

Brothers,

The newly elected Board Members will be sworn in **tonight** at our **February meeting**. All current Covid protocol will be in place.

Please respect these regulations and your brother's safety. We will also be holding a food drive during our gathering to support local food pantries. This is an ideal way to support those in need and showcase our Christian Charity motto.

Congratulations to **Rick O'Neill** for being selected as the **2022 Hibernian of the Year**. Rick has been a division member for 49 years and is now a life member. He has served on both the Division and State Boards along with several committees and is still an active participant. This is a well deserved honor. A dinner reception to pay tribute to Rick is scheduled for April.

We are bringing back the best **Fish Fry** in town for the Lenten Season. Once again **T.R. McGrath** will be preparing and serving with the first dinner on Ash Wednesday, **March 2nd**. Meals will be available for eat in or take out.

The planning stages for our **St. Patrick's Day** and **Irish Heritage** celebrations have begun:

- On **February 27th**, the **Parade Committee** will be holding their **Green Eggs and Ham Fundraiser** at the hall. Immediately following the brunch the **Irish musicians Shannachie** will be performing from 1 - 5 pm in the lounge. Come down and enjoy a fun filled family friendly Sunday Afternoon.
- The **Parade Committee** will also be putting on the **Grand Marshal Roast** on **March 5th**. This years recipient is **Rocky Kempenaar**.
- And finally they will be hosting the **Big Daddy Award** event **Friday, March 11th** at the hall.
- As in the past, a **Mass in honor of our Patron Saint** will be held at **St. Joseph's Church** on Broadway prior to the parade on **March 12th at 9:00**.
- The parade itself is planned to begin at 11 am with the post activities starting at 12 at the hall. Entertainment will be provided by the **McMurphy's** and **DJ Murph**. Ticket cost for the event is **\$25** and may be purchased at the hall with cash, card or check. Tickets are being printed now and a separate email will be sent when they are received. Tickets will be available to members who attend the March Meeting for a discounted price of **\$20 each**.

- On **Sunday, March 13th** at 11 am, our **annual Mass in memory of deceased members of the AOH and LAOH** will be held at **St. Mary's Church**. I encourage all to attend and express our Catholic Faith and celebrate our Irish Heritage.

All of the events sell out quickly so be sure to purchase your tickets as soon as they are available. Additional details on all of these events will be posted and emailed as the dates grow closer.

I would like to thank the following people for the continued assistance in maintaining and improving the hall. Your help is greatly appreciated.

- **Bob Norbury** who recently painted the Ice Room.
- **Ed Coleman, Andrew Loftus**, associate members **Alex Littlefield, Angelo Correira** and Cigar Club Member **Dave Horan** for their snow removal efforts after the past storm.

Invoices have been sent out along with **Capital Improvement Request** and **Parade Support Forms**. I thank all of you for your continual support to the division. I urge all of you to update your dues and donate to the Capital Fund if you are able. This is a crucial part of Division and Hall maintenance and operations.

There have been delays and printing errors at the national level with **membership cards**. Please inspect your cards when you receive them and report any corrections to Dave Kane at aohfinancialsecretarynewportri@gmail.com.

The **AOH Pipes and Drums** are always looking for new members regardless of experience. If you are interested in joining contact a band member or visit our website aohnewport.org.

This Saturday, February 5th, at 4 pm will be the **LAOH St. Brigid's Mass** at **St. Augustin Church**. The Church is hosting a food drive for the **St. Joseph's Food Pantry**. Please bring non perishable items to support this effort.

Also, the **LAOH** will have their annual **Corned Beef Dinner** to go at **St. Augustin's** after the 4 PM mass on **March 26th**.

As a reminder, there are limited edition **145th AOH Polo Shirts** (available in Kelly Green or Blue) for \$35 and **145th Coins** for \$10 for sale at the hall.

In closing, I am repeating myself but I, along with all of the Board and Committee Members, thank you for your participation and support over these difficult times in the past two years.

We remain strong as a division and are making a positive impact within the community supporting several non-profit organizations and individuals / families in need.

Keep all our deceased brethren and those suffering from illness in your prayers.

In Unity,

Kevin