

Commodore John Barry, Div. 1
Saratoga AOH on the Web

www.saratogaaoah.com

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Ancient Order of Hibernians
Saratoga Springs NY

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Send mail to:
Saratoga AOH
PO Box 205
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Call us here: 518-302-1759

Monthly Division Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Saratoga/Wilton Elks Lodge

Email us: (**Note:** email to this address does NOT go to division members, and is only initially seen by officers)

saratogaaoah@gmail.com

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Saratoga AOH November 2011

President's message

Chris Bergman, President

As we approach the end of another successful year for our Division I'd like to offer a suggestion. Read the last page of this newsletter now. It's OK, I'll wait..... Welcome back. As part of our motto "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity" we've already satisfied Friendship. Without that we would not have had a successful year. Thank you to all of you who helped us with our events throughout the year. And thanks to all the members who were able to support our successful bid to bring the 2013 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention to Saratoga Springs. Where we need to focus now is on the other two ethos of our motto. If you could pick just one of the benefits or charities mentioned on the last page of this newsletter and make a donation – you will be helping fellow Hibernians across the state and across the country. Please consider one of these causes during the upcoming holiday season.

On November 3rd we will be holding our regular monthly meeting upstairs at the Saratoga/ Wilton Elks. New Members are being initiated in November and as part of that initiation we will be holding an Order of the Shamrock ceremony. If you do not have your Order of the Shamrock we encourage you to attend and receive this first of two degrees in our Order. Kilts/Suits/business casual for new members, Shamrock candidates, and Officers, are recommended. They are optional but encouraged for membership.

We will also be nominating and voting in our officers for year 2012. The current slate of officers is listed on page

2. Please read the descriptions of the officer positions and if you are interested in running, have someone nominate you at the November meeting! Please note that **our December meeting is moving out by one week** due to the Victorian street walk. Here's to another great year!



2012 Member Dues

Rob Przedwiecki, Financial Secretary

Brothers. It is time once again for the annual membership and dues payment. After we vote on the 2012 slate of officers our focus turns from the current year to the next chapter for our division. One of the responsibilities of each member is the payment of their annual dues obligation. The dues for 2012 will be the same as in 2011. A payment of \$30 will keep each brother in good standing with the division and will result in the delivery of the 2012 membership card. This card is required for access the division meetings as well as state or national conventions. Carrying a current membership card will allow brothers to visit other divisions. Brothers with a valid 2012 card can gain access to AOH halls throughout the area, and around the country. 2012 dues collection will begin at the December division meeting. Dues can be paid by cash or check (Payable to Saratoga AOH) in person or delivered to the division PO Box. (Saratoga AOH PO Box 205 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866). Please pay your 2012 dues as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Update

Paul Maguire, Treasurer

We continue to grow as an organization and our treasury is keeping up with that growth. At the end of this calendar year, we will have a positive cash balance approximately 30% higher than it was at the end of 2010 with expenditures of more than \$15,000 during the year. We had two major fund raisers during the year; the golf tournament and the Irish 2000 parking. Both were very successful both from a fiscal and a social perspective. We enter 2012 in sound fiscal shape. On a more personal note, I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer and I would like to thank the other officers and chairs for their cooperation this year. I would also like to thank you for the confidence that you have shown in me in nominating me for

a second term. I was at a good friend's son's wedding for the last meeting and it appears that I will not be able to attend the November 3rd meeting. I can't give away the age but my wife has a significant birthday on that date and we will be celebrating. Thank you.

2012 Slate of Officers

The slate of officers nominated for the 2012 year for the Saratoga Division is listed here. These candidates were nominated by those members attending the October meeting. Nominations will be open once again at the November meeting.

Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to do so. The nomination must be made from a member at the November meeting (members cannot

nominate themselves). Each position will be open for additional nominees at the beginning of the November meeting, after which the nominations will close and a vote will take place. The current Slate is as follows:

President	Chris Bergman
Vice President	Greg Gallagher
Recording Secretary	Steve Curran
Financial Secretary	Rob Przedwiecki
Treasurer	Paul Maguire
Standing Committee	Dave Cummings
Marshall	Kevin Quinn
Marshall	Michael Pidgeon
Sentinel	Don McHenry

Duties of each Office in the AOH

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Sentinel - Acts as the doorkeeper during meetings. Ascertains that all members are in good standing as they seek entrance to the meeting. Assists the Marshall during the order of the Shamrock Degree.

Marshall – Set up the meeting room for the division meetings. Assists the President in ascertaining that all members attending the meeting are members in good standing. Assist the President during initiation of candidates, interrogates the candidates according to the ritual.

Standing Committee – Be in charge of the Grievance Committee that tries all charges filed in writing against a member with the Recording Secretary of the Division. You act as Chairman of the Arbitration Board to settle and adjust all disputes and grievances arising in the Division, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Division.

Treasurer – Be the custodian of all the funds, bonds, securities and instruments held in the name of the Ancient order of Hibernians in America, and deposit same for safe keeping in a bank or savings institution within 10 days after receipt in the appropriate name of the order. Keep a record if all monies received and disbursed on approved forms and books. Pay no money except on voucher signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary on approved vouchers furnished by the National Secretary. Keep vouchers for all disbursements. Present a financial report to the Division at all meetings, or when ordered to do so by a higher authority.

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Upcoming Dates:

November 3rd (Thursday)
Saratoga AOH regular monthly meeting at 7pm at the Saratoga Elks.

November 5th (Saturday)
F.F.A.I. (Freedom for All Ireland) concert with Seamus Kennedy 8pm at the Albany AOH Hall, \$20

November 19th (Saturday)
Schen. AOH Installation Dinner

December 1st (Thursday) **AOH Meeting moved to following week.**
5pm Annual Victorian Street walk in Saratoga Springs

December 7th (Wednesday)
Troy AOH Installation Dinner

December 8th (Thursday)
Saratoga AOH regular monthly meeting 7pm at the Saratoga Elks.

December 10th (Saturday)
Albany AOH Installation Dinner

January 5th 2012 (Thursday)
Saratoga AOH regular monthly meeting at 7pm at the Saratoga Elks.

January 7th 2012 (Saturday)
Saratoga AOH Installation Dinner 5pm Mass at St. Peter's Church. 6pm cocktail hour followed by Dinner and Installation Ceremony at the Saratoga Elks.

2013 Convention

Corner Committees

Here is the current list of Committees being formed for the 2013 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention to be held in Saratoga Springs from July 10-13th 2013. Your skills probably match up with one or more of them. Please sign up for as many as you can. Email saratogaao@gmail.com with interest.

Registration – The most important aspect of a successful convention is tracking the receipt of money and application forms. Dick Nelson, Brian Murphy, and Kathy Turk are interested so far.

Hotel Liaison – Steve Curran is the current to the Holiday Inn, the Primary hotel for the convention.

Give-away-Bags – Charged with finding items and creating gift bags which registered convention attendees receive when they check in.

Journal – The Journal is book compiled with anything from Advertisements, Campaign messages, Messages of Good/Wellfare, etc. The Journal also lists the agenda of the convention. Members send in Ads and this committee tracks the money and Ads collected and sends the compiled Journal for printing.

Website – To work with the Convention Bureau or other resources to plan and implement a web page representing Convention 2013 information that members across the state will need in order to find out all they need to know about the convention events and registration process.

Masses – Don McHenry has already volunteered to coordinate all services required of local Priests for the various Masses required at the event.

Degree Team – Major Degree’s for AOH and LAOH are given on Saturday during the convention. This committee coordinates and plans for these activities.

Vendors – Various merchandise vendors sell items during the festival. This committee coordinates with vendors.

Free Night – Thursday night is “open” in that there is now Convention-organized event. This is the night when the local Division puts together an event for attendees. It’s also an opportunity to raise a little money for the local hosting division.

Security – Coordinate and plan security issues with vendors, hotels, attendees, city, police, etc. Currently Dick Nelson and Brian Murphy have volunteered for this committee.

Suite Arrangements – Steve Curran has already volunteered to work with the NYS AOH/LAOH State Board to arrange for suite assignments in the two hotels.

Computers – Charged with coordinating the use of personal and/or rented computers and other equipment that will be dedicated for use at the convention for various tasks of officers, registration workers, and others.

Transportation – Coordinate and plan for transportation of attendees for events not occurring at the hotel.

Local Guides – This committee will comprise of people familiar with the Saratoga Springs area and available activities. They will inform attendees of events and places to go during the convention.

Marketing – To coordinate and plan marketing and sponsorships that might be required to promote the upcoming convention. Also to work with local shops and restaurants to arrange discounts/offers for attendees during the convention.

Permits and Municipality – Work with the City of Saratoga Springs and/or police to acquire any necessary permits that may be required for events.

Entertainment – Entertainment will be required for the Friday and Saturday night dinners. This committee will plan and coordinate bands, etc.

Wednesday Events – Wednesday is typically a day for golf tournaments, and other group outings (Great Escape trip, Day Spa outings for Ladies, etc.). This committee coordinates, plans and promotes these events.

Volunteers – List duties that need to be completed by volunteers during the convention. Recruit, plan, and assign/coordinate volunteers for various duties and events.

Seating – Karen Keane has already volunteered to assist with seating charts and arrangements for the Friday and Saturday dinners. This committee works closely with the Registration committee.

Irish Land Wars

Thanks to Lew Elia for a great presentation at our October 6th meeting. It was interesting to hear about Michael Davitt’s role in breaking the British hold on land ownership in Ireland and how these practices and its terminology continue to this day all over the world. Our local advertising also brought three members of the public to the event. Thanks to Emmet Kelleher for contacting local media and advertising this event.

New Irish Pub

Power's Pub is slated to open in late October in Clifton Park. It's located where the Old Dublin Inn used to be just off of Route 9.



I2K Parking Success

Thank you to all of our loyal and hard working I2K Parking Volunteers (33 in all). The event was a great success for our Division.

Send us ideas for improvements for next year.

T-shirts – If you need to exchange your volunteer T-shirt for a different size, or if you didn't receive a T-shirt please email saratogaah@gmail.com and we will take the appropriate action.

Piper's Page now Online

Our Vice President, Greg Gallagher thought of a great idea. It can sometimes be difficult for people to find the services of Bagpipers in Saratoga, especially for those who do not live locally. An example of this is families of those being laid to rest at The Saratoga National Cemetery. They could be from out of state and looking for the services of a piper. Also many local people may be looking for pipers for weddings, wakes, funerals, or parties. Greg has gathered names of local pipers and received permission from them to list their names on our Division's website.



There is now a link on the main www.saratogaah.com taking you to www.saratogaah.com/pipers.html which is a page that is dedicated to this idea. This should make it easy for people to find what they are looking for when they search the web online. If you know of any pipers or pipe bands who would like to be listed on this page you can email us with their contact information at saratogaah@gmail.com

Duties of each Office in the AOH ...continued from page 2

Financial Secretary - Keep accurate record of membership showing date proposed, date initiated and the dates members received their major degrees. Collect all dues, fees, assessments and fines and keep an accurate record thereof on approved books and forms issued by the National Secretary. Pay the Treasurer all money collected at the close of each meeting. Keep attendance record of all meetings. Make annual financial report. Notify Visiting Committee of sick members.

Recording Secretary – Notify members of all meetings of the Division. Keep accurate minutes of meetings in bound volume containing numbered sheets. Keep accurate membership roster. Countersign all lawful orders of the Division. Notify applicants of their election and members of their suspension within one week thereafter. Make detail reports on all facts of the Division to the County, State, and National Boards of forms issued by the National Secretary. Carry out all duties as directed by the by-laws and as directed by the Division he serves.

Vice President – Vice President shall have the same powers and perform all the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President. Be responsible for promoting the Degree work of the Division. Vice President shall also be the director of the Junior Division and report their activities to meetings and conventions.

President – Preside at all meetings of the Division. Be the Executive Office of the Division. Appoint committees for the good and welfare of the order. Rule on questions of law under the constitution. Enforce the laws of the order within the Division. Plan meetings and activities of the Division. Hold the officers responsible for the activities entrusted to them. Sign all official documents and papers of the Division. Perform such other duties as are usually attached to the office of the President.

50-50 fact

The 50-50 raffle is back and the proceeds will be put toward a 2013 Convention fund. We conduct 50-50's at the monthly meetings. \$33 has been raised so far.

Murphy Memorial

Thanks to Greg Gallagher for organizing the division's annual Timothy Murphy Memorial Ceremony, which was held on Sunday October 2nd.

AOH Around the States

Broome County AOH outreach. We learned at the October 22nd NYS AOH Board meeting that 15-20 families of the AOH and LAOH were affected by the floods in Broome County in September. The AOH in Broome County have reached out for donations from the statewide membership. If you wish to donate you can make checks payable to “AOH/LAOH Flood Relief Fund 2011” and mail them to AOH, 148 Main St, Binghamton, NY 13905 Attn: Flood Relief.

F.F.A.I. Christmas Appeal 2011

This year our District 1 Director Peter Durkee has challenged each AOH Division in the District 1 (Saratoga, Schenectady, Troy, Albany, and Watervliet) with a \$100 minimum commitment to the Freedom for All Ireland Christmas appeal. This fund is “an important charity which helps pave the way for a United Ireland with peace and justice for all.” per Dan Dennehy (NYS FFAI Chair). You can support this fund by attending the FFAI Concert in Albany on November 5th which is listed on page 2 of this newsletter. If you wish to personally contribute to this fund you can send checks payable to “NYS AOH Christmas Appeal” c/o Dan Dennehy, NYS AOH FFAI Chairman, 22 Andre Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.

Project St. Patrick Mass Cards

Project St. Patrick is one of several National Hibernian charities. The purpose of Project St. Patrick is to provide stipends to the pool of dedicated men and women who are following religious vocations in the Catholic Church. The Mass Cards

allow you to make donations to this charity in the memory of someone you know. These cards will be available at our meetings until we run out, at which time we will request more. When sending checks with the cards, make the check payable to “Hibernian Charity” with Project St. Patrick in the memo section of the check.

For more information visit their website at:

www.hiberniancharity.org

Other projects you’ll find there are:

- Hibernian Hunger
- **Commodore John Barry Gate**
- Educational and Irish Heritage
- Medal of Honor Grove
- Hurricane Katrina Disaster

175th AOH in America anniversary coins available for \$30 at <http://www.nyaoh.com/forms/>



These coins were created this year to celebrate this anniversary of our order in America. They will not be making more so if you are interested you can order both online and with the form available on the website listed above.

Vermont AOH reforming

It was noted at the NYS Board meeting on October 22nd that there is currently interest from at least one region in Vermont to re-establish their AOH Division. We look forward to hearing more about this as we are close by and should show our support however we can by welcoming them back!

2012 AOH Calendars

The new calendars will be available at the Saratoga AOH November 3rd meeting. They are \$25 each, and once you register your calendar with the NYS AOH you have a chance to win that back each day with the daily 3-number NYS lottery drawing. There is also an Irish History note for each day of the year in the calendar. More details are here:

<http://www.nyaoh.com/reports/calendar-contest/>

The 2012 National AOH/LAOH

Convention will be in our back yard. It will be held Monday-Thursday July 9-12th 2012 at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino. Rooms are \$115 and can be

reserved now. For a list of planned events so far and many more

details go to the www.hibernians.com website and click on the logo shown above. They have also set up a *Hibernian Convention 2012* page on Facebook.

NY AOH website redesign

The www.nyaoh.com site has been redesigned and new features such as maps of the locations of NY Hibernian Halls and listing the daily winning numbers associated with the AOH Calendars mentioned above.



