

Commodore John Barry Division # 1

Ancient Order of Hibernians of Saratoga

Hello From Your District Director, Chris Kelly

Hi,

As the newly elected District Director I wanted to introduce you all to the job and myself.

As many of you already know I spent 4 years as the Division's Recording Secretary and still put out these newsletters and attempt at times to keep the website up to date.

This summer at the NY-SAOH convention I was elected to a 2 year term as the District #1 Director. The district itself ranges from Columbia County to Clinton County in the north. Realistically, it encompasses the 5 local divisions of Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Watervliet and Saratoga. These are the same divisions that make up

the Capital District Council which is an adhoc group to organize local Hibernian efforts. We try to get all of the local Hibernians to support each other's divisions in the name of Unity.

The District Director is responsible for leading this group as well as reporting to

the state board on the district's activities. These activities range from fundraising to charitable donations to taking care of the necessary paperwork involved in dues payments.

One of the things that I want to stress during this term is

the need to support all of the local activities and not just those in our individual divisions. I will set up an online calendar of events so that all of the local Hibernians can see events such as Irish dance and music or guest speakers on topics important to the Irish causes.

The new state board has made communication a priority this term and I will be passing along e-mails and information in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or comments I can be reached at 438-6853 or ckelly2@nycap.rr.com



Order of the Shamrock

At our next meeting on October 6th, a handful of NEW MEMBERS will be presented and will join other current members in the Order of Shamrock Degree Initiation. All members should be in place by 7: P.M. and please wear a sportscoat.

We will prepare to induct Al Duell, Gene Cook, reinstate Bob Coveney of 1980's Schenectady Division and Mr. Bailey of 1990's Troy Division.

The Order of the Shamrock is

an important part of the Order's Ritual and represents an introduction to the motto of the Order, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Any member who has not yet taken part in this ceremony is encouraged to attend and receive the second part of full membership after

taking the initial oath.



September Happenings Recap

Chieftan's Cup

Brother Paul O'Donnell, again rose his **Charity** to the occasion in items donated to the Halfway St. Patrick's Family Golf Outing. Sure now, he gave trinkets and shirts. And he gave the Division a beautifully etched Waterford crystal vase! Nameplates of the winners will be affixed to a stand holding this **Chieftain's Cup** and the Cup will be displayed in the window of Celtic Treasures. To his **Unity**, what can we say about **O'Donnell Abou**? His doctor said you must not play golf with that severely involved elbow. So, instead of staying home, he came out with his team and used his good arm for putting and (his team tells me) a few miraculous chipping efforts. Now that is one St. Paul

GOLFER!

The other real GOLFER was Brother Paul Maguire. For the second year in a row, he



single-handedly put this Outing together. Any organizer knows the challenge of limited responses to phone calls/emails, requests for

sponsorship, and the consistent wait-until-the-last-minute commitment of participants. In great **Charity**, this St. Paul traversed all hazards and delivered!

Even greater were his demonstrations of **Friendship** and **Unity**. How else can you explain

his total acceptance of teammate Brother Gallagher showing up just as the last foursome was teeing off; his measured acceptance of

Brothers Kelly and Gallagher's golf cart foray in to the brambles on the second hole; and then the realization that those esteemed brothers never recorded the foursome's scores?

Oh, to be sure, we owe a great amount of gratitude to these St. Paul's. Maybe we should consider a second trophy? At least the winners of this year's Chieftain's Cup were line dup by Brother Millis from his golf league. They bested the field of 32 golfers, with 10 birdies and a bogey. Best of luck to Joe Stadelmeyer, Dean Clark, Eric She-none and Greg Sisk, as they move out of the amateur ranks! Next year they get a handicap...they have to add

Irish 2000

.Once again brothers of the division gathered to celebrate Irish culture and music at the Altamont Fairgrounds for Irish2000. This event was started by current NYSAOH VP Matt Nelligan almost 10 years ago as a way to gather the best of Irish music, culture and vendors in the Capital District.

This year we manned a booth supported by Brother Paul O'Donnell to sell our Saratoga Irish hats as well as Paul's raffle tickets for a trip to Ireland with Brother Kevin McKrell.

As seems to be the standard, the weather was off and on all day but there was never a drop of rain. Thankfully, this brought

out a larger crowd and a good showing of the Saratoga brotherhood.

We were represented on the stage by John Cromie and his band Skuttlebutt. We also had Mick O'Daleigh there to promote Gaelic



Football in the area as he used some of the open space around the children's rides to play some ball with prospective footballers.

While Paul's efforts raised money for Cancer research we also had Brother Steve Curran aggressively selling our hats which benefited the AOH Disaster Relief Fund for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

All in all it was a great day to spend with all of our Irish friends.

Timothy Murphy Rededication

On October 9th we will continue our tradition of returning to the Saratoga Battlefield to honor the remembrance of Timothy Murphy.

Why do we honor Timothy Murphy?

Well, Tim Murphy was a very good shot.

On the morning of October 7, 1777 - 225 years ago - the 26-year-old Murphy, a son of Irish immigrants from County Donegal, was engaged in the

second battle at Saratoga as one of the 500 rifleman of General Daniel Morgan's famed corp of Kentucky Rifleman.

As the British Army, under the command of General John Burgoyne, attempted to out-flank the American positions on Bemis Heights, Timothy Murphy climbed a tree and took aim with his Swiss, double-barreled Golcher rifle.

Murphy's fatal shot, said to have been from roughly 300 yards, mortally wounded General Simon Fraser. Fraser was leading a

recon in force against the colonists. As a result of his death, the recon failed and ultimately led to the British defeat. The next day General Fraser succumbed to his wounds.



Murphy then set his sights on General Burgoyne's Aide-de-Camp., Sir Frances Clarke. Clarke had galloped onto the field with Burgoyne's order to retreat. Murphy fired at Sir Clarke twice, the second shot killing the British officer before he fell from his stirrups.

The death of these eminent officers threw the British ranks into utter chaos. The British lines withdrew in bitter defeat.

Murphy's fatal shots directly resulted in Burgoyne's demoralizing surrender of his

entire army, an event unheard of in the annals of British military history.

The victory at Saratoga gave the inspired, but tattered, Continental Army something it had sorely

lacked through the campaigns of 1775 & 1776 -- hope. But more importantly, the victory at Saratoga brought France into the war as a powerful ally to the American revolutionaries, supplying much needed money, equipment and manpower. The victory, and the news of French alliance, also encouraged many Americans to finally join the far-from-certain military campaign to win inde-

pendence. After Saratoga thousands of beleaguered colonists began to think, "Hey, we can win this thing."

The Battle of Saratoga has been hailed by many as one of the most important battles in military history. Not least of which the New York Times Magazine, which proclaimed the victory at Saratoga, "The Most Important Battle of the Last 1,000 Years."

Upcoming Events

November 5th

The Annual NYSAOH mixed bowling tournament in Auburn, NY. Everyone is invited to bowl for the division. Pairings are a blind draw so you may just get lucky and find a partner on a roll.

This event will be preceded by the semiannual State Board meeting. This is a great way to meet brothers from through-

out the state and learn how the state is addressing the important concerns of the AOH.

October 29th

The 125th Anniversary of the Schenectady Division of the AOH. Details are available from our President but this is a great way to support our fellow local brothers.

P.O. Box 205
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Phone: 518-438-6853
Email: ckelly2@nycap.rr.com



WWW.SARATOGAAOH.COM

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a fraternal order of men of the Catholic faith and born in Ireland or of Irish heritage who are residents of the US. The Saratoga Division meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Pine Ave in Saratoga Springs, NY. Information about the Order and our division can be found at our website at www.saratogaaoh.com. Please feel free to contact us regarding membership.

Odds and Ends

Exec Board Meeting

The Executive Board will be meeting at 6 P.M. at the K of C, prior to next Thursday's October 6th meeting. All are welcome to join and bring any items to be addressed by the Board and the Division.

Feast of St. Francis

October 4th is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis has been an important part of the church for all of his life and into the current generations.

St. Francis is best known as the Patron Saint of Animals and Pets but is also the inspiration for Friars who work in his name. Locally, Siena College is run by the Franciscan Friars and they annually have a blessing of the pets. All are encouraged to

bring their pets, big and small, to the library steps on Oct 8th at 2PM to have them blessed.

Having brought my pets there for several years I can attest that it is a lively and spiritual experience. People bring everything from gerbils and snakes to Newfoundlands. It's a nice way to honor St. Francis and his love for all creatures great and small.

Division Elections

It is time again for Division election of Officers. Nominations will be taken at the October meeting and remain open until the November meeting. The elections will occur at the November meeting and the Installation of Officers will happen at the December 1st meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to participate as an officer. If you have any questions about an officer's duties please feel free to talk to any of the current officers. The more people who decide to become active in the Order, the better. If you feel the urge to become more involved, you will be a very welcome addition to the Order.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.