

## President's Letter Feb 2008

Monday, 18 February 2008

We will be marching in the Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 2nd. The bus will be leaving the commuter lot on Appleton Ave and Hwy 36 in Leonardo at 11AM and returning right after the end of the parade. The decision was made to conduct our own post-parade party as opposed to having to deal with the crowds in Belmar. We have reserved the American Legion hall from 4-8 to enjoy the remainder of the day with food and music by the Bogside Rouge's. All are invited to the party. No charge for party

March 29th is our Irish Heritage Mass at St. Ann's. As you all know our Hunger Monument was destroyed by vandalism. We are presently working with the town of Keansburg and Brian Hanlon, the sculptor to design, and build a new monument to be completed by March 29, 2008. After mass the unveiling of the new monument will take place with a luncheon to follow at the Bayshore Council K of C on Palmer Ave. and Hwy 36. Cost is \$25 per person with a cash bar with music by our own Kevin Guerin.

Our quest to purchase a stained glass window in the name of Vol. Patrick Torphy Div.2 for the new Mary, Mother of God Church in New Monmouth is slowly growing. To date we have raised \$12,000. The overall cost will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20,000+. As you can see, we need to kick up our efforts. Any fund raising ideas are welcome as well as direct donations. Should you or someone you know like to make a donation in the name of the AOH please send a check made out to: AOH Division 2 / Stained Glass Fund, PO BOX 2055, Red Bank NJ 07701.

I would like to thank our past President Rob Hughes and Web Master Mike Burke for the fine job they did organizing our annual dance and journal. We look forward to another great job next year.

The City of New Orleans has the honor of hosting the 94th Biennial National Convention for the AOH/LAOH in 2008. New Orleans, a unique and historic city with nearly 300 years of history, is looking forward to bestowing its southern hospitality on our Brothers and Sisters from across this nation. Convention dates are July 23 to July 26, 2008; room rate is \$109.00 per night plus taxes. More information will be provided at the upcoming meeting. This convention will be held in the French Quarter on New Orleans.

Gerry Ward and I met with the General Jeffery Pierson on 2/8/08 to finalize our 10th Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore to be held on September 13, 2008. Please save the date.