



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



# THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division 44PO010007

May 2022 Edition Volume 13 Issue 5

2022  
Division President's Message

**Matt Dullaghan**



Worthy Hibernian Brothers:

I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy this wonderful Spring weather. Next month will be our last regular meeting until September.

The AOH National Convention will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, from July 13-16, 2022. Book your rooms now at <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com> before the AOH block of rooms is sold out. Other convention information, including registration forms, can be found at the same website.

The change to the constitu-

tion that we discussed at the last meeting will be a central matter on the national convention agenda. (We were reminded at the State Board meeting last Saturday that the proposal may be discussed only with other AOH members in good standing.) According to the recently issued convention call, our division is entitled to one voting delegate. The division president is the presumptive delegate; however, I am not sure that my schedule will allow me to attend, so we need to select at least one alternate at this week's meeting. (The names need to be submitted by June 1). There is some money in the budget to assist, so be sure to speak up by Thursday if you are interested.

It also was clarified at the State Board meeting that I cannot share the links for the Zoom calls discussing the proposed change to the AOH constitution. Apparently there's a cap on the number of connections. Named delegates, and it sounds like any alternates as well, will be invited to the third and final Zoom call about the proposal next month.

Finally, I am out of town this Thursday, so our worthy vice-president, Dennis Mulligan, will be chairing the meeting.

Until we meet again, Slainte mhaith agat!

For upcoming events:

May 12 Monthly membership meeting, St. Joseph's, 828 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235

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## Business Meetings

**Regular Monthly Business Meetings** are held at 7 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month. **No meetings are held during July and August.**

Meetings are held at:  
**St. Joseph's Church**  
828 Buford Road  
Richmond, VA 23235

2022 Business Meeting Schedule:

*Our next regular Division Meeting is May 12, 2022*

**Socials at O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114 on the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 5PM.**

## Dues Notice

2022 Dues are now payable. Dues remain at \$40 and, if 75 or older, dues are \$20.

Please pay at Division Meetings or mail check payable to:

**AOH Msgr. Kelly Division**

at:

**Larry Kelly**  
120 Carriage Point Ln. Glen Allen Va. 23059

May 26 Fourth Thursday, O'Toole's Restaurant, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114

June 9 Division Meeting

June 28 Fourth Thursday, O'Toole's Restaurant, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114

July 13-16 AOH National Convention, Pittsburgh

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Matthew Dullaghan, President  
Msgr. Charles A. Kelly Division,  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Div. No. 44P001  
1911 Carbon Hill Drive  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
(804) 378-3266

[MDullaghan@comcast.net](mailto:MDullaghan@comcast.net)

## A Bit of Irish History

### THE IRISH HARP (CLARSACH) – HISTORY AND MEANING

The Irish harp is a stringed musical instrument that's said to be one of the oldest in the world. This beautiful instrument is also the national emblem of Ireland and one of the popular Irish symbols. Ireland holds the distinction of being the only country in the world with a musical instrument as its national symbol.

Still played commonly in traditional Irish bands and pubs that support their music, the roots of the Harp as a symbol are somewhat vague. The use of it, however, dates back to before the 6th century and that Irish King Brian Boru circa 1000 was an accomplished harp player. The Irish harp, also known as the Gaelic harp, Celtic harp, or Clarsach, is a lesser-known traditional symbol of Ireland

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## News For the Division

.At this time, the Central Virginia Celtic Festival is planning the 2022 event for October. As of now, no dates are available.



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*The Irish Harp* Continued from page 2)

and believed to represent royalty and the immortality of the soul.

The storied relationship between Ireland and the harp dates back to the pre-Christian times. The instrument was introduced to Europe by the Phoenicians who brought it from Egypt. Back then, the harp was considered as one of the international trading goods by the Phoenicians.



By the 10th century, the music of the harp is already regarded as an important symbol of Ireland. Back then, the last High King of Ireland Brian Boru, was said to have been an accomplished player. The Celtic harp meanwhile, was the only music played during the Crusades as said surviving 12-century annals. Around that time,

the Celtic/Gaelic harp was already much revered not just in Ireland but all over Europe. Kings and chieftains even have their own royal harper. The harpists' were accompanied by poetry recitations and the singing of psalms. These musicians were held in high regard back then and enjoyed special privileges. One of the most famous during this era was the blind harpist, Turlough O'Carolan. He wasn't just a musician, he also wrote songs, and even to this day, his music lives on through the groups like The Chieftains and Planxty. In 1531, Henry VIII declared himself as the King of Ireland. He recognized how significant the harp was and made it the official national symbol of Ireland. However, the harp was eventually seen as a threat to the British Crown because it was such a source of pride and hope for the Irish. Harps were ordered to be burnt, while harpists were condemned and executed. Even traveling musicians were not spared. The harp was banned and the old Celtic harp tradition became extinct. As decades passed, people saw less of the instrument.

It took almost 200 years before the harp was heard

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## In Memorium

*Paul McFadden of the Dooley Division in January 2022.*

*Some of you old timers may remember Paul as the actual creator of the Msg. Kelly Division back in 2010. He organized everything I can remember and helped recruit new members for us in the local parishes in our early days.*

*More information is in the Dooley Division website.*

## Prayer List

**Brother Dan Harrington:** Being treated monthly for Lukemia., CKD, etc.

**Mike Dougherty** being treated for Crohn's disease; also his wife, Diana, who is being treated for spinal stenosis; Mike's brother-in-law James Cramsie with incurable leg infection

## **2022 Division Officers**

President-Matt Dullaghan  
[mdullaghan@comcast.net](mailto:mdullaghan@comcast.net)

Vice President- Dennis Mulligan  
[mullighan.dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:mullighan.dennis@yahoo.com)

Treasurer-John Frampton  
[firemedic45@comcast.net](mailto:firemedic45@comcast.net)

Recording Secretary-Mike Norton  
[mnortonstn@aol.com](mailto:mnortonstn@aol.com)

Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly  
[jlkkelly1@verizon.net](mailto:jlkkelly1@verizon.net)

Standing/Compassion Comm.-Sonny Dorish  
[fmdorish@yahoo.com](mailto:fmdorish@yahoo.com)

Marshal-Bob Cavanaugh  
[bobcavanaughmb@gmail.com](mailto:bobcavanaughmb@gmail.com)

Sentinel-Jim Dunn  
[jimdunn367@gmail.com](mailto:jimdunn367@gmail.com)

### **Contact us at:**

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
 Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division  
 2480 Batterson Road  
 Powhatan, VA 23139

Email:  
[tizhmslf@gmail.com](mailto:tizhmslf@gmail.com)

Website:  
[www.aohkelly.org](http://www.aohkelly.org)

*The Irish Harp (Continued from page 3)*

and enjoyed in Ireland once again. A festival was set up in 1792 as a way to bring back the lost Irish tradition. Ten harpists attended and the event was documented by the young organist Edward Bunting. It was through his transcripts that the succeeding generations learned about the existence of traditional Celtic harp music. Today the harp remains as the national symbol of Ireland. It is among the most recognizable images that

are associated with the emerald isle along with the leprechaun, the Celtic cross, and shamrock.

### **Technical Features:**

*The Celtic harp is a triangular frame harp traditional to the Celtic nations of northwest Europe. It is known as cláirseach in Irish, clàrsach in Scottish Gaelic, telenn in Breton and telyn in Welsh. In Ireland and Scotland, it was a wire-strung instrument requiring great skill and long practice to play, and was associated with the Gaelic ruling class. It appears on Irish and British coins, the coat of arms of the Republic of Ireland, Montserrat, the United Kingdom and Canada as well as the flag of Montserrat.*

## **Our Division History**

The Msgr. Charles Kelly, Jr. Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in December, 2009 and conducted its first meeting on January 21, 2010 at St. John Neumann Church, Powhatan, Virginia. The next few meetings were taken up with election of officers and the many procedural items needed to get our group started.

Since that time we continue to grow, adding new members and supporting and donating to Catholic schools and Churches in the area, in line with our commitment to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.