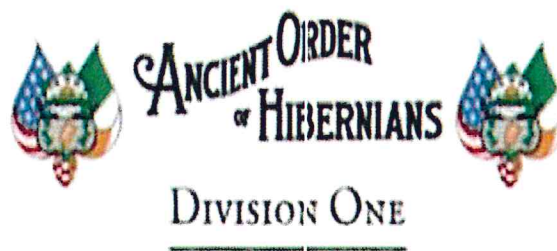


- Message from the President
- New Division Website
- Division news
- Raffle Winners!



A periodic insight into the Montgomery County, Division 1, Notre Dame

# AOH Div. 1

## May 2021

### 2021-22 Division Officers

- President, Eddie Mongan
- Vice-President, Ron Trask
- Chaplain, Fr. Bill Grogan
- Recording Secretary, Kevin Willson
- Financial Secretary, Ed Costello
- Treasurer, Tom Nolan
- Standing Committee Chair, Jack Rodenbaugh
- Marshall, Hugh Quinn
- Sentinel, John Nolan Sr.
- Sentinel, Joe Daywalt
- Missions and Charities, Glenn McNulty
- Trustee, Sean Messenger
- Irish History, Mark Ryan
- Veteran Affairs, Bobby Whitmore
- Current Parade Grand Marshal, Bobby Whitmore

**Next Membership Meeting-  
Thursday, June 24 at 7:30**

### April Pub Draw Winners!

- \$200 #06 Jack Quinn
- \$300 #28 Diane Harper
- \$500 #08 Steve Reilly

## 2021 Membership Dues

Please note that our new Financial Secretary is Brother Ed Costello, dues can now be paid via Venmo at @Ed-Costello-7. Dues are **\$35.00**. You can still drop off your dues at a membership meeting or at the Pub. Payments can be mailed to:

**135 Scarlet Drive, Conshohocken, PA. 19428**

## New Happy Hour Specials at the AOH Pub

The nice weather has set the stage for the AOH Pub offer some savings for our faithful friends by rolling back Happy Hour prices! Monday through Friday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm all draught beers are 50 cents off and bottled beers only \$2.50 each! Rumor has it that there is a fair chance of the BBQ grille being fired up to serve some of your favorite summertime foods!



2020 William J. Bradley Scholarship Award was awarded to Connell Palasky by the Home Association at the Division 1 membership meeting on May 27, in recognition of his academic achievements and service to community. Pictured with Connell are his parents Ron (AOH) and Johanna (LAOH)

### Welcome to the Order!

- John Mizii
- Mike Collins
- Jason Lawless
- Brandon Kilpatrick
- Francis Abbott

## *From the President...*

Brothers,

As the warm weather approaches, more and more outdoor opportunities are presenting themselves. COVID restrictions are declining, masks are coming off (gradually) and folks are feeling much safer about gathering together. It was a tough year behind us but we made it through. I would like to thank all who have continually supported our division throughout the "COVID Days". Support from our members, **LAOH**, social members and guests were vital to our success. *That being said, you should not expect to hear any mention of that dreadful period again in my messages anymore, for I am sure most of us are tired of hearing about it so, let's move on.*

In honor of Memorial Day I have included a lot of information to Medal of Honor Grove. I hope you all enjoy the history behind the Grove as well as the AOH's dedication to the Grove.

The **Home Association** is constantly creating innovative ways to navigate any challenges in their path and to keep day-to-day life at the club as enjoyable as can be. **The Directors** are planning several events that are sure to live up to past events. Look for these events in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

The **Pipe Band** has resumed in-person rehearsals and have events on the schedule for this year.

- **Bridesburg Memorial Day Parade, May 31** Irish Thunder marched in the Bridesburg Memorial Day Parade.

Be on the lookout for email notifications about upcoming work parties. These work parties are imperative to keeping our Headquarters in optimum condition, indoors and out. We have a list of tasks to be done ranging in all levels of physical requirements. It is usually a fun time with plenty of laughs.

I would like to thank our **Division 1. Officers** for their commitment to maintaining our reputable Club and the efforts put forth to improve upon our already impressive organization.

I would also like to thank **Bobby Whitmore** for accepting the position of **Division 1, Chairman of Veteran Affairs**. Welcome aboard, Brother.

There is currently an open position to Chair the FFAI (Freedom For All Ireland) Comminttee. Any member in good standing who is interested, please contact me.

**Special thanks to Jack Rodenbaugh (Roadie) for the sparkling blue toilet water at the AOH Pub!**

In our motto,

Eddie Mongan  
Division 1 President

### **Irish Weekend is on for 2021!**

The 2021 North Wildwood Irish Festival has been confirmed! September 24, 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> are the scheduled dates for this years event. You might want to start looking for a place to stay now as people are going to be extremely excited about resuming the famous festivities that "Irish Weekend" has to offer. Hope to see everyone down there at the Elks or cheering on Irish Thunder

# Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums

May 2021

## Pipe Band Report:

After a year with no events and zoom band meetings, **Irish Thunder** is finally starting to return to a somewhat routine. Practices have been occurring at the club for pipers, with a minimal number of members at one time. Band members have participated in a few events the past several months including the annual St. Brigid's Mass in February and a performance on March 17 at Mission BBQ to honor **Col. William Bonelli**, who turned 100 years old this year.

**Irish Thunder** finally has a schedule for 2021! Events include the annual **Bridesburg Memorial Day parade** (May 31), **Oreland 4 th of July parade** (July 5), and two performances in July and August at **St. Thomas Church in Whitemarsh** (July 23) and at the **Valley Forge Chapel** (Aug 18).

**Irish Thunder** merchandise is still available. Irish Thunder' first CD includes local Irish singers, including **Paul Moore, Sarah Agnew**, and Tom McHugh, and other area instrumentalists playing the violin and guitar. The CD is sure to be a great addition to your collection! The band is still selling their new 25 th anniversary t-shirts. The shirts are black in color, with silver color in many of the titles, and are in both mens' & womens' sizes. Please see a band member for a CD, shirt, magnet or pint glass. Band CD's are priced for \$10, pint glasses and magnets for \$5 and shirts for \$15.

The band is currently accepting interested gentlemen & ladies to join the band as a piper or drummer to improve the band's sound. Please see a band member if you're interested.

Sincerely,

Sean Murray  
President/Band Manager,  
Irish Thunder Pipe & Drum Band  
[www.irishtunder.org](http://www.irishtunder.org)

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## Red Cross Blood Drives

We will be hosting 2 blood drives back to back **Thursdays on July 8 and July 15**. Both will take place from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the AOH Pub Hall. Remember to pre-register and take advantage of the Rapid Pass system that allows you to complete 80% of the screening process online. You will then need to print your Rapid Pass (or display it on you device) and present it when you arrive at the Drive. Not only does this save you time but it also helps the drive move along much more smoothly.



Pennsylvania Area in the Medal of Honor Grove

## Medal of Honor Grove

"The **Medal of Honor** is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. It is most often presented to its recipient by the President of the United States in the name of Congress." [Congressional Medal of Honor Society](#)

More times than not, the Medal of Honor is presented posthumously, the recipients having sacrificed their lives to save others.

The Medal dates back to the Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln approved legislation on Dec. 21, 1861, on behalf of the Navy. Legislation for the Army medal was approved on July 12, 1862.

The Medal of Honor Grove was conceived by Kenneth Wells, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, E.F. Hutton, Gen. Omar Bradley and others at Freedoms Foundation, and the site was [dedicated on the Foundation's campus in 1964](#). The first four state areas were dedicated in 1968.

The Grove, 42 acres of natural woodland, is the oldest living memorial honoring the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients. (All men but for one — Civil War surgeon Mary Walker.) An area of land is set aside for the recipients in each of the 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Each state has a seven-foot obelisk centered on a 25-square-foot brick plaza. The recipients accredited by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to that state are identified by name, rank and service branch on the obelisk. Recipients are additionally honored with a ground marker engraved with their name, branch of service and the date and location of the act of valor.

The first obelisks were made of fiberglass but, thanks to sponsoring organizations and donors, most have been replaced with obelisks made of stone — often stone native to that particular state. To date, 21 fiberglass obelisks remain.

The Henry Knox Museum, devoted to Medal recipients, was dedicated in 1966. In 1979, the Grove welcomed the Chaplains Memorial, a tribute to the nine chaplains who have received the Medal of Honor. Six years later, the Ancient Order of Hibernians erected an obelisk dedicated to the more than 160 Medal recipients who were not U.S. citizens and therefore had no home state.

*The Grove is maintained by a separate non-profit organization, the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove. To learn more about the Friends, the Grove or for information on tours, visit [www.friendsmohgrove.org](http://www.friendsmohgrove.org).*

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## Medal of Honor Grove Honors Korean War Medal of Honor Recipients

Just a reminder of the AOH remembrance at the Medal of Honor Grove, Saturday, June 19th at 10:00am. The American flags have arrived and the names of all 133 recipients have been put on cards, including their home state. Not all states have a recipient, but states such as Texas and California have six or seven. Bring your children or grandchildren. They could learn more of their American history at the Medal of Honor Grove.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgAQGdanQHo>

The AOH Remembers!

A number of years ago when Sister Maria Veronica, IHM, archivist at Freedoms Foundation, approached the AOH about getting involved in recognizing the 160 stateless immigrants who had earned the Medal of Honor, the AOH responded. They installed an obelisk and built a memorial at the Medal of Honor Grove so these men would always be remembered.

We are approaching the anniversary of the start of the Korean War on June 25, 1950. As all of you know the Korean War has become known as the Forgotten War, caught between World War 2 and the Vietnam War. In recent years there has been activity to remember all of these American men and women who served our country for the cause of freedom in another land. The AOH can play a small part in helping others remember the 133 men who earned the Medal of Honor during the war. They are all recognized at the Medal of Honor Grove, in their home state, with a stainless steel plaque, giving their names, branch of service, rank and the Korean War. We have been given permission and are asking AOH members to come to the Medal of Honor Grove on Saturday, June 19th at 10:00am. We will gather at the site of the AOH memorial, where we hope to have a table set up, and you will be given an American flag and the name and state of one of the recipients. Take the flag to the recipients state and place it next to his plaque.

Korea-The Forgotten War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNyG0HCfpDc>

The Medal of Honor Grove is on the grounds of the Freedoms Foundation located at  
**1601 Valley Forge Road, Ph**

## AOH Medal of Honor Grove History

In 1985, under the direction of National President Joe Roche, an obelisk of Wicklow Granite was erected in the grove to honor all of the recipients of the Medal of Honor who were not previously recognized because they did not have a home state. Listed on the AOH Obelisk are the names of 160 foreign born recipients of the Medal of Honor from at least 18 countries who could not be accredited to a state due to lack of citizenship. Of this group 65 are credited with Irish birth. Thanks to the efforts of the AOH men are honored from these countries of birth.

Australia – Canada – Denmark – England – France – Germany – Holland – Ireland – Japan – Malta – Norway – Phillipines – Russia – Scotland – South Wales – Sweden – Switzerland – West Indies and those who's birthplace is unknown.

### How the AOH got Involved in the Medal of Honor Grove

Sister Maria Veronica of the Sister, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, had retired to Camilla Hall after a life time of teaching. Not one to sit around, she made it her life's ambition to do a military research on all of the men who were the recipients of the Medal of Honor in our nation's history. It was during this research that she had noticed that a number of the men who received the medal could not be accredited to any state or territory. Most of these men had been born in Ireland and never had the opportunity to become an American citizen. Sister Veronica was a very good friend of the late Bob Dougherty. Bob was a very active member (and a charter member) of the Chester County Ancient Order of Hibernians. Bob passed this information on to the National President of the AOH, Joe Roche. Joe formed a committee and through the dedication and hard work of these committee members the idea of an AOH obelisk was brought to fruition. The seven feet seven inch obelisk made of Wicklow granite and is centered on an octagonal plaza is located near the entrance to the Medal of Honor Grove overlooking a man made pond. Engraved on the memorial are the names of those men from Ireland who are recipients of the medal and also the names of those men from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Norway, Phillipines, Scotland, South Wales, Sweden, Switzerland, West Indies and the names of five men with a birthplace unknown.

In 1989 Sister Maria Veronica, received the prestigious Anna C. Malia Award from the Pennsylvania Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, for her historical research.

## Poem

This poem was composed by Bridget Dunleavy. It was written to pay tribute to those 160 stateless immigrants, who earned the Medal of Honor, America's highest military award and whose names are memorialized on the Ancient Order of Hibernian's obelisk at the Medal of Honor Grove.

### *To The Immigrant Soldiers:*

*December 25, 2014*

In blood they stood  
And in their ghosts  
So too we stand this day.  
The freedom wrought  
So costly bought  
In an iron, final pain.

From lands unknown  
To hear they sailed  
To fight for liberty.  
They heard the name  
And with no shame  
They left to fight across the sea.

Salute these here!  
The ones who gave  
To us their unknown lives  
For so long as we  
Honor those deeds  
Still, now they are nigh.

They stood in blood  
And we in gold  
Honoring their fight  
Tread softly here,  
Silence your tongue  
And forever, keep the flame alight.



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American

# SHAMROCK DEGREE CEREMONY

*Sponsored by the Montgomery County Board*

**Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 1:00pm** (*registration begins at Noon*)

**Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church - Drexel Hall (school gym)**  
**2980 Cowpath Road – Hatfield, PA 19440**

Brothers,

In the first step of becoming a member of our noble Order, you took an oath. After administering the oath to you, your Division President said, in short, *“and I commend you to the friendship of its members, subject; however, to the condition that you receive the Lessons and take the Test of the Order known as the Major Degrees of the Order in accordance with our laws.”*

The next step in the process of becoming a full member of the AOH is the Shamrock Degree. You will need to take this in order to move forward and take your Major Degree in the future. We have decided that it would be best and, hopefully, easier to do a regional Shamrock Degree ahead of the Major Degree at the State Convention in July. Please do consider attending this ceremony. Following the ceremony, a “happy hour” with light refreshments will be available to all participants while enjoying the Friendship and camaraderie of your Brothers.

Following the happy hour, at approximately 2:15pm, the Montgomery County Board will hold their quarterly Board meeting. All Brothers are welcome to attend the meeting if they so choose and learn more about what is going on with our Brothers around the County, the State and the Nation.

In order to get an accurate head count, especially for food and beverage, we ask that all candidates and all observers please preregister using this google form <https://forms.gle/1GuC7w4pUUeWJcRR6>.

Yours In Our Motto of  
Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

*Tom Coughlin, Jr*

President  
AOH Montgomery County Board