



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA



**MICHAEL P. KEELEY
DIVISION 1 ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

April 2006 Newsletter

- On Saturday, March 11th, our Division participated in the 36th St. Patrick Day Parade in downtown St. Louis. We were the 106th unit in the parade and we rented and decorated a green trolley and had 60 walkers in the parade. Weather was outstanding and over 350,000 people watched the parade.
- On March 16th, the annual Irish Mass and Breakfast was held at “Our Lady of the Snows” Shrine in Belleville. There were over 200 people in attendance. After breakfast, the St. Louis Irish Arts performed, led by Helen Gannon with her outstanding musicians and dancers.
- On Friday, March 17th, our Division hosted the 4th annual St. Patrick’s Day parade in Belleville. The festivities started with the raising of the Irish flag and ceremonies on the St. Clair County Court House building steps. Over 300 people attended the event. Immediately after the flag raising, the “Doves of Dublin” were released and the parade started. The Grand Marshall was Joe Murphy, a 92 year-old Hibernian and 50-year member of the AOH. The parade consisted of 56 units and projected to get much larger next year.
- Our Division was a major sponsor for the annual “Dance of Legends,” a celebration of Irish dance and music on March 26th at the Historic Miner’s Theater in Collinsville. The event was well attended by the Hibernians.
- For the 2nd straight year, we participated in the “Irish Emerald Ball,” a joint dinner -dance of all St. Louis Divisions on Saturday, April 1st--a very enjoyable evening.
- On Sunday, April 23rd, we will join our fellow Hibernians in St. Louis at the Calvary Cemetery to commemorate the 1916 Easter Uprising and also the 25th Anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike. Past National AOH President George Clough will preside over the ceremonies.
- We are trying to establish a Division south of Belleville in the Irish rural areas of Southern Illinois. Also, we have contacted Father Flannigan, a pastor in Carbondale, to help us in our AOH Division development in the Carbondale and Murphysboro areas.
- Our next meeting is **April 12th** at 7:30 P.M at the O’Fallon K of C Hall. If you have not paid your 2006 dues, you may do so at the meeting or mail your dues to AOH Mike Tiernan, 207 Summerlin Rd, O’Fallon IL 62269. The dues remain \$20 for retirees and \$25 for those still working. Please pay your dues in a timely manner. Paving at a meeting also reduces our postage and printing expenses.