aka The Matt Galligan Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was established to support families dealing with the hardship of a loved with a chronic or terminal illness.

Managed by The Carnival Party, LLC an 18 hole professional Mini Golf Course will be ready for play inside the Hibernian Hall. Let's have some fun.




American Red Cross

Heroes Saving Lives

Drop offs donations
for Operation
American Soldier..!





Join Us, **Save Lives.** **Be proud**



Blood Drive
Sign Up here..!



Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)

Watertown Community Blood & Donation Drive



Who are the AOH?



Hibernian Hall
151 Watertown Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Saturday, October 19, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: AOH to schedule an appointment.

Donation Items Requested for Operation American Soldier

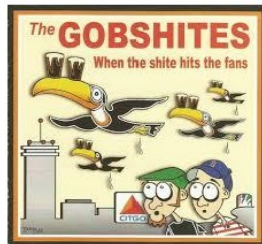
Peanut Butter	Soups	Wet Wipes	Pain Relief Meds
Microwave Popcorn	Chef Boyardee (style) pastas	Shaving Cream	Heat Pads (icy hot)
Nuts	Tuna lunch kits	Shavers	Band-Aids
Pretzels	Ready-to-eat Tuna	Toothbrush	Antacids
Energy bars	Canned or Packaged Meals	Toothpaste	Eye Drops
Jerky (Bags or Sticks)	Instant oatmeal	Floss	Q-Tips
Sunflower seeds	Cereal (small boxes or single servings)	Shower Gel	AA Batteries
Protein Bars	Breakfast bars	Feminine Items	Earbuds
Granola Bars	Flavored & Regular Coffee (ground, instant or pods)	Moisturizer	Portable Chargers
Fruit Snacks	Powdered Creamers	Body & Foot Powder	Paperback Books
Canned fruit	Tea Bags	Deodorant	Current Magazines
Dried fruit	Cider Mix	Lip Balm	Stress Relief Coloring Books
Small Boxes of Cookies	Hot Chocolate	Shampoo	Travel Games

A more comprehensive list including small (not sample size) toiletries and other items can be found at <https://operationamericansoldier.org/>





Ancient Order of Hibernians
Division 14 Watertown
Presents



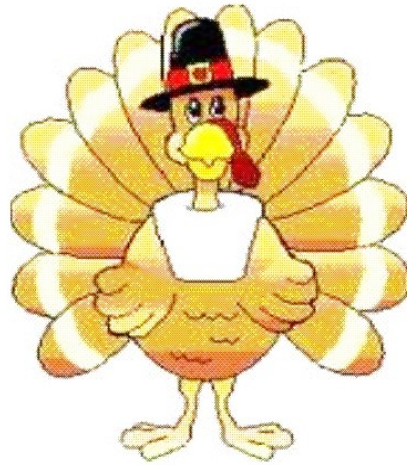
Irish Band The Gobshites
Will be playing in Hibernian Hall

Saturday, November 9, 2024
7 PM

The event is *open to the Public.*

Tickets are \$5 and sold at the door

Contact Rick Connell for more info
(860) 867-7866
Rconnellsr@gmail.com



AOH DIVISION 14
151 WATERTOWN ST. WATERTOWN
ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2024
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM (**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**)
CASH BAR
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SONNY
WHOOLEY FUND
HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED DURING THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON



Sunday, December 15th at 1 PM
At Hibernian Hall, Watertown

The AOH & LAOH is hosting its annual Children's Christmas party at the hall on Sunday, December 15th. The event is open to children and grandchildren of members and is free.

Dance force will host the entertainment and feature Snowball wrap, hula hoop. Musical chairs, Dance contest, line dances, etc. Drinks snacks and pizza will be provided for the kids.

Santa arrives after 3:00 PM for pictures with the kids in attendance.

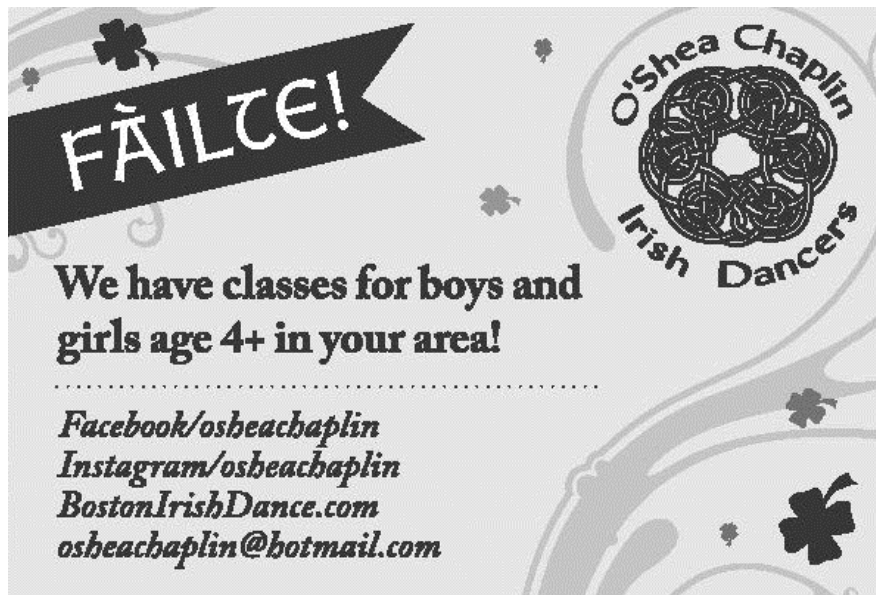
*Signup for each child **before Friday, December 6th** at the Hall is required in advance to get an accurate headcount.*

Questions? Looking to help out? Contact Rick Connell at 860-867-7866 or email him at rconnellsr@gmail.com



Day of the week	Date	Time	Calendar of Events
Monday	7-Oct-24	7:00 PM	LAOH Division Meeting (baby shower)
Thursday	10-Oct-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Saturday	12-Oct-24	2:00 PM	Mini-Golf Celebration/Fundraiser
Wednesday	16-Oct-24	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting
Saturday	19-Oct-24	9:00 AM	Blood Drive/Operation American Soldier
Saturday	26-Oct-24	10:00 AM	LAOH Craft Faire
Sunday	3-Nov-24	10:00 AM	State President's Dinner (Peabody)
Monday	4-Nov-24	7:00 PM	LAOH Division Meeting
Saturday	9-Nov-24	7:00 PM	Irish Band The Gobshites
Thursday	14-Nov-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Wednesday	20-Nov-24	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting
Friday	22-Nov-24	6:00 PM	Turkey Shoot fundraiser
Thursday	12-Dec-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Sunday	15-Dec-24	TBD	Children's Christmas Party
Wednesday	18-Dec-24	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting

Please remember when renting the hall or Lounge as a member you must be a member in good standing (dues must be paid in full), pay with your own check and you must be at the function. The Members Lounge may be used for up to forty (40) people. For more than forty (40) the Big Hall is available. We love to see members renting the hall for all their family functions. Please note that the members rental fee for the Hall is now \$375 and for the Lounge it's \$100. For more information please contact the Rental Agent at 617-710-8680. Also check out our web pages for photos of the Hall:
www.aohdiv14.com



Beginner Irish dance classes for children age 4 and up are held at Division 14 every Tuesday beginning at 5:15PM. For more information contact Lisa at the email address above.

Looking for something to do over April vacation? Come and try a free Irish dance class with us on Tuesday April 16th starting at 5:00PM.

Recent pictures from the past few months.



Division 14 VP Rick Connell, Irish Studies Professor Guy Beiner, LAOH president Dee Dee Walsh and State President Joe McCusker at the 2024 Division 14 Communion Breakfast. Division 14 Watertown swore in 13 new members in their April monthly Meeting and a few weeks later hosted their largest Communion Breakfast in recent memory. A full Irish breakfast was served, and keynote speaker Guy Beiner; Department Head of Irish Studies at Boston College, spoke of the events that led to the Easter Rising. A reading of the 1916 proclamation helped provide a fitting ending to the event. Watertown closed out the quarter with a scholarship awards presented by the Middlesex County, Watertown Division 14 AOH



Recipients of the Middlesex County, Watertown Division 14 AOH and LAOH Scholarships.

I received this old photo from Bill's daughter who happened to be at our Club recently for a WHS Class Reunion.

Bill Donnelly, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians 1981 with his good friend, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Primate of All of Ireland.



**Please support these establishments
who have supported the Hibernians!**

Paddy's Pub
95 Elm St.
West Newton, MA
617-965-6444

Devlin's Restaurant
332 Washington St.
Brighton, MA
617-779-8822

Donohue's
87 Bigelow Ave.
Watertown, MA
617-924-4900

Copper House
380 Winter St.
Waltham, MA
781-890-8989

The Warren Tavern
2 Pleasant St.
Charlestown, MA
617-241-8142

O'Hara's Pub
1185 Walnut St.
Newton, MA
617-965-6785

Deveney & Sons
Monuments
Waltham, MA
781-891-9876

