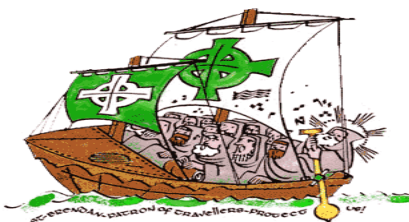


# St. Brendan Division #1 - AOH, Berks County, PA

## Celebrating 40 years of community service February 19, 2019



**Serving the Irish American Community for over a century**  
**INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 7, 1860 ---- RE-ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 16, 1979**  
 Visit our Website [www.berkscoaoh.com](http://www.berkscoaoh.com)

Volume XXX---Tóirt Fiche a Tríocha----- Issue #4/Eagrán a Ceathair--Aibreán/Bealtaine/Meitheamh--April/May/June 2020

### OFFICERS

#### CHAPLAIN

Open

#### PRESIDENT

Kerry Williard

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Leonard J. Weckel

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Joseph P. George

#### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Joseph G. McCarthy

#### TREASURER

John J. Dore, JR

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

Henry J. Mullen

#### MARSHALL

Christopher Costello

#### SENTINEL

Rob Katzenmoyer

#### ORGANIZER

John C. Mackey

#### TRUSTEES

James Caherly

James Scott

Len Weckel

#### PAST PRESIDENT

Leonard J. Weckel

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joseph G. McCarthy



**Beannachtaí Ná Cásca oraibh"**  
**"May the blessing of Easter**  
**be with you"**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Fellow Hibernians,

The Coronavirus has turned the world upside down, and the virus pandemic continues to devastate the world economies, and exponentially increase in human contractions and deaths. I hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and unscathed from the effects of this deadly contagion. My thoughts and prayers are with you as the Coronavirus crisis continues and hope the national crisis will end very soon.

Due to the mandated social distancing, this year's St. Patrick's Day celebrations and parades were cancelled, which probably muted some spirits and happy celebrations. However, I am sure we found some solace in the day, and the day for its true meaning of honoring St. Patrick and his good deeds for the Irish, and sharing and remembering with family and friends the Irish traditions and cultural aspects past down from our ancestors. Also, as Lent is coming to a close, and the celebration of Easter is upon us, I hope you took time in soul searching church activities and volunteered or donated to a charitable cause. I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter holiday!

The Daniel Flannery Scholarship 2020 Award applications were due by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, as of this date, no one submitted an application to be considered for this year's scholarship. This award is given to a deserving student who has the best essay on "What It Means to be an Irish Catholic in Today's Society." If anyone knows of a deserving youth who could benefit from this Scholarship, please have them submit an application and essay. Due to the Coronavirus concern, we will consider late entries for this year.

In April, we were going to do a calendar sale for a spring fundraiser. However, due to the Coronavirus concern, we are going to postpone selling calendars until September. The calendar sales support our Food Basket charity. We will continue to distribute Easter Food Gift Cards for Easter this year to several catholic churches. I am sure these food donations will be especially appreciated this year.

Also, we will be cancelling the April 8th, AOH meeting at the Sokol's. We thought it best in the interest in everyone's health and conforming to the guidelines of social distancing, the meeting to be cancelled. Next meeting will be on May 13th. In closing, stay safe and healthy, and pray that the Coronavirus does not affect you and family members. Pray for those who are inflicted with the virus for a speedy and uneventful recovery.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Kerry Williard, President

### **COMING EVENTS**

04/05/20	Palm Sunday
04/08/20	General Membership meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
04/12/20	Easter Sunday
05/10/20	Mother's Day
05/13/20	General Membership Meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
05/21/20	Ascension of Our Lord
06/10/20	General Membership Meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
06/14/20	Flag Day
06/21/20	Father's Day
07/04/20	Independence Day
07/08/20	General Membership Meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
08/12/20	General Membership Meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
08/15/20	The Assumption of the Blessed Mother
08/21/20	Feast of Our Lady of Knock
09/07/20	Labor Day
09/09/20	General Membership Meeting - Reading Sokol's - 7:30pm
09/13/20	Commodore Barry Birthday

### **MEMBERSHIP**

All members are reminded that membership fees for 2020 are now being accepted. Dues remain at \$25.00 per year. You can forward dues to:

St. Brendan's Division #1  
P.O. Box 14961  
Reading, Pa. 19612-4961

Please make all checks payable to Berks Div. 1, AOH. For information on dues payments call Joe McCarthy at 610-927-5224. All inquiries will be held in strictest confidence.

With the sad situation, brought on by the Coronavirus (COVID 19), we realize there are indeed hardships imposed on all during this time. To those members who have yet to pay their dues for 2020, or who have yet to notify us of changes in address or email addresses we encourage you to contact me at your convenience. Now more an ever it is important we have correct information in our files.

We ask all members to keep us informed of any changes in mailing addresses or phone numbers. The National Secretary is initiating a new record keeping format in that the Financial Secretary must maintain a spreadsheet of all members and each year when we submit annual report outlining division activities, an accurate record of division membership will be submitted. From this report the new membership cards will be generated and names and addresses will be submitted to the National Hibernian Digest to maintain their accurate mailing list. In addition, where possible they request regular updates on email addresses and cell phone numbers. By now some of you may have already received a message from the National President. In plain words the AOH is joining the Cyber World to speed up processing and dispensing information.

### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Prayers are requested for following person who have requested to be listed in our prayer list. Included in the list are members, family of members and members of the LAOH. They are: Craig Wolfe, James Caherly, Deacon John Murphy, Henry and Eleanor Trexler, Michael & Joseph Riley, Henry & Rita Mullen, Patricia Garrigan, Kathleen Fink, Julie Miller, Mary Walsh, Mary Collins, John Mackey, Mary DeMarco, Michael Riley, Charles Fritz, Kathleen Creed, Clare Flannery Dorothy Katzenmoyer and all family members and members in need of prayers.

Special prayers are asked for the following deceased members and their families: Kathleen Creed, John Walsh, Trish Dore, William Beam, Edward Collins, James Doyle, John Walsh, Edmund Ettinger, Lee Garrigan, Joseph M. McGee and all the deceased members of the AOH-LAOH of Berks County.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Once again, we remind our members and friends that all members should forward name, address or e-mail changes to the Financial Secretary as changes occur. It is imperative that all information listed for each member is accurate to insure all can be contacted as needed and receive our newsletter and the National Hibernian Digest mailed bi-monthly. Please, if you have moved or changed email providers let us know a.s.a.p.

We direct you to the list of supporters on the last page of our newsletter. Thanks to their support our newsletter is made possible. If you would like to join our list of supporters for the first time, our rates remain the same \$12 for patron ads, and \$50 for business card ads.

**MEETING NIGHT** Just a reminder that St. Brendan's Div.#1 has changed our meeting to the second Wednesday of each month. For the past 40 years we had been meeting on the second Friday, however due to a drop in membership attending meetings we decided that perhaps changing to

Wednesday would be more acceptable and increase member participation.

In the near future, we will be looking at alternative meeting sites as well. All meetings will begin at 7:30pm and end within 90 minutes, or less depending on business to be transacted.

## **IRISH HISTORY**

### **THE IRISH BRIGADE COMES HOME**

By Mike McCormack

Prior to the American Civil War, the regular Army was small reflecting the logic that America was best defended by volunteer militia units. Many were little more than glorified fraternal organizations, filled with men who liked to parade, drink and sometimes drill. There were groups like the German Black Sharpshooters and Hungarian Kossuth Rifles among others. Not to be outdone, the Irish formed the O'Connell Guards, Irish Rifles and Irish Zouaves. In New York, the more serious of these units were mustered into a formal state militia as was done in many states across the U.S. On October 12, 1851, the 69th New York State Militia Regiment was officially organized consisting of eight companies of 643 men each, most of Irish birth or parentage. Within a year it topped 1,000. The regiment would go on to earn fame and glory during the Civil War as a key part of the Irish Brigade with similar regiments from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The heroic action of the Irish in battle boosted their reputation and provided a new and more ennobling meaning to the term "fighting Irish."

When the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in April 1861, Regimental Colonel Sligo-born Michael Corcoran called for America's Irish to join the 69th. More than 5,000 applied for only 1,500 billets and 11 days later, Corcoran and his regiment marched down Broadway and steamed away to defend the Union capital in D.C. The first test for the 69th was the Battle of Bull Run. In their first battle, the inexperienced Union army cut and ran back to D.C., but one unit that earned praise was the 69th Regiment who stayed to provide cover for the fleeing troops. They were the last to leave the field suffering 97 casualties and 95 captured, including Colonel Corcoran. The 69th returned to NY to rebuild their tattered ranks. Acting Commander, Captain Thomas Francis Meagher, began recruiting from the Hibernian House on Prince Street diagonally across from Old St. Patrick's Cathedral. When thousands of Irish responded, Meagher requested permission to form a Brigade. The Army was against forming ethnic brigades, but since England was trading with the Confederacy, they felt that fielding an Irish unit might just give the British pause and so they agreed and the Irish Brigade was born. It included the 69th, 88th and 63rd NY regiments and, later, the 28th Mass and 116th Pennsylvania. Some joined for the \$300 signing bonus which was sent to family in Ireland, some out of a sense of duty toward their adopted land and some because of British support for the Confederacy.

The Irish Brigade saw some of the war's harshest battles and they earned a reputation as the most courageous unit in the Army of the Potomac. After one battle, President Lincoln visiting the troops lifted a corner of the Irish battle flag, kissed it and said, *God Bless the Irish Flag*. Meagher had ordered 69-caliber smoothbore muskets for his men. They were considered obsolete, but very effective at close range which was the style of fighting he wanted because they fired the more deadly buck and ball ammunition and could take down 3 men at a time. Close up fighting made the Brigade fearsome, but also produced heavy casualties since they had to get up close to be effective. The Brigade fought in every campaign of the Army of the Potomac, from the peninsular campaign in 1862 to the surrender of Lee at Appomattox in 1865. At Fair Oaks, Gaines Mill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and every major battle fought by the Army of the Potomac, the figure of General Meagher was seen leading his men into battle. Between campaigns new Irish were recruited to replace the fallen. Among all their battles the three most costly were Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. The Sept, 1862 battle of Antietam was the deadliest day in American history, with 23,000 killed and wounded. The Brigade suffered 540 casualties and Gen. McClelland later wrote, *The Irish Brigade sustained their well-earned reputation, suffering terribly in officers and men and strewing the ground with their enemies, as they drove them back*. Three months later, the Brigade assaulted Confederate entrenchments along Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg achieving international fame with the tenacity of their attack and eliciting cheers from their rebel adversaries, many of whom were Irish themselves. The next day, only 280 of 1,300 men were able to report for duty. Gen. Robert E. Lee later wrote, *Never were men so brave. They ennobled their race by their splendid gallantry*. In July 1863 at Gettysburg they successfully countered a Confederate offensive near Little Round Top losing 202 men killed out of 530. When Lee finally surrendered to Grant at Appomattox in April 1865, the Brigade was there. One rebel officer told a Union officer, *the only reason you won was because you had more Irish than we had!* On May 23 and 24, 1865 they paraded in review in Washington D.C. and in the following months, they returned to their homes to celebrate the new national holiday declared by President Lincoln two years earlier — Thanksgiving. Returning, they received a tumultuous welcome from not only the Irish citizens, but from all who had followed their courageous history.

In post-war America, the Irish still faced poverty but discrimination had diminished. Many Americans accorded the Irish a new level of respect since many thousands had made the ultimate sacrifice defending the Union and, as a testament to their bravery, 7 members of the Irish Brigade were presented with the Medal of Honor. Soon it became unfashionable to discriminate against the Irish and the NO IRISH NEED APPLY signs began to disappear from Help Wanted ads. And that was perhaps the greatest victory for



the Irish Brigade. Of the 7,715 men who served in its ranks, 961 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded - more than ever served in its ranks at any one time. The 69th NY suffered 75 per cent casualties while the British Light Brigade memorialized by Alfred Lord Tennyson for riding into the 'Valley of Death' lost less than 37 per cent. There is no famous verse for the Irish, but author Joseph Bilby in his book **Remember Fontenoy** wrote, *The Irish Brigade was, many said, the best brigade in the Army of the Potomac. Some said it was the best brigade in the whole Union army and perhaps the best infantry brigade on either side. Today, others with the perspective of history have come to believe it may have been the best infantry brigade that ever was!*



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The names of members who are celebrating birthdays during the next three months are listed below. We have acquired the Information from our membership applications, so if there are any corrections or errors please advise.

#### APRIL

15<sup>th</sup> Thomas P. Healey  
18<sup>th</sup> James J. Lowe  
25<sup>th</sup> Joseph McCarthy  
26<sup>th</sup> Deacon John Murphy

#### MAY

5<sup>th</sup> James M. Scott  
5<sup>th</sup> Dennis McDonough  
12<sup>th</sup> Patrick McCauley  
17<sup>th</sup> Shay Caherly  
23<sup>rd</sup> John F. Gainey  
29<sup>th</sup> Timothy P. Dore

#### JUNE

9<sup>th</sup> Gerard T. O'Neil  
10<sup>th</sup> Rory J. Caherly  
11<sup>th</sup> Robert J. Devlin  
19<sup>th</sup> Ryan Katzenmoyer  
19<sup>th</sup> Cormick Costello  
21<sup>st</sup> Henry J. Mullen, JR  
23<sup>rd</sup> Michael J. Leonard

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mary Jo Mullen, daughter of Hank and Rita Mullen. Mary Jo CPA, ESQ. has joined the Law Offices

of Halbruner, Hatch & Guise, LLP who has offices in Camp Hill and Lewistown.

Mary Jo had work for the Commonwealth of PA, She also served as Parliamentarian for the Pennsylvania LAOH.

### MOTHER'S DAY MAY 10, 2020



**M** is for the million things she gave me,  
**O** means only that she's growing old,  
**T** is for the tears she shed to save me,  
**H** is for her heart of purest gold;  
**E** is for her eyes, with love-light shining,  
**R** means right, and right she'll always be,  
Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"  
A word that means the world to me.  
--Howard Johnson

### REMEMBER FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2020

Each year on June 14, we celebrate the birthday of the Stars and Stripes, which came into being on June 14, 1777. At that time, the Second Continental Congress authorized a new flag to symbolize the new Nation, the United States of America.

Although Flag Day is not celebrated as a Federal holiday, Americans everywhere continue to honor the history and heritage it represents.

The "Stars and Stripes", the official National symbol of the United States of America was authorized by congress on Saturday of June 14, 1777 it was the fifth item of the days agenda for the Second Continental congress is session in Philadelphia. The entry in the journal of the Continental Congress 1774-1789 Vol. VIII, 1777 reads "Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States Be Thirteen stripes alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

There is no official assignment of meaning or symbolism to the colors of the flag. However, Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, in describing the Great Seal, related its colors to those of the flag. According to

Thomson, "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valor, and Blue . . . vigilance, perseverance & justice."

So the Red and White stripes of 13 represent the link to the original ground of 13 states on which the nation has been built up. And the stars, representing the union of now 50 states, have been laid on the blue canton to bind all of them with the bond of vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The Stars and Stripes first flew in a Flag Day celebration in Hartford, Connecticut in 1861, during the first summer of the Civil War. By the mid 1890's the observance of Flag Day on June 14 was a popular event. Mayors and governors began to issue proclamations in their jurisdictions to celebrate this event.

In the years to follow, public sentiment for a national Flag Day observance greatly intensified. Numerous patriotic societies and veteran's groups became identified with the Flag Day movement. Since their main objective was to stimulate patriotism among the young, schools were the first to become involved in flag activities.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14. It was not until August 3, 1949 that Congress made this day a permanent observance by resolving, "That the 14th day of June of each year is hereby designated as Flag Day. President Harry Truman signed the measure into law.

#### **FATHER'S DAY JUNE 21, 2020**



Father's Day, contrary to popular misconception, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact, when a "Father's Day" was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a "Father's Day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn, and his other five children by himself, on a rural farm in eastern Washington State. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally, in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all honored on Father's Day.

#### **What Makes a Dad?**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

#### **VOLUNTEERISM**

As he does annually, we have signed up to volunteer at Kennedy House Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve hot meals to the less fortunate in our society in keeping with our remembrance of the Great Hunger in Ireland "An Gortá Mór." The dates of this years assigned service has been chosen for October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We will need help fulfilling our weekend assignment. Please mark your calendars and contact Len Weckel if you can help, and which day you are able volunteer.

#### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

**DUE TO THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER AND THE THREAT IMPOSED BY THE COVID 19 VIRUS NOW THREATENING THE BERKS COUNTY & THE ENTIRE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE OFFICERS OF ST. BRENDAN'S DIVISION #1, A.O.H. MADE A DECISION TO CURTAIL ALL ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND THE COUNTY RETURNS TO NORMAL ACTIVITIES AND THE SHELTER AT HOME DIRECTIVE IS LIFTED.**

**YOUR OFFICERS WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ALL NEWS & ACTIONS OF ST. BRENDAN'S THROUGH E MAIL AND OUR NEWSLETTER. IF WE DON'T HAVE YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS PLEASE LET US KNOW A.S.A.P.**

## SUPPORTERS OF ST. BRENDAN'S NEWSLETTER

Thanks to the support of the following patrons and advertisers, our newsletter is possible. Your continued support of our advertisers will be greatly appreciated

### PATRONS

Tim Brennan & Family 09/20

Fr. William Campion 04/21

(St. Brendan's 1st Chaplain)

James Caherly 01/21

Shay Caherly 01/21

Rory Caherly 01/21

Robert Devlin 04/20

Richard Flannery 11/20

J. Phillip Gallagher, 06/20

Alice Henry-L.A.O.H. PA. Past President 12/20

Joseph & Bernice McCarthy 12/20

John Mackey -3/20

Rita Mullen 2/21

Mary Jo Mullen 2/21

Len & Bryn Weckel 03/21

Rita Mullen Wise 08/19

---

### C o m p l i m e n t s O f

### Attorney

**Robert D. Katzenmoyer**

Serving all of your legal needs

READING, PA 19606

610.451.9267

12/19

Happy Easter from the officers and members  
of St. Brendan's Division #1, AOH Berks  
County, PA

*A Glorious Easter*



---

### Law Offices of

**HALBRUNER, HATCH & GUISE, LLP**

**MARY-JO MULLEN, CPA, Esq.**

*Attorney at Law*

M.Mullen@hhgllp.com

www.hhgllp.com

2109 Market Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 731-9600

130 West Market Street  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
(717) 248-6909

Fax (717) 731-9627

04/21

### I Am the Flag of the Of America



I am the flag of the United States of America.  
My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.  
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.  
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.  
I stand guard with power in the world.  
Look up and see me.  
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.  
I stand for freedom.  
I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,  
My head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.  
I bow to no one!  
I am recognized all over the world.  
I am worshipped, I am saluted.  
I am loved, I am revered.  
I am respected, And I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war  
For more then 200 years.  
I was flown at Valley Forge,  
Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.  
I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France,  
In the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome  
And the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Korea  
and Khe San, Saigon, Vietnam know me.  
I was there. I led my troops,  
I was dirty, battle worn and tired,  
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled  
On the streets of countries, I have helped set free.  
It does not hurt for I am invincible.  
I have been soiled upon,  
burned, torn and trampled  
In the streets of my country.  
And, when those whom I've served in battle do it -  
It hurts. But I shall overcome for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth  
And stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space  
From my vantage point on the moon  
I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.  
But my finest hours are yet to come.  
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages  
For my wounded comrades on the battlefield  
When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,  
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the  
grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.