

Brothers,

March is here and it is time to celebrate our Irish Heritage. There are several events over the next few weeks and I hope that you can attend as many as possible. It has been a long time since we have been able to all come together and enjoy these days.

- **March 5th** is the **Grand Marshal Roast** at 5:30 pm honoring our AOH brother **Rocky Kempenaar** at **St. Augustin**. Tickets are available at the hall for **\$25.00** which can be paid by cash or check.
- **Friday March 11th** the division will be hosting the annual Big Daddy Award. This years winners are Bill and Karen Cardinal for their continued generosity to the parade committee. We will have a suggested \$5.00 donation at the door. There will be appetizers and music at this event.
- Our key celebration is **Saturday March 12th** when we honor St. Patrick. Mass will be at **9:00 am** at **St. Joseph's Church** on Broadway. Our celebrant will be our chaplain **Father Frank O'Loughlin**. The parade will begin at 11:00 am and is in honor of our deceased brother, **Gary Loftus**.
- The post parade party will begin at 12:00 at the Hibernian Hall. Entertainment will be provided by The **McMurphy's** and **D.J. Murph**. There will also be food for sale including Corned Beef sandwiches. Tickets are currently on sale at the hall for **\$25.00** which can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Members who attend this Friday's meeting will be able to purchase tickets for the discounted price of \$20.00 each.
- On **Sunday March 13th** at 11:00 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 to express our Catholic Faith and celebrate our Irish Heritage. We are looking for individuals to carry the county flags of Ireland. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet posted at the hall.
- On **St. Patrick's Day March 17th** from 4 - 8 pm we will be offering a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at the hall. Dinners are available for eat in or take out. The cost is \$17.00 per person.

As we all know the successful execution of all of these events requires volunteers to assist with a number of activities including set up, clean up, break downs, and lending a hand in the kitchen. There are signup sheets posted at the hall or you can contact **Bill Barrett, Andrew Loftus** or **Bill Cardinal**.

Also, the parade committee is looking for Parade Marshals and kitchen help for the Roast. If you are interested please contact **Dennis Sullivan** (401-413-9601) or another committee member.

During our **Holy Lenten Season** we will once again be serving the best **Fish Fry** in town beginning **Ash Wednesday March 2nd**. This year the dinners catered by **T.R. McGrath**

will only be available on the following Friday's: **March 18th, 25th, April 8th and 15th.** Meals will be available from 4-8 pm for **\$16.00** per person.

With the hall not being in full operation last year because of Covid restrictions and regulations, we postponed our **145th Anniversary Raffle.** This year we will raffle off a maximum of **300 tickets** at **\$100.00 each.** Your \$100.00 donation will help reduce our debt while giving you a 1 in 75 chance of winning the following prizes:

- 1st prize \$5,000
- 2nd prize \$2,500
- 3rd prize \$1,000
- 4th prize \$500

Tickets are on sale at the hall or by mailing a check to AOH 2 Wellington Ave Newport, RI 02840 and should be payable to Newport AOH (raffle should be noted in the memo field) with a self addressed envelope. Your ticket stub will be mailed back to you. An event will be held for those that participate in the raffle on **Friday June 24th.** The drawing will take place at 7:00 pm that night. You do not have to be present to claim your prize. GOOD LUCK!

Maintenance up-dates:

- The commercial refrigerator in the kitchen has been serviced and repaired.
- A new three tap kegerator has been ordered to replace the current broken one
- **Andrew Loftus** has been cleaning and reorganizing the basement
- **Ed Coleman** continues snow removal following our winter storms
- I failed to mention **Pat Cranson** in the February newsletter for his help with snow removal during the major storm in January.
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As a reminder our AOH National Constitution states that every Hibernian should receive communion during the Easter Season. We are a Catholic Organization and weekly mass should be attended as often as possible.

Please keep our recently deceased brothers, **Thomas Roberts** and **Mike Finn** as well as all of our deceased brethren in your prayers.

In Unity,
Kevin