



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

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

December 2023 Edition Volume 13 Issue 12

2023
Division President's Message

Dennis Mulligan



Worthy Brothers

First, I'd like to thank our brothers who donated their time at the Richmond Highland Games. We had a great turn-out and a successful Raffle Ticket sale. And you'll find more photos in the Photo Gallery in the division website, too, including some oldies.

I hope you all had a great and safe Thanksgiving with family and friends. And a special thanks to our veterans on Thanksgiving for their service to our country.

Let's not forget!

Let's look forward to the upcoming Christmas and New Years hol-



idays, too, with our family and friends, for safe and blessed holidays.

I would also like to thank those who agreed to hold officer positions, and I also look forward to 2024, when we will all be contributing to our new goals.

Please let Dan Harrington or Dennis Mulligan know by email or phone call if you are coming to the Christmas Dinner at O'Toole's on Forest Hill on Dec. 10th. We do need a count on who is coming, so we can tell O'Toole's. We need to know this by December 6, 2023.

Of course, we'll keep nudging (reminding) you before then. At this month's meeting, we will vote on the following:

- The slate of officers for 2024**
- Charitable donations**
- Budget for 2024**

In closing, I'd like to thank those members who have agreed to hold officer positions for the second

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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

2023 Business Meeting Schedule:

Our next regular Division Meeting is December 10, 2023

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

Christmas Dinner

Don't forget our Christmas Dinner on Dec. 10th. A sign-up has been sent out.



Year and to our new Vice President, Dan Harrington.

Please click on [page 3](#) for additional info on ordering Irish attire similar to what I wear to Division meetings..

Website: [13Stitches](#)

Thank You, Brothers
President, Dennis J. Mulligan
Msgr. Charles A Kelly Jr.
Division No. 44P001
 Mulligan.dennis@yahoo.com

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A Little Bit of Irish History

Ten Christmas Traditions in Ireland

1. Midnight Mass (49%)

If you're looking for a church packed to the rafters, look no further than any church in Ireland at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This is a huge social gathering where family, friends, and neighbors who you may not have seen all year come together and celebrate Christmas.

With Christmas carols being sung and, often, live music being played, Midnight Mass in Ireland is a great place to catch up with old friends and get in touch with the local community at Christmas.

2. Leaving cookies out for Santa (35%)

This tradition is one of the most special for families celebrating Christmas around the world. While not uniquely Irish, it's a favorite across Ireland, as kids leave treats out for Santa and his reindeer, and winking parents get to steal a cookie from Santa later.

Looking for a good Irish recipe for Santa's cookies this year? Try these [melty chocolate chip cookies](#) made with Kerrygold butter.

3. Baking (or just eating!) a [Christmas cake](#) (34%)

In the US, a fruitcake is pretty much a joke. You've heard the one about the fruitcake that gets re-gifted every year, right? But in Ireland, Christmas cake – which has a fruitcake base – is not in the least bit funny. Christmas cakes in Ireland are delicious works of art, with brandy-soaked fruit, crumbly sponge, and sweet almond icing. Want to experiment with making one of your own? Ireland's culinary grande dame Darina Allen has the [perfect recipe](#).

4. New pajamas for Christmas (29%)

Christmas is one of the few days of the year when you can spend most of the day in your pajamas and not feel in the least bit bad about it. You're too busy opening presents, drinking hot chocolate, watching Christmas films, and prepping for dinner to care!

Still, it helps to have a nice and presentable pair, which is where the tradition of Christmas pajamas came from. Plus, they make for the best (read: silliest) family Christmas photos.

5. Caroling (24%)

Whether it's in the safety of your own sitting room or door-to-door in the neighborhood in a group, caroling is one of the surest ways to put yourself, and others, in the Christmas spirit. In a country with as rich a musical heritage as Ireland, it's no wonder caroling is popular – especially when there are gorgeous Irish Christmas songs like the "Wexford Carol" and "Fairytale of New York." To learn some Irish carols and hymns, [read more here](#).

6. Pulling Christmas crackers (20%)

Many an Irish child has, at one point or another,

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(A Little bit of Irish History)

fled the Christmas dinner table in tears when the time came to pull the Christmas crackers, terrified by the loud bang they produce when pulled. But as we all eventually learned, that was a mistake, because inside the brightly wrapped crackers are toys and trinkets, paper crowns, and jokes to make the whole family howl with laughter (or collectively roll their eyes).

7. A big music session in the local on Christmas Eve (16%)

Pubs in Ireland are packed during the holidays (read more about the 12 Pubs of Christmas below) with people off from work and home for the holidays out to celebrate and reunite. Christmas Eve can be an especially busy night, as people pop in before or after Midnight Mass and get one last night out before the family-centric Christmas celebrations begin.

So, of course, the tin whistle, the fiddle, the bodhrán, and the uilleann pipes make an appearance for a few songs. This tradition is especially big for the Irish who live abroad and who have come home for Christmas, because nothing quite says you're home like a pint at the local, sitting by the fire while neighbors you've known your whole life fill the room with tunes you've known your whole life but haven't heard in ages.

8. Ugly holiday sweaters (13%)

This started off with aunties, grandmothers, and relatives handing over the most hideous sweaters as presents for Christmas, but somehow Christmas sweaters have turned into a competition on the streets of Ireland. The woollier and more ridiculously decorated the better.

9. The wren boys on St. Stephen's Day (11%)

During penal times a group of soldiers was about to be ambushed, having been surrounded while they slept, but a group of wrens pecked on their drums and woke them. Thus, the wren became known as "The Devil's Bird." To insure the bird's treach-

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Thirteen Stitches

For all your Irish clothing needs!

For more information, or to order, call or email Sally Hinski at:

Office: (804)739-8982

Cell: (804)402-9246

Email:

thirteenstitches@outlook.com

Remember to mention Dennis Mulligan's name when you want to get information or place an order!

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ery isn't forgotten, on St. Stephen's Day (Dec 26) people process around, going door-to-door with blackened faces and wearing old clothes, and carrying a dead (now more often fake) wren on top of the pole. Then, crowds of "strawboys" dressed in straw suits and masks march to celebrate the wren and are known as the wren boys.

While this tradition is no longer as popular as it once was, it endures in parts of Ireland and is a uniquely Irish way to spend the day after Christmas. Read more about the [wren boys here](#).

10 The twelve pubs of Christmas (11%)

The 12 Pubs of Christmas has taken Ireland by storm in the past ten years or so. Originally only the most dedicated of drinkers would take on the difficult task, but more and more we're seeing all sorts of Christmas parties join the fray – from office parties (big and small) to friends and family reunions.

The 12 Pubs of Christmas is essentially an extended bar crawl. Over the course of an evening you, along with your brothers and sisters-in-indulgence, visit 12 bars and attempt to have a drink in every one. "Christmas jumpers" or sweaters and Santa hats are the uniform of choice for the soldiers of the 12 Pubs and every weekend in December you will see very merry Santa Clauses and Mrs. Clauses in every town in Ireland. To top things off, each stop on the pub crawl comes with its own set of rules. You can read what they are – and get some tips for planning your own.

Recent In Memoriam

Christine Norton Spouse of Mike Norton

Helen Brennan Spouse of Rick Brennan

Prayer List

Brother Dan Harrington: Being treated monthly for Lukemia, CKD, etc. Dan's brother, **Kevin**, has contracted an infection during wiring of a broken jawbone. **Dan's Nephew Michael Manning**– Enduring colon cancer and recently underwent a second surgery to stop infection. Surgery a success-going home.

Brother Chuck Mulhern: in nursing home and is bedridden

Brother Frank King: moved to Bickford Assisted Living and is on dialysis three times a week

Brother Rick Brennan: Has undergone successful bypass surgery and is recovering.

Brother Ray Olson and wife Loraine:

Brother Mike McGee's son-in-law: Undergoing surgery this month for advanced bladder cancer.

Brother Jim Dunn-Jim suffered a stroke and, fortunately, is home recovering. He expects to be unavailable for a few months.

Sonny Dorich-Leg Surgery

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2024 Slate of Officers

President-Dennis Mulligan
Vice-President-Daniel Harrington
Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly
Treasurer-John Frampton
Recording Secretary-Mike Norton
Sentinel-Jim Dunn
Marshall-Sonny Dorish
Standing Committee-Sonny Dorish
Matt Dullaghan-Chairman- F.F.A.I.
WebmasterDigital-Daniel Harrington
Veterans Affairs-J. Larry Kelly
Immediate Past President-Jack Simila



In Memorium

Deceased Brothers and Spouses

Joyce, Spouse of Brother Daniel Harrington

Irene, Spouse of Brother Mike McGee

Brother James Calpin

Glenda, Spouse of Brother Frank King

Brother William Murphy

Brother George and Spouse Kathleen Rodenberg

Brother Micheal Dougherty

Brother Robert Cavanaugh

Christine, Spouse of Brother Mike Norton

Helen, Spouse of Brother Rick Brennan



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2023 Division Officers

President-Dennis Mulligan
mullighan.dennis@yahoo.com

Vice President- (Vacant)

Treasurer-John Frampton
firemedic45@comcast.net

Recording Secretary-Mike Norton
mnortonstn@aol.com

Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly
jlkelly1@verizon.net

Standing/Compassion Comm.-Sonny Dorish
fmdorish@yahoo.com

Marshal-Bob Cavanaugh
bobcavanaughmb@gmail.com

[Sentinel-Jim Dunn](#)

Webmaster-Dan Harrington
joydan1073@verizon.net

Contact us at:

MAIL:

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 Powhatan, VA 23139

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Website:

www.aohkelly.org

Our Division History

The Msgr. Charles Kelly, Jr. Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in December, 2009 and conducted it's 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.

