

**February Highlights.** Two teams competed most evenly in the rendition of Irish Jeopardy. One team had a ringer from County Cork. But a guest, and now prospective brother, Joe Brady, said we were a fine bunch of lads. The weather pretty much bolluxed up the business meeting; however, the work of the Kelley's McHenry's, Murphy's, Nelson's, Quinn's, O'Donnell's and Walsh's did not freeze up in preparation for the Division's busy March.

**March Highlights.** The March session on Irish saints reportedly came close to a donnybrook between the Jesuits and the Franciscans. Thanks to VP McHenry for leading the discussion and refereeing. Your Chieftain bragged about getting Wednesday's ashes in an Islamic country. He was 'outdone' by a revelation that Brother Rick Burke enjoys the Stations of the Cross at Visitation/ Notre Dame, every Friday! And what a balance achieved in that the Division had 16 of our Irish family march in Albany's Parade and 15 of our Irish family attend Sunday's Mass at St. Peter's. (Tom and guest son, Dan Burns, Dave Cummings, Steve Curran, Rich Gorman, Kevin, Don and sons Hughes, Emmet Kelleher, Ed Kelley, Paul Maguire, Don Mchenry, Brian Murphy, Bill Nykorchuk, Kevin and Father Dan Quinn). (IPP Gregg Gallagher, Joe Templin and Jeff Carney marched as reenactors and later joined us).

Don and grandson Logan O'Brien and Kevin Hughes and son Sean, our next generation, led the Albany Parade. We can't thank the Hughes' enough for their constant support and participation. Terri, chieftess of the Wild Irish Acres Dance Troupe, guides brothers Don and Kevin and son-in-law Jamie Walsh on how to present a great Irish image. Their collective performance at the Feis was just outstanding.

Parade Chair Brian Murphy arranged transport and ensured brothers were at the designated location, warm, and on time. They were joined by others in marching with the Albany Division. The ease of having safe transport also provided further bonding in visits to the Albany and Watervliet halls, and a slow down evening at the Irish Times.

**Reflections of St. Patrick's Communion Masses.** Recall some of our history on these pious mornings. St. Peter's French Father Lefevre told President Smith that no bagpipes would announce our arrival; that was too secular. Within a year, the pastor was "retired." St. Clement's Brother (Father) Sullivan caused a long communion line; by wanting to especially bless every one of us; this to Brother Mike Pidgeon's consternation; the pastor "leads" few masses now. The Church of the Visitation/ Notre Dame's Father Welsh commented that we had nicer skirts than the Catholic Daughter's Society sitting opposite us. The pastor was "transferred" to Auburn. St. Mary's Father Kelly blessed us and led an 'Our Father' in Gaelic; he's in our prayers. And this time, we participated on Father Ingemie's last day of his pastoral role; it was very emotional. (Tom and Dan Burns, Dave Cummings, Rich Gorman, Ed Kelley and Kathy, Don McHenry, Paul O'Donnell, Mark Phillips, Kevin, Ronnie and Liam Quinn and his girlfriend Christina, Jed Ida).

## Pay your 2014 Division Dues online !!

Go to [www.saratogaah.com](http://www.saratogaah.com) and click on the online dues link at the top of the page.



### April Schedule:

**The Celebrity Bartender evening at Irish Times on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> will mark two things.** It approaches the last evening of ownership of Irish Times by Brother Niall Roche. Since moving to Saratoga, Niall has been a steadfast financial and brotherly supporter of our Feis'es, golf outings and celebrity bartender stints. He provided free sustenance to many of his AOH family over the 2014 St. Patrick's weekend. Being almost unemployed, he looks to your thoughtful help and prayers in this life transition.

**Second, is the kickoff to our own reflection of An Gorta Mor.** Actually, Brother Mike Smith has been volunteering at the Economic Opportunity Council in the Irish tradition of addressing famine in our Saratoga Community; he's known to be the best pot washer almost every Wednesday. Brother Rich Gorman organized a few of us to work the Saratoga kitchen on St. Patrick's Day. (Tom and Dan Burns, Dave Cummings, Rich Gorman, Ed Kelley, Ted Lafforthun). Rich also has recommended that three pantries will be the recipients of the Celebrity Bartender evening, rolled over into to **May 17** Division Golf outing (flyer in your envelope). The recipients will be the Saratoga EOC, the Open Door Mission, and the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center.

**An Gorta Mor. ( taken form a monumental plaque in Boston).** "The great famine which ravaged Ireland between 1845-50 was the major catastrophe of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It brought horrific suffering and loss to Ireland's 8.5 million people. Over one million died of strvation and disease. Another two million emigrated, seeking sanctuary in Boston and other North American cities. Those remaining in Ireland suffered poverty, eviction, and the decimation of their culture. This memorial remembers the famine, known in Irish as AN GORTA MOR (THE GREAT HUNGER). It depicts the Irish exodus from their homeland, their arrival in Boston and ultimate triumph over adversity in America".



March 22nd, 2014 AOH Boots on the Ground (BOG) initiative removing sheetrock and riven lath board from bedrooms in an early 1800's Victorian home in flood damaged Schoharie. Above: Don McHenry and Ed Kelley. Others helping: Chris and Amy Bergman, and several from Schenectady and Albany AOH as well. Organized by NYS AOH Vice-Pres. Tim McSweeney from Albany AOH.

#### Member Birthdays (do we have yours?)

##### March:

3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Bergman  
21<sup>st</sup> Tim Webb II  
25<sup>th</sup> Michael Smith  
and Greg Beeman  
27<sup>th</sup> Rich Gorman

##### April:

2<sup>nd</sup> Kienan Quinn  
12<sup>th</sup> Roy McDonald  
15<sup>th</sup> Fred Donovan Sr  
16<sup>th</sup> Matt Veitch  
21<sup>st</sup> Bill Manion  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bob Forsyth

##### May:

6<sup>th</sup> Jim Leary Sr.  
13<sup>th</sup> Fr. Dan Quinn  
14<sup>th</sup> Pete Healy  
19<sup>th</sup> Ted Griifin  
21<sup>st</sup> Bryan Curley  
31<sup>st</sup> Tyler Kelley

##### June:

13<sup>th</sup> Will Kennedy

Member volunteers who served corned beef to customers at the Soup Kitchen in Saratoga Springs on St. Patrick's Day. (Dave Cummings, Dan and Tom Burns, Ted Lafforthun, Rich Gorman, and Ed Kelley)



It's looking like we might host the Major Degree at the Elks Lodge on **Friday, June 13**. More info TBD. Put the date on your calendar, please.

In closing, there is an alert to the reality of the Chieftain's Bonfire at the farm on **Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>** (closer to the Vernal Equinox, than the Winter Solstice). Bring all your left over artifacts bestowed on you from your mothers-in-law!

*And may the spirit of  
departed Brother  
Dennis Brunelle  
rest in peace.*

## Saratoga AOH

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## Ancient Order of Hibernians Commodore John Barry Division I

As we enter our second quarter, we should feel pretty good about the first three months of 2014. Theoretically, springing from a matriarchal society, I wonder if some of you did not ask your family females to post the proposed annual calendar and to seek reminders to attend our events. Brothers call me to ask where and when things are happening. I'm always happy to talk to them to verify they are still alive. I will not badger the forty members who have delayed in their dues, or more importantly, did not get to participate with your brethren these last two months. You are missing out on some fun time. In revitalizing the Commodore of the Month, I ask you to say thanks to Paul O' Donnell and Jamie Walsh for leading February's work in making the March Family Feis a great event; to the Hughes' family for being in force for the Feis and the Albany AOH parade; and to Rich Gorman for leading the efforts to make the **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Celebrity Bartender and **May 17<sup>th</sup>** Division golf outing potentially grand successes. No doubt you know we are recognized nationally, too, as the New York Kilted Division. I laughed as Brother Gorman was redirected by a marcher that the AOH kilted guys were up a block. More and more, my civilian interactions are met with a query, when I don't wear a kilt. Thanks to Brothers O'Dalaigh, Millis and Curran for teaching me how to sit and not to bend over to retie my brogues in the parades! If you choose to buy the garb, consider colors other than the Black Watch; google why.

Regards in the motto, Chieftain Dave Cummings.