

Commodore John Barry Division # 1

Ancient Order of Hibernians of Saratoga

December News

It's December already and in January the AOH Division Dues for 2006 is due for all members. In February, the division is required to pay State and National AOH per capita tax, therefore the sooner we receive membership dues, the better position we will be in financially to pay these obligations. Existing membership dues are \$28, which will include a new Saratoga Irish AOH pin, for the entire year (one of the lowest annual dues around). Dues payments in the form of check or cash may be brought to the meetings (upcoming meetings are Thursday December 1st, Thursday January 5th, and Thursday February 2nd) or sent to the division at **PO Box 205, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**. If paying by check, make the check **payable to "Saratoga AOH."** When considering your dues pay-

ment, please understand that it is difficult for the division to know how to process memberships for members that have not kept current with their dues payments. For members in arrears of 2 years or more (2006 not included) we will likely be unable to pay per capita tax for these members, therefore submitting their termination notifications to the State and National Secretaries. We sincerely hope that each and every one of you continue your membership in the Division next year but we also understand that individual situations may change requiring evaluation of membership. In evaluating such things as membership to an organization, or purchase of just about any item or service, or even in working on projects of any sort, a common decision theory can be applied. The words Time, Interest, and Money can be written at

each point of a triangle, all sides of the triangle being equal. The challenge is that you must place a single dot in the triangle. But where? Let's say this triangle represents your AOH membership. The more interest you have towards your membership and what the AOH stands for, the closer the dot is to the Interest point of the triangle. The more time you have to spend regarding AOH-related meetings/ events, the closer the dot is to the Time point of the triangle. If you have just as much time as interest, the dot would be somewhere in the middle of those points. The last point is Money or Cost. Minimum cost being the ability to support as many events as possible, closer to maximum is closer to the Cost/Money point. Where's your dot? We hope it's somewhere near the In-

terest part of the triangle, which is what brought you to the division in the first place. We hope it's not right on the line between Interest and Time, implying dues might be hard to scrape up. If it's right on the line somewhere between Time and Cost, implying no interest at all, we hope you'll let us know. Above all, we hope you didn't need the triangle at all, knowing full well you'll be joining us for another adventurous year with the Saratoga division of the AOH. If you've made it this far with this column, thank you for drawing little triangles and dots and humoring me. We hope to see you at the next meeting. And don't forget to bring your 2006 dues! Your Financial Secretary – Chris Bergman

December Installations

We have elected a fine group of officers to represent us for 2006 and everyone should welcome them in at the December 1st meeting which will include our installation.

President: Dave Cummings; Vice President: Steve Curran; Recording Secretary: Rob Przedwiecki; Treasurer: Chris Millis; Financial Secretary: Chris

Bergman; Marshall: Brian Murphy; Sentinel: Jeff Carney; Standing Committee Chair, Bob O'Rourke. Please join in the celebration. We will be hosting many of the local and state

officers who come from our area. Also, out of respect for the solemnity of this event, please make this a jacket and tie night. Everyone's presence is appreciated.

Hair of the Dog Fundraiser

On January 27th, 2006 there will be a fundraiser at the Albany AOH hall to benefit both NYS District #1 and the NYSAOH Board featuring Hair of the Dog.

The district and state board spend much of their funds donating to charitable causes, locally, nationally and in Ireland. The support for the district comes from the 5 local divisions and is used to support local Irish efforts as well as state and national candidates for AOH offices.

The NYS Board gets their money from dues and the state convention and then looks for the best way to disburse the funds while keeping up the actual running of a big office.

This fundraiser has been organized by State VP

Matt Nelligan who has long been a friend of the Saratoga Division. The contribution is only \$20 and goes to one of the most worthy causes we have, the AOH. As a division we have been asked to commit to a table for 10 people but I

(Chris Kelly) hope that we can do better and commit more to this drive.

In my travels throughout the state and at board meetings I can tell all of our members that Saratoga has a great reputation. We

are looked at as a great success in the state. It's not too much to ask to put a little back for those who have supported us in the past and helped build our current brotherhood.

Besides all of that — you get a nice night with Hair of the Dog and a chance to meet fellow Hibernians from the other local divisions.

I have tickets. See me at the meetings in December and January. Please join us for a great evening.



St. Patrick's Day Feis

In 2005 the Saratoga division put on our first family night on St. Patrick's Day and it was a tremendous success. We had approximately 350 people come to join in the Irish music and food. This year we hope to continue this tradition.

Requests have been sent out to various halls in the area asking for their input into hosting this event. We do need help though with the organization of this event from the division itself.

Chris Templin and Dave Cummings have been organizing things so far but there is room on the committee for more help. We need to commit in January to things like food and entertainment. Please volunteer to help. St. Patrick's Day is on a Friday this year so it could be even busier than last year. This could turn out to be one of our biggest fundraisers of the year so let's all help out. P.S. SELL TICKETS!



The Fenians

During the middle of the 19th Century, a series of factors combined to create a new Irish patriotic movement. This organization was a revolutionary group dedicated to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland. It had its roots in both the United States and Ireland and was popularly known as *The Fenian Movement*, in honour of the Fianna, the ancient Irish warriors.

The origin of the term Fenian comes from Irish folklore. It described an ancient group of Knights who were self-reliant and had a passion for Irish land. So great was their passion according to the legend, they gave up a chance for world dominion to keep Ireland. This fit very closely with the beliefs of the modern movement and was taken as the organization name.

Times were hard for the Irish, and had been since England took control of the land. In the middle of the 1840's, however, things got much worse. The potato famine of 1845-1848 was a great disaster to the Irish population. In the space of three short years, the inhabitants of the country declined by over two million souls. Some of these two million people immigrated to America while most starved to death or died of disease.

After the famine ended, times remained very hard for the Irish. They never completely recovered from the disaster and many more Irish immigrated to America during the 1850's. Most of these people were of a very strong patriotic belief in their home country, and only left because they had to survive.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1858, James Stephens and Thomas Clark Luby started the Fenian organization in Ireland as the *Irish Republican Brotherhood* when they swore each other in as members. James had been a participant in the *Young Ireland Movement* of 1848. A friend of James Stephens, John O'Mahoney (also of the Young Ireland movement) started the Fenian Movement in the United States at about the same time. Both portions of the movement gained supporters rapidly, especially during 1861. This influx was largely

contributed to the death of Terrance Bellew MacManus, a hero of the Young Ireland movement who died in this year. Upon his request, his body was shipped from San Francisco to Ireland for burial, and all along the route patriotic Irish paid their respects.

In Ireland the movement was largely unsuccessful, as the British clamped down on it quickly in a successful effort to stop the problem. They did, however, manage to get the attention of Parliament to focus for a short time on the "Irish problems".

In the United States however, the organization continued to grow quickly. Many of the American members gained military experience during the American Civil War and therefore were becoming a force to be feared. Rumors spread that the American Fenians were going to invade what is now Canada. The rumours were not unfounded, as the American group was quickly gaining arms, money, and various other kinds of support including that of the US government.

According to Donald MacKay, author of *Flight from Famine*, the Fenians planned three separate invasions:

The goal of the invasion was to attain control of what is now Canada and hold it in ransom for the freedom of Ireland. Their initial efforts were somewhat successful, but were quickly tempered by the American government, which stepped in to stop the raids.

Seumas McManus, author of *The Story of the Irish Race*, says the withdrawal of American governmental support for the Fenians dealt a serious blow to the movement

The invasion of Canada, which would undoubtedly have been a successful move, and a severe blow to England, was stopped by the unexpected action of the American Government, which, having tacitly encouraged the scheme, and permitted the plans to be ripened,

stepped in at the last moment to prevent it." The Story of the Irish Race, p. 619

Had it not been for this American assistance to the British cause, the raids might have been successful and the history of Canada could have been quite different. The raids continued through 1871, although the organization was now full of spies, which reported and therefore spoiled all remaining efforts.

The organization remained active for quite some time, and even sponsored John Holland to build them a submarine. The *Fenian Ram* was launched in 1881 and later stolen from John Holland in 1883 by the Fenians in a disagreement over money. But their financing of the project help him to continue his research and in later years he built the first 'modern' submarine of the United States Navy.

It has been suggested that the threat of the Fenians was a major cause for the union of provinces into the confederation that became Canada. This appears to be at least partially true. While the Fenian Brotherhoods did not actually achieve their goal of a Free Ireland, they did successfully pass the flame of liberty to the next generation. It was this generation, including [Michael Collins](#) and many more, which actually achieved the goal so long striven for: the freedom and independence of Ireland.



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 Exec Board meets monthly to discuss division issues so that meetings don't have to be bogged down. Everyone is welcome to come to these meetings and we will try to make sure that every member is informed about them. There are no secrets here, just trying to make the regular division meetings easier.

Pagan Bonfire

Dave Cummings opens his home to all members and friends in December to commemorate a pagan bonfire. This will be on December 18th this year at 6PM until whenever the fire burns out. This is a tradition from days long ago and commemorates the Winter Solstice. Much of the Irish history which is still recognized today comes from the Pagan days. Dave tries to draw us together a recognition

of the things that brought Ireland together. Please try to attend.

Division Elections

We had a very smooth election of officers last month and this week we will install our new officers. Please join us on Dec 1st to honor the men who will lead us through 2006.

FFAI Party in Albany

The FFAI party in Albany was a great success and thousands of dollars were raised to fight the oppression in Northern Ireland. Steve Downs (New Albany President) did a great job. I was very happy to see many of our Saratoga members there. We need to support all of our local halls.

Adoration

Saint Clement's Church will be hosting a special hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday, December 10, 2005 between 12:00N and 1:00PM, using a monstrance blessed by the late Pope John Paul II and will be offered for an increase of vocations. For more information, call 584-6122.

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.