

President's Letter Fall 2009

Monday, 28 September 2009

Our 11th annual Irish festival at the Jersey Shore was a huge success with the largest crowd to ever come through the gates. The change in entertainment was received with enthusiasm and rounds of compliments from our guests. I would like to thank all 75 volunteers of the AOH, LAOH and families for all the hard work. Without all of you this would not have been possible. Please remember our festival volunteer's party is October 2nd, 7:30pm; food by Salle T's, Gunniess, Smithwick's, wine and soda with music by the Bogside Rouges.

The much anticipated NJ AOH State Board meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2009, at the Mercer County 1 hall in Hamilton. Given the recent restructuring of the State Board many have shown a strong interest in attending this meeting. In light of this interest, and concern we will be traveling to the meeting as a group. We have arranged for a bus which we will be leaving our hall at 10:30am travelling to the Hamilton AOH hall. Please make plans to attend.

On October 10, 2009, 7pm, in Memorial Hall, St. Mary's will present a night of Irish music featuring the acclaimed Celtic group Blackwater led by our own Brother Hibernian Sean Hennessy. Tickets are \$30 with all proceeds to support the St. Mary's Building Fund. For more information contact Pat Thompson (732) 615-9088

The AOH National President's Dinner is scheduled for October 31, 2009. A group of us will be travelling to Philadelphia to attend. Anyone interested can see me at the October 21, 2009 meeting.

The Monmouth County Board will be hosting a Major Degree on November 7, 2009. They have extended an invitation to our Division to participate. The Major Degree is the first step to becoming a true Hibernian and learning the reason for our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian. Any Brother that has not taken his Major Degree should make a strong effort to do so on this date. The Degree will be held at our hall with registration beginning at 11AM. The cost is \$30 for candidates and \$25 for observers who would like to come and show their support. Beer, wine, soda and late lunch will be provided with music by Bogside Rouges. For more information and reservations please email Gerry Ward at duke1378@verizon.net.

Our long awaited new Irish Famine monument will be unveiled November 14, 2009. The LOAH and AOH will attend mass at St. Ann's, 11am followed by a procession to Friendship Park on Main St. in Keansburg. Fr. Dan Cahill will bless the monument. A luncheon will follow at our hall with entertainment by Bob Hurst, the Bogside Rouges lead singer.

Our annual turkey fund raiser to benefit Project Paul will be the Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 9 AM at our hall. Project Paul has experienced a drastic increase in the number of families needing assistance due to the unemployment rates and the state of the economy. Please make a strong effort to support this event and bring a turkey and canned goods for those in need and to help Project Paul to meet their donation needs for the holiday season for families in the Bay Shore area. For more information email Rob Hughes at, kiltyboy62@yahoo.com.

In closing, the hall is open every Friday night at 7pm and Sunday, starting at 12:30 so all can enjoy a full day of NFL football on our 6 TV's.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Jack Sullivan