



The Virginia Hibernian

*The Official Newsletter of the Virginia State Board of
The Ancient Order of Hibernians
and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*



October 2009

AOH State Board

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Richard Aleksy

Vice-President

J. Charles Curran

Secretary

Bruce A. Denault

Treasurer

Eugene J. Bransfield

From the Editor

With a new administration it has been decided to try a new format for our newsletter. Please be patient while we develop "The Virginia Hibernian". It is desired that each Board Officer, Committee Chairman, County and Division President submit a "SHORT" paragraph for submission to future editions. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Rath Dé ort!

Mike Creegan

LAOH State Board

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Virginia News

Rich Aleksy AOH State President

The Virginia AOH/LAOH Convention was held on July 17-19th in Stafford, Virginia at St. William of York Church. We opened our Convention with a Ice Breaker on Friday at the Marine Corp Museum in Quantico. The Lt. Col. John A. Dowd Division honored their namesake during the Ice Breaker. Lt. Col. Dowd initiated the Marine Corps Youth Physical Fitness Program in 1958. Jack Dowd as he was known to his fellow Marines lost his life in Vietnam forty years ago on August 13, 1969 while leading his 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in battle for which he was awarded the Nations 2nd highest award, the Navy Cross. At the Ice Breaker we greeted our National President, Seamus Boyle and our National Director South Keith Carney. The Ice Breaker was a Great Tribute and Social event.

The meetings for the AOH/LAOH Seventeenth Biennial State Convention began at 9:00 AM on July 18th. Our National President Seamus Boyle addressed our Delegates bringing us up to date on numerous issues including the automation of the National Secretary's Office. We continued with our various State Programs and Reports. Our New State Officers were elected under New Business of the Order. Elected were: Richard S. Aleksy, State President, Manassas, VA., J. Charles (Chuck) Curran, Vice President, Burke, VA., Bruce Denault, Secretary, Stafford, VA., and Eugene Bransfield, Treasurer, Alexandria, VA. Congratulations and Success to All. Our State Chairmen and Directors

positions are already starting to be filled. After our Meetings we had Mass at St. William of York Church followed by our AOH/LAOH Installation of Officers.

At our Convention Banquet we were honored to have Myles Patrick Giernan as our Guest Speaker. Myles is the First Secretary (Press & Information) at the Embassy. He previously served at the United Nations missions in Paris and Geneva and was the policy advisor on European affairs to the Irish National Parliament. Last November he gave a lecture at Catholic University entitled “Before and After the Referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon: The History and Future of Ireland’s Relations with the European Union” (the treaty was signed by the 27 Heads of State or Governments in Lisbon on 13 December 2007 and became effective on 1 January 2009. He spoke to us on Ireland’s International Engagement and Perspectives.

Our Divisions in Virginia continue to conduct successful Fund Raising using the profits to promote Education. The most popular form of Fund Raising has been Raffles for Trips to Ireland. The prizes have ranged from \$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00. Several Divisions have joined with the Church on a Five Car Raffle. This is a win-win opportunity for All. The Church gets more income and each Division gets a Fund Raiser with no downside potential. One Division conducts a Silent Auction at their Annual St. Patrick’s Dinner. This year they raised \$500.00 for a Catholic High School. A Division donates over \$5,000.00 a year to Schools and Scholarship Funds.

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr. Division is continuing their long standing AOH tradition of donating Stain Glass Windows to local parishes. The Division donated \$12,000.00 for a Stained Glass Window for St. Theresa’s Parish in Ashburn. The window will depict St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland and will indicate the window was donated by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

As I assume the Leadership of the AOH Virginia State Board I do so with much pride, respect and humility realizing the fantastic contributions this Organization has accomplished.

**Kathy Sullivan
LAOH State President**

Dear Sisters,

The fall is almost here and you know what that means...time to get back to our “normal” schedules. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had a chance to recharge your batteries. We’ll need everyone’s creative juices flowing this year.

As we discussed at the State Convention in July, our State LAOH Job # 1 is to increase membership in our wonderful organization. The most effective means is, naturally, a personal invitation. Let’s all try to reach out to eligible friends and family. Don’t forget the wives of the AOH; if they are Catholic, they are eligible and welcome. (During

preparation for the convention, it was somewhat shocking to find the AOH had over 600 members on their roles while the LAOH had approximately 60!)

The next best way to attract members is to become more active in the public arena. We need to share our fascinating heritage with others. How can people help but be attracted to our music, our art, our literature?

And finally, I am gathering information to help ladies locate the Virginia LAOH and its divisions via the internet. Please attend our next State meeting to discuss and vote.

October 17, 10:00 AM
St. Michael's Upper School
7401 St. Michael's Lane, Annandale

Directions: Take I-95 West to Braddock Road East, Left at Ravensworth Road, Approximately 1 mile to St. Michael's Church/School on Right, 7401 St. Michael's Lane.

Preceding the meeting, we have been invited to attend a Rosary at 9:45 AM with the AOH. What a wonderful way to begin our new year. Please join us.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
Kathy Sullivan

From the desk of the AOH State Vice President

Brothers –

I thank you for the honor of being able to serve as your State Vice President. I assure you that I will do my very best to carry out the responsibilities of this position. I look forward to working with all of you in the next two years.

What is it that make us, as members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, different from those who are not? It is our Irish heritage, and the pride that we take in that ancestry. It should be our enjoyable task to share the many positive aspects of this heritage with men who are not members of the AOH. While the history of Ireland has at times been characterized by dissent and division, we should emphasize the great joy that is found in Irish music, literature, dance and the arts. We can use the legacy of the contributions of the Irish people to attract new members and introduce ourselves to them.

I am convinced that we can spread our message more broadly by sharing our Irish heritage. And --- we can have a “fine time” doing it.

Chuck Curran

From the Secretary of the AOH State Board

I am, indeed, both privileged and honored to be serving as your Secretary of the State Board of Virginia. Throughout the next two years, I pledge to you accurate and timely meeting minutes and State Directories. I take these duties and responsibilities very seriously. In that vein, I need your help. Maintaining the State Directory is only as good as the information provided to me. To this end, I ask that you send me all updates/changes to your Division roster, contact information for your Officers, and any changes to your meeting time and/or locations. Thank you in advance for your trust, confidence and support.

From the Treasurer of the AOH State Board

Federal Tax Identification Number Requirement:

Division Presidents and Financial Secretaries please take note,

Beginning last year, (2008 reporting for Tax Year 2007) the Internal Revenue Service requires all Fraternal Organizations to submit tax returns regardless of the revenue realized during the tax reporting period. Each AOH Division must have an IRS issued Employer Identification Number (EIN), also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number in order to submit this return. Divisions may not use either the National or State Board EIN for this purpose. National Director Keith Carney has asked me to insure that all Divisions in Virginia have and are using their individual EIN and have complied with the IRS requirement to submit tax returns during the past year. Please provide you Division EIN and include confirmation that you have submitted the appropriate Tax Return as defined by the table provided below, in your Division Report to be submitted at the October 17, 2009 State Meeting.

In Fraternity, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Eugene J. Bransfield, Sr.
Treasurer, Virginia State Board
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Source: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=201398,00.html>

Form 990 Series - Filing Phase-In

The new Form 990 series returns are effective for 2008 tax years (returns filed beginning in 2009). To allow organizations time to adjust to the new forms, the IRS is phasing in the new returns during a three-year transition period. During the transition, an organization's annual filing requirement depends on its financial activity. The charts below indicate the general exempt organization filing requirements during the transition period.

<i>2009 Tax Year (Filed in 2010 or 2011)</i>	<i>Form to File</i>
Gross receipts normally \leq \$25,000	990-N
Gross receipts $>$ \$25,000 and $<$ \$500,000, and Total assets $<$ \$1.25 million	990-EZ or 990
Gross receipts \geq \$500,000, or Total assets \geq \$1.25 million	990

<i>2010 Tax Year and later (Filed in 2011 and later)</i>	<i>Form to File</i>
Gross receipts normally \leq \$50,000	990-N
Gross receipts $>$ \$50,000 and $<$ \$200,000, and Total assets $<$ \$500,000	990-EZ or 990
Gross receipts \geq \$200,000, or Total assets \geq \$500,000	990