



A Sacred Priority

Ron Howko tromps across a rain-drenched cemetery beside a highway in County Mayo, Ireland. He stops at the headstone of Pvt. James Forkan and immediately notices a problem. The wooden pole of a small U.S. flag planted in front of the grave has snapped in half. "No problem," Howko says. "I have more flags."

The commander of American Legion Post IR-03 in Claremorris goes to his car, finds a fresh flag, replaces the broken one and looks thoughtfully at the burial plot of a young soldier whose wartime death was ignored for most of a century.

Forkan was one of 62 Irish-born soldiers and sailors who in 1922 were repatriated for burial in their home soil after losing their lives while fighting for the United States in World War I. They were initially buried in military cemeteries in other parts of Europe until their families, given the option, had them exhumed and brought back to Ireland. Once reburied, their associations with the U.S. military were disregarded, due mainly to Ireland's conflict with Great Britain at the time, Howko says. The fallen troops received no U.S. military honors.

No flags. No headstones engraved with rank, unit or branch of service. No Taps. "Until The American Legion and the Mayo Peace Park got involved, these men laid for over 90 years in unmarked graves," Howko says.

Post IR-03 in Claremorris – named for Commodore John Barry, Irish-born father of the modern U.S. Navy - has taken a lead role, with support from Ireland's two other American Legion posts, to rededicate with full military honors the unmarked graves of the fallen World War I fighters. So far, Howko and his fellow Legionnaires have obtained official military headstones (choice of bronze or marble) and conducted

services for 12 Irish men who died in World War I, plus one for another veteran, Michael Gibbons, who received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War but, like the others, was laid to rest without military recognition.

The most recent rededication ceremony came last October, when U.S. Army Pvt. Michael K. Holmes - killed in a shellburst on Oct. 27, 1918 - finally received a service with full military honors. A bronze grave marker was unveiled, and his family was presented a U.S. burial flag and a presidential memorial certificate.

"The presentation of the flag is always an emotional event," Howko says. "The flag is usually going to an elderly relative of the deceased service person. The occasion does provide a wonderful sense of recognition for the deceased, who they would have known only through hearsay and family lore. They have pictures of these young men in their military uniforms. The ceremony provides closure and an obligation fulfilled to family dead and gone."

Remembrance of the fallen is a sacred priority for Irish Legionnaires. The Legion performs other roles in Ireland that closely resemble those of posts in the United States. There are post service officers who provide assistance with government benefits. Irish Legionnaires march in holiday

parades across the country. They support shelters for homeless veterans, raise money to build war memorials, and maintain connections with the U.S. Embassy in Dublin and with active-duty American troops.

"Our main duty, as we see it, is looking after our members," says Liam Kane, commander of John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 in Dublin and past National Executive Committeeman from the Department of France, which includes Ireland's posts. "We also bury our members. We never fail to go get the flag and give them a decent funeral and play Taps, no matter what."

One major event each year, not surprisingly, is St. Patrick's Day. Legionnaires from across Ireland gather in Killarney and carry the colors through the city, typically winding their way to the Flesk Restaurant, home of Father Francis Duffy American Legion Post IR-02. "The reception we get in Killarney is unbelievable," Kane says. "American visitors want to get out and walk with us."

The Flesk is not an ordinary Irish eatery. Its walls are strikingly similar to many U.S.-based American Legion posts: they are adorned with license plates bearing the names, towns and numbers of other Legion posts around the world. U.S. tourists who happen upon the Flesk are astonished to find The American Legion's emblem

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MAY 2, 2013 • ANNUAL ELECTIONS 6:30-7:30 PM
MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 PM
Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)



We will celebrate Mother's Day. Ham will be provided.
Men please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

MAY

- 2 Shamrock Club monthly meeting and yearly elections; ICHC; 6.30 pm
- 3 Tom and Evan Leahy; O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, 13225 West Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove; 8 pm
- 3 Conference of Celtic Women; Songs and Stories from the Isles; Conference of Celtic Women; Speaker - Sandy West, accompanied by David West; ICHC; 5.30 pm
- 3 Derek Byrne and Paddygrass; Callanan's Parkway, West Allis; 9 pm
- 8 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 2-8 pm
- 8 Set Dancing and Session; O'Donoghue's, 7 pm
- 10 Ian Gould; O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, 13225 West Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove; 8 pm
- 12 Enter the Haggis; Shank Hall, 1434 North Farwell; 8 pm
- 14 Celtic Women International Book Club; Discussion of the CWI Gathering; Hostess: Sharon Walsh; ICHC; 1 pm
- 22 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 2-8 pm
- 22 Set Dancing and Session; O'Donoghue's, 7 pm
- 18 Irish Cultural and Heritage Center Ceili; Music by Wise Maids; 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue; 7.30 pm
- 29 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 2-8 pm
- 29 Set Dancing and Session; O'Donoghue's, 7 pm

JUNE

- 6 Shamrock Club monthly meeting; ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 Conference of Celtic Women; Even if the wheels are coming off of your life, you can learn to change the tires.; Speaker- Susan Knaack; ICHC; 5.30 pm

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 P.M. at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 P.M., last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 2-8 P.M. ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Fest Song Circle, O'Donoghue's Pub, second and fourth Tuesday, 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session at Ivanhoe's, Racine, 4 P.M. third Sundays ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 P.M.; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 P.M.; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 P.M. ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 P.M. ☘ Fridays - áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 P.M. ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

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Celtic Women Lecture May 3, 2013

Welcome to the May Celtic Women First Friday lecture. This month we will have music, sung unaccompanied in the old way, by Sandy West. She sings a variety of Celtic songs, illustrated with photos to add to the atmosphere and settings. Please join us at the ICHC for a pleasant couple of hours, a cup of tea and home-made treats.

May 3, 2013

Topic: "Songs and Stories from the Isles"

Speaker: Sandy West



Sandy West, a life-long songstress, has been singing in Irish, Scottish and Manx for about 10 years. In the ancient tradition of telling stories with song, she weaves a bit of history and lore with Celtic songs of old - Gaelic, as well as English. On some numbers her husband, Dave West, accompanies her on the bodhrán.

All lectures are held from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Parking lot available from the 23rd Street alley.

2012-2013 is our 16th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

- Jean Bills



Glenn's Corner Cupboard

- May: In honor of Mother's Day we will have ham. **Men** bring a dish to share: a salad, vegetable or dessert. (Remember this is election for Club Officers.)
- June: TBA

It has been my pleasure to serve you for the past two years.

-Glenn Nowak

Milwaukee President's Message

Hello Everyone,

We have had some gloomy, rainy days lately, but as the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. Let us pray for that and a little warmth and sunshine.

We had a beautiful Easter Rising mass. After many hours searching for a priest, Fr. Russell Tikalsky came to our rescue. Thank you Father and to Brian Witt and Mary Jo Kaufmann for finding him. Thanks to our musical liturgists, Mary Jo, Diana Stroud and Derek Byrne. Thanks also to Joe Hughes who was instrumental in the historic part of our service, and Maricolette Walsh who coordinated our eucharistic ministers.

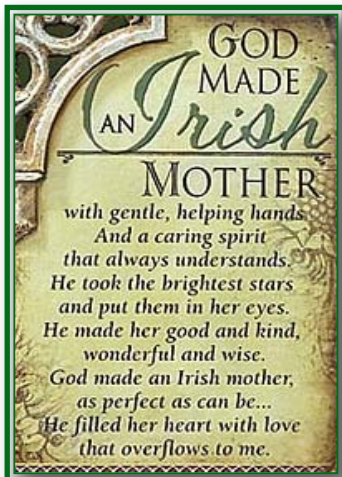
After the mass we enjoyed a lovely continental breakfast hosted by Veronica Ceszynski. We had a visit from the Easter Bunny, thanks to Eric Dushek. It's nice to see a young man putting a smile on so many faces. We are so proud of you. Julie Smith not only was Mrs. Bunny, but thanks to her and Dawn Fleming helping me, everything was decorated beautifully.

It will be election night at our May general meeting. Come and cast your vote for our club's officers and board members.

As summer approaches we can look forward to many enjoyable events: our installation dinner, summer picnic and the granddaddy of them all - Irish Fest. More information will be provided in our Emerald Reflections in the months to come. Stay tuned!

Happy Mother's Day to our beautiful ladies who are mothers and grandmothers, God Bless all of you.

- **Kathy Donovan, President**



Sunshine Report

Tom McAleese had surgery on his back for a melanoma but is improving and doing well. Greg Von Reuden, fourteen year old grandson of Judy and Bob Towne needs all the prayers we can send as he continues to battle with cancer.

Sean Cavanaugh earned the rank of Lance Corporal in the Marines. He is one of Mary Culver's sons.

Here is a special message from Bob Burke:

The next two weeks are crucial for me and am being closely monitored. I was given half treatment and am being watched especially for the next two weeks. I have been at home and doing well enough. I am back with genealogy and actually enjoying. How I have missed the Milwaukee folks...and so delighted to hear from anyone.

Bob Burke

- **Maggie Blaha
Sunshine Chair**



Retail Report

We are now selling fleece vest and jackets. They are available in either Forest Green or Black. Vests are \$25.00, and jackets are \$27.50. We continue to have T-shirts, Polo Shirts and Wind Shirts available for order as well. The T-shirts and Polo Shirts are available in: White, Kelly Green and Black. Wind Shirts are available in Green or Black. T-Shirts are \$8.00 for youth sizes and \$10.00 for adult sizes. Polo Shirts are \$22.00, add \$2.00 for 2x-4x. Wind Shirts \$25.00, add \$2.00 for 2x.

Contact Kim or Glenn Nowak to place your order today.

Upcoming Events: Oshkosh Irishfest May 31-June 2.

- **Glenn and Kim Nowak, Retail Chairs**
414-940-9032
retail.shamrockclubwis@wi.rr.com

Milwaukee Membership News

Ok, so now we are past all of that rain, school plays, and other spring festivities, it is time now to catch up on getting our plants to grow for this year.

Please welcome our new member, Charlie Burbach, who joined our club last month. At present, the Milwaukee Chapter as of April is at 324 memberships with 132 families, 153 single, and 39 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships.

Please be sure to have your membership renewals in before May 2nd for those who expire on or before then and have not renewed yet. Your membership must be active in order to vote in the elections.

- **Denis Donohoe
Membership Chair**



Pete Fleming



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Shamrock Club Member

Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: May 15th to appear in the June issue.) Copy received after that date will not appear due to deadlines. While we try to include every submission possible, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included immediately. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor
emeraldflections@shamrockclubwis.com

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To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. MILWAUKEE ONLY: Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.

Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

Sharon Walsh will be the host for the meeting on May 14th. We will be discussing the CWI Gathering in St. Charles, Il. from April 26-28.

A Week in Winter, by Maeve Binchy will be discussed on June 18th. The meeting will be hosted by Nance Vose.

The July 16th meeting will be hosted by Maureen Garry, topic TBA. There will be no meeting in August.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

Easter Rising Mass and Brunch

The 43rd Annual Easter Rising Mass was held on March 31. Our celebrant was Father Russ Tikalski. A total of 223 people attended the Mass.

This year was a bit more of a challenge than most years. However, it was a wonderful service, and Father Tikalski had both a wonderful sermon and a number of Irish jokes. He also said he would like to do this on an annual basis.

I wish to thank a number of people who helped to make it a success. These include Mary Jo Kaufmann, who secured the services of Father Russ, at the last minute. Mary Jo also led the music liturgy, which included Derek Byrne and Diana Stroud. Derek and Joe Hughes also conducted the program prior to the Mass. Betty and Ed Mikush brought the altar linens, and Maricolette and Roger Walsh secured the Eucharistic ministers.

Noel Tylla and Rand Harteau helped to lead the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums to stirring heights. Readings were done by Derek, Rand and Gail McAleese, Kathy Donovan and Mary Culver.

Rory Modlinski and Jeff Shaffer took care of sound. Bob Towne coordinated the ushers.

The Mass was a wonderful expression of the history of the Shamrock Club and the Irish community.

- Brian Witt

Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 P.M. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at 8 P.M.

The dances are called, and direction is given, by two of the Midwest's best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy on Fridays and Julie Clark on Saturdays.

May - June 2013 Calendar:

- Fri., May 3 - **athas**
- Sat., May 18 - **Wise Maids**
- Fri., June 7 - **Cream City Ceili**

Entrance is \$8.00 Adults, and \$5.00 for Students, Seniors, and Children. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.



Ambassador Hotel turns 85

Mayor Tom Barrett declares Thursday, May 2, 2013 Ambassador Hotel Day!

In honor of our 85th Birthday on May 2nd, the Ambassador will be giving historic tours of the 1920s Art Deco building, offering hotel rooms for \$85, along with complimentary cake, coffee and 1928 priced meals and drinks all day. **Stop in before the Shamrock Club meeting and election!**

In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to win one of 85 one-night stay gift certificates.

Designed in 1927 by architects Urban Peacock and Armin Frank, the Ambassador Hotel showcases classic Art Deco features such as marble and terrazzo floors, bronze elevator doors, ornate plasterwork, and stylized polished nickel sconces. At the time of its opening in 1928, the hotel was considered one of the city's premier luxury hotels with the very latest in contemporary amenities and design.

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hanging on the wall along with all the license plates.

“They can’t get over it,” says Flesk owner Dermot O’Leary, a Vietnam War veteran and Legionnaire who was drafted into the U.S. Army after he went to New York looking for work in the early 1960s. “It happens all the time. They can’t get over the fact they have found an American Legion post in Ireland.”

World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran Glen Foy, adjutant of Post 02 in Killarney, says U.S. visitors “come over here and are surprised. American Legion? One of the women in the U.S. Embassy once called us The American Foreign Legion.” The Flesk is a magnet for U.S. tourists, especially veterans with Legion connections. The Killarney post - named for the famous World War I chaplain of New York’s Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment, which drew heavily on the city’s Irish immigrant population of the early 20th century – once had nearly 300 members but now has about 100, O’Leary says. “Our members are scattered now.”

The post was formed in 1951 when, O’Leary says, “there were tens of thousands of Irishmen in the Korean War ... if veterans had problems, got sick or something, the Legion would look after them.”

It is not a long way from there to Tipperary, which has no American Legion post. But it does have Corny’s Pub, established in 1742 and now owned by U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Legionnaire Mark Cooney. Corny’s is where U.S. veterans like to hang out during special events, like annual late-September ceremonies and a parade through town that ends at the Remembrance Arch, a monument “to known Irish-born who died for the cause of peace and freedom since World War II,” explains Mick Haslam, a veteran of the Irish Defence Forces and chairman of the monument restoration project.

One reason service in the U.S. military has appealed to the Irish through the years is that the Irish Defence Forces - an army, air corps and naval service often deployed in support of U.N. operations - is restricted in size and can be difficult to join. That’s what drove Cooney across the ocean. “I always had a fascination with the military,” says Cooney, a U.S. Marine from 1994 to 1998. “In Ireland, you can’t just enlist in the army. You have to apply.”

Cooney instead applied for a visa and

waited a year for approval before he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. “Join the best, that was my theory – do it right,” he says from behind the bar at Corny’s, where USMC flags that were flown both in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom are proudly displayed. A U.S. flag flaps in the breeze above the entrance of the pub.

The Remembrance Arch down the hill from Corny’s, meanwhile, “is a piece of history,” Haslam says. “Three different groups were involved, including The American Legion - people interested in remembrance, peace and reconciliation.” The memorial arch was officially unveiled by former Irish President Mary McAleese in 2005.

Engraved are the names of Ireland’s war dead since World War II, including a panel dedicated purely to those from Ireland who fell while serving the United States. The arch is restored from the original portico of the officers’ mess hall at Tipperary Barracks, a British garrison and military hospital from 1874 to 1922. Now a nursing home and care center, the property remains encircled by its original stone walls.

Tipperary became known to millions through the popular British anthem “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary,” written in 1912. Irish troops who trained or passed through the garrison before going to battle in France and Belgium during World War I were heard singing the song as they marched. In Ireland’s battle for independence from Great Britain shortly after World War I, Tipperary Barracks was the scene of deadly conflicts between the Irish and the British. A website dedicated to the memorial describes Tipperary’s meaning to veterans:

“Throughout the centuries and even today, Irishmen and Irishwomen have served and continue to serve with honor in foreign uniform, and on foreign soil, for noble and worthwhile causes, for which many had made the ultimate sacrifice... Tipperary Remembrance Arch now serves as a focal point of remembrance, a place where all can gather, to remember with honor the memories of Ireland’s fallen, and the enormous sacrifices that they made.”

The need to better document Irish sacrifices in service to the United States and other nations is illustrated by the recent identification of 22 Irish names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Previously, only one name on the Wall had been documented as Irish. Likewise,

the number of Irish known to have died fighting with U.S. forces in the Korean War has grown from six to 29, according to the Irish Veterans Historical Research Centre.

“As part of the thread of the emigrant country we still are, it is important to understand how and why these people adopted the flags of other nations,” the centre’s website explains. “From the grinding poverty and hardship that was life in Ireland for so many, to the idealism and belief in fighting for freedom or helping to overthrow tyranny, they were our brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents and other relatives. Irish through birth or heritage, they served – and often died – invisible but to their families and comrades-in-arms.”

Michael Coyne might have been one of the names on the Wall. He remembers in vivid detail the moment in Vietnam when a fellow tanker in the U.S. Army’s 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment stepped in front of him to test the ground and was blown to pieces by a land mine. “His rib,” Coyne remembers, “stuck in my arm. All that was left were his legs and his hips.”

Coyne had gone to Chicago as a teenager after the death of his mother, and joined the Army at 21. He was trained as a projectionist, deployed as an officer’s driver and wound up in a tank. He was shot once in the arm, received numerous shrapnel wounds and was awarded a Bronze Star. After his discharge, he worked for a brief time in the United States before returning to Ireland in 1970, where he has had a long career as an electrician and has become a voice for Irish-born Vietnam War veterans. A member of Dublin Post IR-63, he is featured in “The Green Fields of Vietnam,” a popular documentary about Ireland’s involvement in the war.

“I am proud that I was in Vietnam,” Coyne says. “I am proud that I was in the American army. I can trace relatives who have fought in every war America ever fought. America freed the world. And The American Legion is truly an international organization.”

**- Jeff Stoffer, Editor
The American Legion Magazine**



Shamrock Club of Wisconsin 2013-14 Candidates' Statements

President Kathy Donovan

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for 13 years. I have served on the board for 8 of those years.

I have been involved in various committees and activities in the Shamrock Club and other Irish events. I have enjoyed serving as your president this past year and I am looking forward to another great year, as we continue to move the club forward in a positive way.

Vice President Mary Culver

I am excited to run for Vice-President 2nd term! It was a great year with all the wonderful activities our Club as done. And with the most excellent group of volunteers I know 2013- 2014 will be just as fantastic! I have been a club member for 6 years. I joined the SCCGPD with my sons, Dave and Sean, and Clay my youngest has been the official Water Boy for the group as well. 2012 marked my 4th year on the Board. I was a Trustee for the 3 years prior. I have been the Chair for Holiday Folk Fair Café for 5 years and last year I tackled General Chair and Ticket Sales as well. This year I hope to have more entertainment at the General meetings and I'd like to do a "Meet Our Members" section in the Emerald Reflections. Thank you for the opportunity to service you and I look forward to 2013-2014!

Secretary Glenn Nowak

As a member of the Shamrock Club, I have served for the past two years as Sergeant at Arms, making sure that meeting meals are provided, updating the inventory of the club's real property. I have also co-chaired the pre-parade breakfast planning as well as the Post Parade Party for the past 2 years, and co-chaired the retail sales of the club for the past 1½ years. I have helped at Holiday Folk Fair, Irish Fest, and as an usher for Hallamora concerts. I was honored to be Irishman of the Year for 2012. I am a member of the Color Guard, along with my son Jacob. When not involved with Irish activities I am a Coach for Special Olympics in Wauwatosa.

Treasurer John Fisher

I have been the Shamrock Club Treasurer for 5 years. I am retired from the US Postal Service where I was Customer Service Manager at the Main Post Office. I have also judged the St. Patrick's Day parade along with my wife, Mary. I am also involved with the Ulster Project, Friends of St. Patrick Center, Bay View Historical Society and Catholic Financial Life Br 63.

Treasurer Ken Tehan

I am honored to be nominated for treasurer of the Shamrock Club! Here is a bit of my back ground: I have been a Shamrock Club member for over twenty years. I've been involved in the family business (Tehan Greenhouses) most of my adult life. I run a Christmas tree business and a machine restoration business. I've been a set-up coordinator and landscaper at Irish Fest for the last ten years. I was instrumental in the festival experience program. (Young Men and Women from Ireland come to learn about how our festival is run.) I help the ICHC with buying and planting of flowers around the building, chair the Shamrock Club golf outing, and co-chair our Christmas caroling fund raiser. I also help with the parade floats for Irish Fest and Shamrock Club. It is fun to be Irish!

Sergeant at Arms Kim Nowak

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for the last 7 years along with my husband and son. I have assisted my husband over the last two years with the various duties of Sargeant of Arms. Also, for the last year, I have been co-chair of the club retail and the Post Parade Party. I have helped for several years at Irish Fest and Holiday Folk Fair in various capacities and continue to be a supporter of the Shamrock Club Color Guard and Pipes and Drums.

Besides being involved with the Shamrock Club, I also coach a swim team for Wauwatosa Special Olympics and am involved with my son's school.

Membership Denis Donohoe

I am honored to be re-nominated for the Membership Chair and continue following in the footsteps of a great friend, Tom Smith. My wife, Karen (married 37 years) and I have been members of the Shamrock Club many years, and volunteered behind the scenes on many activities and events. I have lived in Milwaukee practically my whole life, and have volunteered in leadership positions for many organizations in the last 25 years such as the Boy Scouts of America, church organizations, professional societies, and Irish Fest. I look forward to continuing to provide my services, talents and experience to enhancing the Shamrock Club.

Parliamentarian Dan Stotmeister

I was named by my mother after "Danny Boy," and have been an Irish dance dad for the past 29 years, and counting. My two daughters were champion Irish step-dancers, and have both toured as professional Irish dancers. I have performed for 10 years as a member of the traditional Irish band Ceol Cairde. I organized and led the trio that provided the live music for the Shamrock Club's December 2012 meeting/Christmas party.

I have volunteered at Irish Fest on behalf of the Shamrock Club (set-up, teardown and retail), drove cars for the St. Patrick's Day parade in 2011-2013 and served at Holiday Folk Fair the past two years, among other club activities. I joined the Shamrock Club in January 2011. As the current Shamrock Club Parliamentarian, I chair the By-Laws Committee which is currently meeting to review any needed and proposed changes.

*Candidates statements
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**Trustee - 2 Year
Patricia Donovan**

I have been an accountant and office manager for the past 18 years. I currently work in Milwaukee for a local corporation. I graduated from Lakeland College with both a BA in Business Administration and in Accounting. Originally from Green Bay where I was very active in the community, I moved to Milwaukee in 1993. I currently serve as recording secretary for the John F. Movrich Croatian Lodge in Mukwonago and am a booster member of I enjoy traveling and would like to learn more about my Irish heritage.

**Trustee - 2 Year
Nicholas Nowak**

As a member of the McAleese clan since birth, I has always been a part of the Shamrock Club community for two and a half decades. Since the age of 10, I have participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, either as a banner carrier or St. Patrick's (my grandfather) personal entourage. Whether it's working behind the bar on meeting nights, volunteering at the club's various retail events, or helping with the little things that make any Club event run smooth, you find me there with a smile on my face, and usually a cold beer nearby.

**Trustee - 2 Year
Bill Sherry**

My name is Bill Sherry and I have been an active member of the Shamrock Club going on 10 years. During my tenure, I have had the added pleasure of participating with the SCCGPD and I am a former St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshall. To this day, I am known as the band and club's "Ambassador."

At this time I am interested in the behind the scenes workings of the Shamrock Club. It would be an honor to serve as Trustee; to learn and to contribute ideas with the other esteemed members of the Shamrock Club board.

**Trustee - 3 Year
Peter Fleming**

I am running for a position of Trustee. I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for many years. I enjoyed serving as your Vice President for two years previously. My wife, Dawn and I, have been very involved in the past with reviving the Summer Picnics. And because Santa is a personal friend of mind, you will find out what will happen if you do not cast your vote for me. My wife and I have enjoyed expressing our humor by being different characters at various Shamrock Club events. The greatest honor Dawn and I have had is being Your Parade Marshals the year the Quinlans were the Irish Rose and Irishman of the Year. If I am elected to this position, I will do my best to represent the Club in a proper fashion.

**Trustee - 3 Year
Jackie Konkol**

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for quite some time. I have grown up in the club attending meetings with my parents when I was still in grade school. I have been an active volunteer with the club for the past 17 years. I have volunteered at the food booth at the Holiday Folk Fair, helped carry banners in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and have even bartended at the post parade party. I have worked at the sales booth at Irish Fest as well.

I have grown up in the Milwaukee area graduating from Pius XI High School, Alverno College and Cardinal Stritch University. I have worked as a cardiac nurse at St. Francis Hospital and a clinical teaching assistant at Alverno College. I currently work as a hospice nurse for Wheaton Franciscan Home Health and Hospice.

I am running for the office of trustee because I would like to become more involved with the club and share my talents in more ways.



ICHC Organ Committee

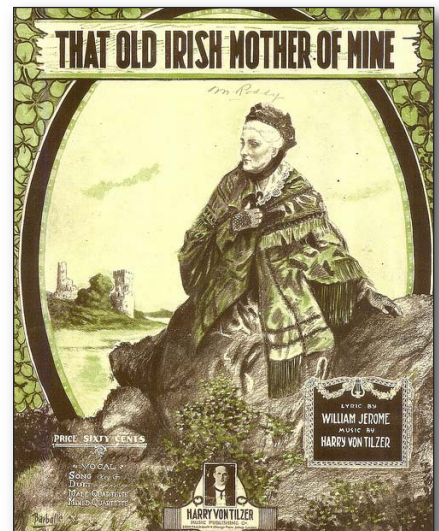
There is a committee devoted to the restoration and preservation of the grand Kimball organ at the ICHC. The committee is headed up by Dennis Janzer and includes several local organ experts. Recently the plaster repair project in the Hallamor has caused the organ to be wrapped up in a plastic cocoon for its protection. Plans and ideas are being weighed for fund-raising to provide money needed to combat the deterioration of the organ and restore it to its previous glory.



Tim O'Brien and Phil Cereceres
Plaster repair in the Hallamor

Watch the newsletter for updates and future plans to carry out this mission.

-Jean Bills





SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

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Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Minister Joan Burton of the labor party in Ireland tours the Ward Irish Music Archives at the Irish Fest Center in March with Barry Stapleton. She is joined by her husband Pat Carroll and the Council General of Ireland stationed in Chicago, Aidan Cronin. Photo by Mary Culver.