

Saratoga Ancient Order of Hibernians Commodore John Barry Division 1

January 2008

President's Message

*"So this is Christmas And what have you done
another year over And a new one just begun"*

John Lennon wrote these words in 1975 and they still ring true today. I hope all of you had a great Christmas with your families. It seems that the Christmas season ends with Christmas day, the fact that retailers started filling their stores with Christmas items in October makes the season seem longer than the baseball season. A radio station in Glens Falls started playing only "Holiday" music before Thanksgiving but it ends on December 25th (PC, can't say the word Christmas. Our state Chaplain, Father Henry Reid, wrote in the state newsletter when told that a school district had started calling Christmas the "White Holiday" asked, "What color did they assign to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?"). This seems to be the trend with people these days. On Thanksgiving night people were lining up to be the first shoppers on black Friday. The day that is set aside to give thanks, has become a warm up for shopping. Don't let Christmas fall into the same category. Let's try and keep the Christmas spirit alive a few days longer.

I am looking forward to a great year for the Division. You will notice a few changes this year. The e-board will meet at 6:30 on the night of the meeting. All members are welcome to attend this meeting but it is not mandatory. The Division meeting will follow. A second "meeting" will be held on the third Thursday of the month. This will be a cultural event. The first event is set, "Learn to Irish Dance night" with the Wild Irish Acres dance school. This night will be open to the public and I ask that you and your families attend these events. The February event looks to be an Irish movie night with a speaker before the film. Brother Kevin Hughes has been made Chairman of the Cultural Event Committee, if you have any ideas for an event let Kevin know. I also have formed a Raffle Committee. Brothers Jed Ida, Chris Millis and Brian Murphy will form this committee. I want to see the Division have a couple of raffles a year that are big ticket items. If you would like to join either committee you are most welcome.

In closing I would like to thank Chris Templin for the dinner at the Installation. I would also like to thank all the brothers who attended the event. It was nice to see some faces that have been missing and nicer to see members' better halves. I want to thank John Cromie for his musical introductions for the new members and the photos that he took of that night. A special thanks to Mary Willems for her lovely singing of the Irish national anthem in Irish. Of course I would be remiss if I didn't thank New York State President Matt Nelligan for officiating and District director Bob Flaherty, Schenectady President Owen Cole, Albany President Kevin O'Reilly and all the other dignitaries that attended.

Bliain úr faoi shéan is faoi mise duit.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on January 3.

Steve

Dues

2008 is upon us and members are asked to pay their dues as soon as possible. This year there is a new penalty fee assessed to divisions that do not pay their per capita tax in a timely manner. We will be required to pay our taxes by January 31st this year to avoid an extra fee of \$0.50/member. Timely dues payments will help the division, and will ensure that we are able to cover our 2008 responsibilities to the State and National AOH.

The dues are \$30 for the entire year and can be paid at the meeting or by sending checks to the PO box. (Checks can be made payable to Saratoga AOH)

Saratoga AOH
PO Box 205
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Upcoming Events

General Meeting → January 3rd at the Knights of Columbus Hall
Eboard to meet at 6:30pm with a full division meeting to
follow

Cultural Meeting → January 17th (Location: TBD)

Learn to Irish Dance
(Open to the Public)