



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



# The Blue Book

**Manual for the Guidance of Officers in the Management of Divisions  
Explaining the Methods of Conducting Meetings, Modes of Installation,  
Ceremonies for Deceased Members and Initiatory Ceremonies**

**As Revised by the  
National Board of the A.O.H.  
July 25, 2020**

**Jack Schneider  
National Chairman Rituals and Degrees**

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## The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.



The Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in America on May 4, 1836 at St. James Church in New York City. Its roots; however, are found in Ireland dating back across 300 years. Since then it has continued to grow and prosper until it has become the largest and most influential Irish Catholic men's organization in the world.

## The Preamble to the AOH National Constitution

**It is hereby declared that the purpose of this Organization,  
The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. is**

- 1. To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity*
- 2. To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community*
- 3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace (with justice) and unity for all Ireland*
- 4. To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people.*
- 5. To promote Irish culture*
- 6. To encourage civic participation*
- 7. To encourage an equitable U.S. Immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American Immigration Policy*
- 8. To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practices for the people of the world*
- 9. To protect and defend all life born and unborn.*

Membership is confined exclusively to males residing in the United States who can prove their Irish ancestry or who have been legally adopted by those of Irish Ancestry, or be a member of the Roman Catholic clergy, or be enrolled as a Seminarian regardless of ancestry if they meet all other requirements and be a practicing Roman Catholic.

## **SECTION I. – ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF A DIVISION**

The following requirements, guidelines and optional suggestions are presented for use by Division Officers to assist in the administration and orderly operation of a Division within the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

### **Required Reporting**

- **All Divisions MUST obtain an EIN Number from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).**
- **All Divisions MUST file an appropriate IRS Form 990 to the IRS on an annual basis.**
- **All Divisions MUST file an AOH Form 9 (Election of Officers) and Form 11 (Membership Report) to the AOH National Secretary annually. Forms are available on the AOH National Website at [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).**
- **Division Missions and Charities Chairman shall file Missions and Charities Reports indicating amounts of Charitable contributions and manpower expended to County and State Missions and Charities Chairmen at requested and required intervals.**

**By-laws** – Divisions are encouraged to develop Division by-laws to aid in the proper operation of the Division.

### **Meetings**

- Divisions should hold general membership meetings on at least a monthly basis. Divisions may take a recess during the summer months.
- Officer meetings should be scheduled prior to the general membership meeting in order to properly prepare for same or on an as-needed basis.
- A schedule of Division meetings should be established at the beginning of the calendar or operational year and distributed to the membership.

### **Calendar of Events**

- Divisions should develop a schedule of annual events.
- Suggested annual or biennial events may include the following: Officer Installation Event, St. Brigid's Mass, St. Patrick's Day Commemorations, Communion Breakfast, Our Lady of Knock Mass, Children's Christmas Party, Member Appreciation and Awards Night.

### **Catholic Parishes**

- Divisions should maintain a listing of all Catholic parishes within their Division boundaries.
- Divisions should encourage support of these parishes by various means including charitable donations, volunteering of manpower, and participation in parish events.
- Divisions should make use of parish bulletins for advertisement of recruiting and Division events.

### **Inventory of Division Physical Property**

- Division should prepare and maintain a comprehensive and accurate listing of all Division physical property and the current location of same.
- Items to be included on said list shall include but not limited to Division Charter, Officer Medallions, Division Parade Banners, Division flags, Division Color/Honor Guard

Uniforms and Equipment, and any and all miscellaneous supplies and other equipment purchased by the Division.

### **Division Archives**

- The Division shall maintain a secure and sustainable archive of all Division records, forms, electronic files, intellectual property, logos, etc. in appropriate multiple places to guarantee preservation.
- The Division shall appoint a Division Archivist to coordinate such activities. The Division Historian can often serve in this capacity. All records should be held and maintained in conformance with the Records Retention Policy of the National Board.

### **Parades**

- Divisions are encouraged to participate as a marching unit in local St. Patrick's Day and other Civic parades such as Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Veterans' Day, and Christmas parades to enhance visibility in the community.
- Divisions should purchase a Division parade banner to properly identify the Division as a marching unit.
- All Division parade participants should comport themselves with dignity at all times during the line of march of a parade and engage in no behavior or activities which would tend to disparage the reputation of the Order or Division.
- Officers of the Order should wear their Medallions of Office during parades.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages should be strictly prohibited during the line of march of parades.

### **Newsletters**

- Divisions are encouraged to publish a newsletter to disseminate information to members and keep the membership informed of Division events.

**Social Media sites** – Divisions are encouraged to develop and maintain Division social media sites to aid in promoting the Division, attracting new members and for disseminating information to the membership.

- Social media sites may include a Division webpage and Facebook pages.
- Divisions should appoint a Division Webmaster to properly maintain and administer established social media sites.
- Division social media sites should be regularly monitored for potentially offensive and inappropriate posts, solicitations, etc.
- All Social Media sites are to comply with the guidelines established by the National Board as found on the National website, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) and are subject to review by the National Digital Coordinator.

### **Retention and Recruitment**

- Members are the life blood of the Order. Retention and Recruitment should thus be a top priority of all Divisions.
- To this end, it is recommended that Divisions appoint a Retention and Recruitment Chairman to lead such activities.
- Divisions should maintain a stockpile of Recruitment literature.
- Retention and Recruitment efforts should be undertaken at every possible opportunity. Fundraisers and local festivals are excellent opportunities to attempt to gain new members, particularly during the month of March

### **Division Color Guard / Honor Guard**

- Divisions are encouraged to establish a uniformed Division Color Guard / Honor Guard unit. The purpose of the unit will be to provide the Division with a dignified unit to lead the Division in parades, in processions at certain Masses and to provide an Honor Guard at the viewing/Memorial ceremony of a deceased member.
- At a minimum, flags to be purchased for and displayed by a Division Color Guard / Honor Guard should include the United States flag, the Republic of Ireland flag and a Papal flag.

### **Passing of a Division Member or Family Member of a Division Member**

- Division members are strongly encouraged to attend the viewing, wake, Memorial Ceremony and/or Requiem Mass of a member who has passed or a family member of a member who has passed to show support in the family's time of grief.
- The Division Chaplain, Division President or other designated Officer should lead the assembled in the Hibernian Ritual for the Deceased as appears within this Manual.
- The Visitation Committee should purchase and forward an appropriate Mass Card or Card of Sympathy to the family of the deceased AOH member or the deceased member of a brother's family.
- Officers of the Order should wear their Medallions of Office to all such Memorial services.

### **Charitable Fundraisers**

- Divisions are encouraged to run occasional fundraising events to support their Charitable Contribution works.
- Examples of such fundraising events may include – Golf Outings, Irish Festivals, Beef & Beer events, raffles, dances, etc.
- The Division President shall appoint a Fundraising Event Committee with a Chairman for each fundraising event held.
- Detailed financial records of each fundraising event shall be prepared and submitted to the Division President within ten (10) days following the fundraising event.

- All proceeds from a fundraising event shall be immediately transferred to the Division Treasurer.
- All payment of debts and liabilities incurred from the fundraiser event to vendors, suppliers, entertainers, etc. shall be paid by the Division Treasurer via Division checking account or electronic payment. Cash payments to vendors and suppliers should be avoided.

#### **Division Apparel**

- Development of a line of Division apparel, e.g. polo shirts, jackets, etc. is desirable for enhancing Division morale and aids in advertising the Division.
- A Division Quartermaster should be appointed to coordinate ordering and sale of merchandise and maintain an inventory of Division products.

#### **Visitation Committee**

- Divisions should establish a Visitation Committee for the purpose of visiting sick and disabled members.
- The Visitation Committee should coordinate the Division response to families in the event of the passing of Division members or a family member of a Division member, e.g. sending mass cards, coordinating group Division presence at viewings and funeral masses including performance of the Order Ritual for the Deceased, assistance with procuring a bagpiper if desired by the family, etc.

#### **Political Endorsements**

- Divisions may not endorse candidates for political office.

## SECTION II. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

### DIVISION MEETINGS

#### PREPARATIONS FOR ORDER MEETINGS

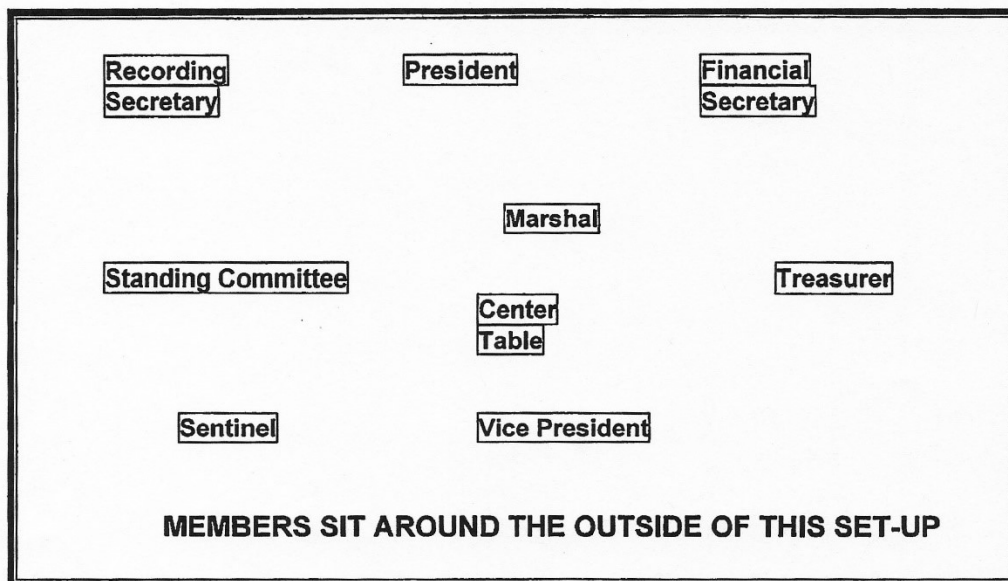
Preferably each Division should secure an appropriate Meeting Place which has the proper appointments for holding meetings in accordance with Order Rituals, i.e. stations for the designated Officers and desks for the Secretaries (as shown in Diagram I). The American and Irish Flags should be displayed prominently. The Division should have pedestal banners, cover for the center table, and a gavel for the President. This paraphernalia is a permanent investment and if properly cared for will last for years. All equipment may be purchased at a reasonable price and the National Secretary can furnish the names of reputable firms.

Each Division should obtain song cards with the lyrics for the opening and closing odes for use at every meeting. If the demand is sufficient, the National Secretary will carry a supply of these cards in regular stock. Sheet music for all songs used in the Ritual also may be obtained from him.

Attractive, simple and dignified regalia have been provided for all Officers. All jurisdictions should use these emblems at all times in the Ritual and at meetings.

### DIAGRAM I

Diagram shows the Division hall set-up General Meetings





## DECORUM AT MEETINGS

Officers should faithfully observe all the forms, customs and ceremonies of the Order at meetings.

The smooth running of meetings is the chief responsibility of the Marshall who should be alert to follow the President's leadership. The Marshall should have at least two (2) aides he can call on. The Sentinel is next in importance in keeping order.

It should be remembered that all knowledge of business of Ancient Order of Hibernians is restricted solely to members of the Order and meetings should never be opened until the Marshal makes sure all Candidates and persons who have not been duly initiated into the membership are not present within the meeting space.

All efforts should be made to start the meeting at the appointed time. If the President is not present, the Vice President should open the Meeting.

The Sentinel will announce the name of a member seeking admission to a meeting in progress and whether he is in possession of a current membership card. **“Worthy President, Brother (Name) with (or without) membership card desires admission.”** The presiding Officer responds: **“Admit the Brother.”** The Marshall must ensure that the member goes to the center table and salutes the presiding Officer (define manner) in the proper manner and if the member is not in possession of the current membership card that he goes to the Financial Secretary's station and obtains it. The Order of Business should be strictly adhered to and there should be no shortcuts.

Members should be instructed on the proper time to rise at the meetings, when to remain standing and when to be seated (usually signaled by a rap of the gavel). A common error is the failure of the members to remain standing at the beginning of the meeting until the President announces, “I now declare this meeting duly opened for the transaction of such business as may properly be brought before it.”

Candidates should be instructed on the proper deportment in the meeting room and how to salute the presiding Officer. Members should never be permitted to pass between the President's station and the center table but always to salute the presiding Officer from behind the center table. When a member rises to address the Chair, he should begin with “Worthy President” and “Worthy” should prefix the title any officer who is mentioned or addressed.

Officers should ensure that visiting Officers receive the proper reception due their rank in the Order. (See Mode of Reception Section) Courtesy should also be shown to visiting members of other Divisions by introducing them.

The Marshall should obtain the names of visiting members and give them to the presiding Officer so that he may extend a welcome. A little effort on the part of the Officers and members and the careful instruction of the new members will make our meetings dignified and orderly.

**This manual covers all ritualistic ceremonies (except the Lessons and Tests exemplified by the Degree Teams), meeting and occasions Officers act in their official capacity.**

**Officers and Degree Teams are urged to follow the procedures outlined herein, unless they are positive they can improve upon the ceremonies as outlined in the Rituals.**

## **SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR A DIVISION MEETING**

Call to Order  
Checking of Credentials  
Opening Prayer  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Opening Ode *"O'Donnell Abu"*  
Roll Call of Officers  
Reading of the Minutes of previous Meeting  
Propositions for Membership  
Report on Candidates for Membership  
Balloting on Candidates  
Installation of Candidates (Shamrock Degree) – See Section IV.-A.  
Oath taken by ALL – See Page 24  
Communications and Correspondence  
Chaplain's Homily  
Officers' Reports  
Report of the Committee on the Sick  
Bills and Claims  
Report on Standing Committee  
Report on Special Committees

- Freedom for All Ireland
- Catholic Action
- Special Events
- Fundraising Activities

Financial Secretary, Receipts of the Meeting  
Report of the Treasurer  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Reading of Irish History  
Good and Welfare of the Order

- Report on Sick and Deceased

Adjournment Motion  
Closing Prayer  
Closing Ode  
Adjournment

## **OPENING OF A DIVISION MEETING**

Each Division shall determine the number necessary to constitute a quorum. If that number is present, they should be called to order at the appointed time to proceed with the business of the meeting. The presiding Officer will fill all vacancies with PRO-TEM Officers, who, however, will vacate the station they occupy if the regular officer enters.

*The President takes the podium, raps the gavel and orders the Sentinel to lock the door until the meeting is duly opened and says:*

**President: “The Division will now come to order. Officers will assume their respective stations.”**

*The Officers will take their positions indicated in the Diagram I (See Page 8) and invest themselves with their respective badges (medallions) of office.*

*The President then directs the Marshal to check membership credentials.*

**President: “The Marshal will check membership cards and ascertain if all present are duly qualified to remain.”**

*That officer performs his duty. If a member is without his valid and current card he will be sent to the Financial Secretary to ascertain if he is in good standing.*

*The Marshal then goes to the center of the hall (or approaches the podium) salutes the presiding officer by placing his right hand over his heart and reports:*

**Marshal: “Worthy President, I find all members to be in good standing, except (list names).....”**

*The President then raps the gavel, calls on the members to stand and requests the Chaplain to offer the Opening Prayer. In his absence, the President (or Officer or Member he designates) will perform this duty.*

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Chaplain or President: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. And in the name of St. Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, I open this meeting and beseech our Heavenly Father to watch over us and protect us. May He grant us that peace and harmony will always prevail among us, and that Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity will inspire all our deliberations, through Christ our Lord, Amen.”**

*Conclude with the “Our Father”, “Hail Mary” and the “Glory Be”.*

*Immediately after the Opening Prayer, the President then leads the Membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**All: “PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE”.**

*The Pledge of Allegiance is then followed by the singing of the Opening Ode, "O'Donnell Abu". (See Appendix for lyrics.)*

**President: "I now declare this meeting duly open for the transaction of such business as may properly be brought before it."**

*The President raps the gavel and invites all to be seated.*

**The President then proceeds with the balance of the Meeting Agenda commencing with the Roll Call of Officers.**

## **CLOSING OF MEETING**

*After the Adjournment Motion has been carried, the President raps the gavel and requests the Chaplain to lead the Closing Prayer and a Prayer for Vocations. (All stand.)*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Chaplain or President: "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And in the name of St. Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, I declare this meeting closed. Grant, O Lord, who makes the minds of the faithful to be of one will, that we, Thy people, may love what Thou has commanded, and desire what Thou has promised, and that amid the changes of the world our hearts may ever love and obey Thee, through Christ Our Lord, Amen."**

**Chaplain or President: "Let us pray for our deceased Brothers."**

*All say the "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and the "Glory Be".*

*Note: When the Charter has been draped at the meeting in memory of a recently deceased Brother, three "Hail Marys" are said instead of one.*

**Chaplain or President: "Eternal Rest Grant to them, O Lord."**

**Members: "And let perpetual light shine upon them."**

**Chaplain or President: "May they rest in peace."**

**Members: "Amen."**

### **PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS**

*Three Hail Mary's are said.*

**President: "Brothers, you are cautioned against speaking of anything that has transpired at this meeting to any but those who you know to be members in good standing and bound by the same fraternal ties of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."**

*The musician plays and the members sing the Closing Ode, "The Soldier's Song" (see the Appendix for lyrics) and the "Star Spangled Banner". At the conclusion, the President raps the gavel and says:*

**President: "This meeting now stands adjourned until our next regular meeting (date) except in the case of emergency, in which event, you will be duly notified."**

## **MODE OF RECEPTION OF NATIONAL, STATE, DISTRICT AND COUNTY OFFICERS**

At Division Meetings, when the Sentinel announces that a National, State, District, or County Officer or the President of a Division or the Deputy of a County President or a Past National, State, District, or County Officer or a Past President of a Division, is seeking admission and he is in good standing, the President shall rap the gavel. He shall call the members to stand. The Marshall shall proceed to the door with an aide to escort the visiting Officer to the center table where all will salute the presiding Officer.

The visitor will then be conducted down the right side of the room to the President's station where he will be received and seated by the President.

When a National Officer, State, or District Officer, a County President or a Past National Officer, Past State, or District Officers or a Past County President shall visit a Division in addition to the above, the musician of the Division will begin to play "O'Donnell Abu". When the door of the hall is opened, the music should continue playing as the President receives the visitor at the rostrum.

If the visiting Officer is present in the hall at the opening of the meeting the above procedure will be followed after the opening of the meeting.

Officers of superior jurisdictions are not entitled to receive this ceremonial reception at their own Division meetings or at the County Board of which they are members unless they first announce they are paying an official visit.

## **COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS**

### **SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR A COUNTY BOARD MEETING**

- Call to Order
- Checking of Credentials
- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Ode "O'Donnell Abu"
- Roll Call of County Officers
- Roll Call of Divisions (number of delegates from each)
- Reading of the Minutes of previous Meeting
- Report of Divisions (activities since last meeting, Fraternal Report on Sick and Deceased)
- Requests of Divisions (for permission to hold entertainment, dances, other public affairs using the name of the Order)

Communications and Correspondence  
Chaplain's Homily  
Officers' Reports  
Bills and Claims  
Reports of Committee  
Financial Secretary, Receipts of the Meeting  
Report of the Treasurer  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Reading of Irish History  
Good and Welfare of the Order  
Receipts and Expenditures  
Adjournment Motion  
Closing Prayer  
Closing Odes  
Adjournment

## **SECTION III. OFFICERS OF THE ORDER**

### **ELECTED OFFICER DUTIES**

#### **PRESIDENT**

- Preside at all meetings of the Order in their respective jurisdictions.
- Be the Executive Officer of the Order.
- Appoint Committees for the good and welfare of the Order and appoint members to said committees.
- Rule on questions of law under the constitution.
- Enforce the laws of the Order within their respective jurisdictions.
- Plan meetings and activities of the Order.
- Hold the Officers of their jurisdictions responsible for the activities entrusted to them.
- Sign all official documents and papers of the Order.
- Perform each other duties as are usually attached to the Office of President
- Make a report to the membership at Conventions and meetings.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

- Perform all duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
- Be responsible for advancing and promoting the Degree work of the Order.
- Be the Director of Junior Divisions.
- Report on Junior Divisions' activities at Conventions and meetings.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

- Notify members of all meetings of the body he serves
- Keep a record of the proceedings of the Order and Board meetings, and read those minutes at the following meeting. After minutes are read and approved at a meeting, they shall be made available for review by any member in good standing upon request. The copy and mailing cost shall be borne by the member making the request, and paid in advance. Minutes shall not be published on the internet. Minutes shall not be shared via email. Accurate minutes of the meetings shall be maintained and archived in a bound volume containing numbered pages.
- Countersign all lawful orders on the treasury.
- Notify applicants of their election and members of their suspension within one (1) week thereafter.
- Make detailed reports on all facts of the unit he serves to the County, State, District and National bodies on approved forms issued by the National Secretary.

- Carry out all duties according to the By-Laws and directed by the respective body he serves.

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

- Keep an accurate record of each member showing date proposed, date initiated and dates members received his Major Degrees. Also, ascertain if a new member is a military veteran and keep a record of all members who are military veterans.
- Collect all dues, fees, assessments and fines and keep an accurate record thereof on approved books and forms issued by the National Secretary.
- Pay to Treasurer all money collected at the close of each meeting.
- Keep an attendance record of all meetings.
- Make annual financial report

### **TREASURER**

- Be the custodian of all funds, bonds, securities and instruments held in the name of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, and deposit same for safe keeping in a bank or savings institution within ten (10) days after receipt in the appropriate name of the Order and unit thereof.
- Keep a record of all monies received and disbursed on approved forms and books furnished by the National Secretary.
- Pay no money except on voucher signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary on approved vouchers furnished by the National Secretary.
- Keep all vouchers for all disbursements
- Present a financial report of their respective jurisdictions at all meetings, or when ordered to do so by a higher authority.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**

- Be in charge of the Grievance Committee that tries all charges filed in writing against a member with the Recording Secretary of the Division. You act as the Chairman of the Arbitration Board to settle and adjust all disputes and grievances arising in the Division and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Division.

### **MARSHAL**

- Set up meeting room for Division Meetings.
- Assists the President in ascertaining that all members attending the meeting are members in good standing.



- Assist the President during the initiation of candidates, interrogates the candidates according to the ritual.
- Escorts candidates during the Shamrock Degree
- Escorts any visiting dignitaries to a place of honor in the hall
- Assists the President for miscellaneous activities

### **SENTINEL**

- Acts as the door keeper during meetings
- Ascertains that all members are in good standing as they seek entrance to the meeting
- Assists the Marshal during the order of the Shamrock Degree

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Nomination of Officers should be held at the time prescribed by the Division and State By-laws and the Election of Officers should be held at the next regular meeting.

On the day prescribed the Nomination of Officers is taken up when “New Business” is reached on the meeting agenda. The President shall state:

*President:* **“Brothers, under the heading of “New Business”, the Nomination of Officers for the ensuing term of Office is now in Order.”**

Nominations will then be made from the floor for each Officer of the Division in order in which the officers appear in the National Constitution; namely, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Standing (Grievance) Committee, Marshal, Sentinel and any other elected Officers which the Division may have under its own By-laws.

After a nomination is made for an office, the President will inquire three (3) times if there are any further nominations for the office named. If no further nomination is made, a motion is made to close the nominations for that office.

When the nominations are completed, the President will announce the names of all the Candidates.

At the meeting following the Nomination of Officers when the order of “New Business” is reached, the Election of Officers is taken up. The President shall state:

*President:* **“Brothers, under the heading of “New Business”, the Election of Officers for the ensuing Term of Office is now in order.”**

The President shall appoint two (2) tellers and a judge, who will distribute slips of blank paper prepared by the Recording Secretary. When the ballots have been distributed, the tellers shall procure the Division Ballot Box or some suitable receptacle in which to receive the ballots and place it on the center pedestal and take their places beside the pedestal.

*President:* **“Brothers the names of following Brothers are before you for the office of .....(names of nominees). Prepare your ballots, the Secretary will call the roll of all**

**members in good standing and as each name is called the brother will advance to the other side of the center pedestal, salute the President and cast his ballot.”**

The Marshal and two (2) or more assistants will line up members in a single file line as they approach the ballot box and direct them back to their seats.

When all members have voted for each office, the Secretary will ascertain the number present and the judge and tellers will ensure that the number of ballots cast corresponds with the eligible number of votes.

When the ballots are counted, the judge will announce the results. This procedure will continue in the election for each office.

In the event that there is a “No Contest” for an office, the President will direct the Recording Secretary to cast one (1) ballot for the Candidate, with that vote then being announced by the judge.

### **EMBLEMS AND SYMBOLS OF OFFICE**

The following shall be the official emblems of the Order and shall be used hereafter on the regalia of the respective Officers excepting as otherwise designated for Degree work.

The regalia (neck jewels, lapel pins/buttons, etc.) shall include a depiction of the Great Seal of the Order.

The Officer Medallions are to be worn suspended from the neck. National Officers wear a gold ribbon, State Officers a white ribbon, County Officers a green ribbon and Division Officers a blue ribbon. Past Officers may wear the medallion of the office formerly held by them on the same colored ribbon as is designated for the jurisdiction concerned, with a purple triangle where the ends of the ribbon meet immediately above the medallion.

All Officers should wear the medallions at all meetings, ceremonies and functions of the Order. Division Officers should wear them at meetings and particularly at initiations. They may be worn at formal dress affairs of the Order and should be worn at the wakes and funerals of deceased members.

## **SECTION IV. RITUALS OF THE ORDER**

### **IV.-A. INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

#### **INITIATORY PREAMBLE**

The ritualistic ceremonies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are designed:

1. *To provide a dignified and orderly method*
2. *To impress the members with the meaning and prepare them for the practice of the motto of the Order – FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY.*
3. *To awaken in them a pride in the Ancient Race of their Fathers and develop an interest in the history and destiny of that race.*
4. *To encourage them to live the ideals and practice the virtues which distinguished the Irish people from the earliest ages*
5. *To strengthen them in their faith, encourage them to practice the duties and be loyally observant of the precepts of the Catholic Church.*

For these purposes the ceremonies include:

1. The instruction on the “MOTTO OF THE ORDER”, also known as the Shamrock Degree, in which the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshall and Sentinel take part.
2. The Major Degree of the Order exemplified only by certified Major Degree Teams of the Order which include:
  - a. The “Degree of the Tower”
  - b. The “Degree of Harmony”
  - c. The “Degree of Patriotism”
  - d. The “Test of the Order”

If the Shamrock Degree is not conferred upon the candidates at the time of original admission into the Order at the initial Division meeting of entry, candidates should be advised of the next exemplification of the Shamrock Degree by the Division or directed to a county wide or regional exemplification of the Shamrock Degree at the earliest possible date.

The men giving the instruction and Lessons of the Shamrock Degree should be capable and well-prepared. The use of books and the reading of scripts spoils the ceremony and neutralizes the impression that is intended to be made on Candidate(s).

If the local Officers or members of a Division cannot go through the ceremonies without the use of books, it would be well to invite the officers of other Divisions who can fill the positions properly.

In the instruction, the President will preside and the Officers will hold their regular stations as in the diagram. (See Diagram 1).

## **PREPARATIONS FOR THE SHAMROCK DEGREE**

The four pedestals in front of the chairs of the officers should be draped with small banners with the following inscriptions:

*President – “Order, Obedience, Love:*

*Chairman of Standing Committee – “Friendship” (painted on a fountain base)*

*Vice President – “Unity” (painted on a rock)*

*Treasurer – “Christian Charity” (painted on a burning heart)*

*The center pedestal or table should be draped with a large green cloth with the Irish Harp (without the crown) embroidered or sewn on each corner.*

The Officers will wear their respective badges or emblems of office for the Initiation.

The Marshall will carry in his right hand an ancient broadsword and the Sentinel a spear or pike.

If possible, the candidates should be marched into the hall to the accompaniment of music, Irish marching airs should be played as the men are taken to each station. The Marshall should arrange for an escort to march with the candidates and they should be men of military bearing. If each man in the escort carries a spear or pike, it will make the procession of candidates and escort impressive and dignified.

## **THE SHAMROCK DEGREE**

When the order of business known as “Initiation” is reached, the President will instruct the Marshal (with an Escort) to retire and report if any candidates are in the anteroom. When the Marshal reports the names of all candidates awaiting initiation, he ascertains from the Recording Secretary if they have been duly accepted. If so, the President instructs him to retire and duly interrogate those seeking admittance.

*The Marshal in the anteroom asks the candidates the following questions:*

**What is your name?**

**Are you Irish by birth or descent?**

**Are you a practicing Roman Catholic?**

**Have you complied with your religious duties within the last twelve months?**

*If the Candidate(s) answers affirmatively, the Marshal (with the assistance of escort(s)) will line up the Candidate(s). He will strike sharply three times on the door.*

*Sentinel: “**Who demands entrance to our hall? “***

*Marshal: “**Men of our race who wish to enter the Inner chambers of the Hibernian brotherhood.”***

*Sentinel (addresses the Chair): “**The Marshal approaches with men of our race in his custody, who ask admittance to our Order.”***

*President: “**If the Marshal vouches for these men. as practicing Catholics of Irish birth or descent, you may admit them.”***

*Sentinel: “**Do you vouch for these men as practical Catholics of Irish birth or descent? “***

*Marshal: “**I do.”***

*Sentinel then opens the door and, led by Marshal, the Candidate(s) and their escort(s) march around the hall to the right while the members present rise to their feet. The candidates will be formed in a semi-circle in front of the President’s station.*

**President: “Candidates, you are requested to assure all present that your are eligible for admission to our noble Order. Answer the following questions truthfully on your honor as a man:**

**Have you approached Holy Communion at the proper time, as required by our Holy Mother, Church? "**

**Marshal: "Answer men."**

*If the question is answered in the affirmative, the President then proceeds:*

**President: "Sir(s), you are about to enter an Ancient brotherhood, which for centuries has labored to sustain the Catholic Church and to preserve the traditions of the Irish race. The motto of this Brotherhood is Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The Marshal will guide you to chosen Counselors, by whom you will be taught wisdom born of the experience of the Irish people. May the God of our fathers enable you to profit by their teaching. Marshal, conduct the candidates before the officer who has been chosen to instruct them in Friendship."**

*The Marshal marches the candidates and escorts around the hall, forming them in a semi-circle facing the Chairman of the Standing Committee; says:*

**Marshal : "Wise Chairman, I bring you candidates seeking wisdom at the Fount of Friendship."**

**Chairman of Standing Committee: "Strangers, it affords me pleasure to gratify your desire for knowledge. Friendship is an affection which prompts us to make the highest sacrifice for the person or the cause toward whom it moves. It begins in favorable acquaintance, grows with intimate association and ripens by continued exercise. Through it our members come to regard each other as brothers. We sympathize with one another in misfortune and assist one another in distress. Through kindly offices of friendship we promote each others welfare and prepare ourselves to meet every reasonable demand for the betterment and happiness of our members. Are you willing to embrace such a friendship? And will you be loyal to its obligations?"**

**Marshal: "Answer candidates."**

**Candidate(s): "Yes."**

**Chairman of Standing Committee: "Marshal, do the candidates you present now understand the meaning of Friendship?"**

**Marshal: "Answer, candidates."**

**Candidates: "Yes."**

**Chairman of Standing Committee:** “Candidates, proceed on your quest of knowledge, and may St. Patrick guide your footsteps. Marshal, conduct the candidates before the officer who has been chosen to instruct them in Unity.”

*Marshal marches the candidates and escorts around the hall and halts them in a semi-circle facing the Vice-President, says:*

**Marshal:** “Faithful Assistant to our Chief, I bring candidates instructed in Friendship, who desire to be taught the principle of Unity.”

**Vice-President:** “Unity, sirs, is a bond of strength to every person, to every enterprise and to every cause that aims to accomplish anything in this world. It is as controlling as the power that guides the stars in their courses. It is firm in resolution, steadfast in purpose, invincible in attack, impregnable in defense. Out of weakness it brings strength, out of despair hope, out of failure success. It is the inspiration of men and the greatness of nations. The Ancient Order of Hibernians aims to unite its members in sentiment, in purpose and in action. Are you willing to join with us in its bonds and be bound by its exalted precepts?”

**Marshal:** “Answer candidates.”

**Candidates:** “Yes.”

**Vice-President:** “Candidates, qualified in Friendship and Unity, you may seek the third element in the bond of Hibernianism. May St. Finbarr’s missionary spirit inspire you. Marshal, conduct the candidates before the officer who has been chosen to instruct them in Christian Charity.”

*Marshal marches the candidates and escorts around the hall and halts them, in a semi-circle facing the Treasurer, says:*

**Marshal:** “Worthy custodian of the property of our brotherhood, I bring candidates qualified in Friendship and Unity, who desire to be instructed in Charity.”

**Treasurer:** “Charity comes from God Himself; from the Sacred Heart ever throbbing with love for mankind. Divine Charity created man, forgave him when he sinned, sent to his aid the only sacrifice which could win redemption. Charity is divine love filling the universe with inspiration and with hope. Charity is the golden key which will open the entrance to the home of true happiness. Charity of thought, act and word, is the third link of our great motto. Charity is the essence of fraternal love. Will you cultivate it in your hearts and extend it to Irishmen of every class in every land?”

Candidates: **“Yes.”**

*Treasurer:* **“Gentlemen, you are now in possession of the knowledge without which you could not be worthy members of our Order. I now clothe you in the mantle of Charity. (The Treasurer places the badge on the breast of each candidate, if a badge or emblem is not used the Treasurer should touch each candidate lightly on the HEART with the palm of his hand) I pronounce you ready to take the solemn pledge of our brotherhood. May the blessing of St. Columbkille abide with you.”**

*Treasurer:* **“Marshal, conduct the Candidate(s) before our President, who will administer to them the obligation that binds us together in the bonds of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. “**

*Marshal marches the Candidate(s) and escort(s) around the hall, halting them in front of the presiding Officer’s pedestal, facing the President.*

*Marshal:* **“Respected President, Chieftain of our Division, I have returned from the path of knowledge bringing with me these pilgrim Candidate(s) who have heard and understood the lessons contained in our noble motto of “Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity”, and are now prepared to take the pledge of membership.”**

*President:* **“Gentlemen, I welcome you. It is necessary that I should remind you before giving our obligation that if you entertain any mental reservation regarding any part of the pledge you are about to take; if you are actuated by any unworthy motive in joining our society; if you nurture in your heart(s) bitterness, hate or malice against any worthy member of our Order, it is your duty to proceed no further. If, however, you fully appreciate the true spirit of “Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity” and are pure in mind and heart, you are entitled, to seek admittance here. Candidate(s), if you take our obligation, will you be loyal in letter and spirit? Answer.”**

Candidates: **“Yes.”**

**All members stand to take the oath together. (This gesture connects all members as true brothers and reaffirms to each member the commitment to the Order.**

*President:* **“Gentlemen, place your right hand over your heart and repeat aloud after me the following pledge:**



## ST. PATRICK'S PLEDGE

I, *(State your name)* do declare and promise / that I will keep inviolate all the secrets of the Ancient Order of Hibernians / from all, but those, whom I know to be members in good standing, except the Roman Catholic clergy, / and that I will support the Constitution and By-laws of this organization to the best of my ability.

That I will be true and steadfast to the brethren of this organization, / dedicated to St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, / and that I will duly conform myself to the dictates of my legally elected officers in all things constitutional and lawful.

That I will not provoke or quarrel with any of my brethren. / If a brother should be defamed, or be treated unjustly, / I will espouse his cause, / give him the earliest possible advice / and aid him when in distress.

I also promise that I will not propose / nor assist in admitting / any person of a bad or suspicious character; / and that I will at all times be zealous for the interests of this organization, / and will not knowingly wrong a brother.

That I will not countenance by my presence / nor support any performance / that may reasonably be interpreted / as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people, / whether in public or in private, / in song, recitation or story, / on the stage or on the screen.

That I will ever be true to the Constitution of my country / and will combat any and all attempts / that would tend to destroy its spirit.

All this I pledge my sacred word and honor to do and perform.

*The President will ask the initiated members to drop their hands*

*President:* "You brothers, having made this promise of your own free will, I hereby declare you, each and all, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and 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. I will now give you the information as necessary for you to gain admittance to a meeting already in progress."

*President continues:* "Give two raps at the hall door. When the Sentinel opens the door, tell him your name and if you have a current dues card. Upon admittance, advance to the center of the hall; salute the presiding officer by placing the right hand over the heart and bending the head slightly forward. Should the President be engaged, turn and salute the Vice-President at the opposite end of the hall. DO NOT take your place until either officer recognizes your salute. Should you desire to cross the hall during the session, rise in your place, and addressing the President, ask permission; and passing between the center of the hall and the Vice-President, salute the President and go where you desire. The space between the Presidents station and the center table is never to be crossed during the meeting. Should you wish to leave, rise in your place, ask permission to retire, and when permission is

**granted, advance to the center of the hall, salute the presiding officer and depart. The salute when entering is a renewal of your obligation to be obedient to your officers in all things lawful; the salute when retiring is repledging yourself to respect your Vow of Silence regarding all transactions at the meeting.”**

*The President informs the newly initiated members that they will regularly receive the National Hibernian Digest and presents them with a copy of the National Constitution and By-laws.*

**President: “I trust our future acquaintance will prove that we have secured in you a true brother and our Order a loyal member. Brothers, please face the Division.”**

*The President strikes sharply with the gavel.*

**President: “Brothers; I have much pleasure in introducing our newly pledged brothers who have learned the Lesson of the Motto.”**

**The Marshal repeats the name of each new member before he takes his seat.**

**Note: The Division should arrange to have a musician member play Irish marching tunes when the Candidate(s) are marched in and out of the hall and when the Treasurer is giving the emblem to the Candidate(s). Martial music gives an extra touch to the initiating ceremony and leaves a lasting impression on the Candidate(s) and members.**

## **MAJOR DEGREE OF THE ORDER**

Divisions and County Boards are encouraged to host Major Degree of the Order ceremonies or join with other jurisdictions in coordinating regional Major Degree ceremonies at such time as when a sufficient number of new initiates to the Order have accrued within the ranks of the Division. The Division Vice President is responsible for promoting the Major Degree within the Division. A list of certified Major Degree Teams capable of exemplifying the Major Degrees is available on the National AOH website, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com) or can be provided by the National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees.

The schedule of exemplifications of Major Degree of the Order ceremonies is published on both the National AOH website and in the Hibernian Digest.

## **IV.-B. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

The ceremony of Installation of Division Officers is also used for the installation of Officers of higher jurisdictions – National, State, County and District. The Installing Officer will just substitute the necessary jurisdiction, whenever the word “Division” is used, e.g. “Order” for National, “State”, etc.

The County President (or a brother deputized by him) is the installing Officer in the Division jurisdiction.

The Installation of Officers should be an impressive and dignified ceremony – a gala celebration with full attendance of Division members.

The use of Degree robes or of formal evening clothes will enhance the ceremony. If robes are used, they should be worn by the County President, his Sentinel, and two (2) Marshals.

For Counties with multiple Divisions, a single county-wide installation ceremony can be considered and is encouraged.

### **PUBLIC INSTALLATION**

If a Division desires, a public installation is in order.

At a public Installation, the use of the sign is prohibited. The Officer being installed should simply bow his head to the presiding Officer and receive a like salutation in return.

At all installations, patriotic American and Irish airs should be played.

The following program is suggested:

1. The President or another member of the Division should open the session with a short address on the aims and objectives of the Order and its historic background.
2. Introduction of public figures (mayors, etc.) who have been invited.
3. An address by a guest speaker followed by Irish music and songs
4. Address by the Chaplain
5. Installation
6. After the installation ceremonies, it will be appropriate to have short addresses by the Installing Officer, the newly installed President and visiting Officers.
7. **NOTE: Songs or recitations caricaturing the Irish people are not allowed at any Hibernian function.**

### **PREPARATIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

The sponsoring Division can facilitate the proceedings by having the following at hand:

1. A gavel.

2. A copy of the AOH FORM 9, Election of Officers, listing the name of the newly elected Officers properly filled out.
3. The eight (8) appropriate medallions of the office prepared in sequence on a convenient table: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, Chairman of Standing (Grievance) Committee, Marshal and Sentinel.

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY PROPER**

One of two options may be selected for the installation of Officers. Certain elements of the ceremony are identical for each option; namely, the Opening and the Closing. After the Common Installation Opening, the Installing Officer will select one of the two option methods for installation available and proceed as indicated below. Both options then conclude with the Common Installation Closing.

**COMMON INSTALLATION OPENING**

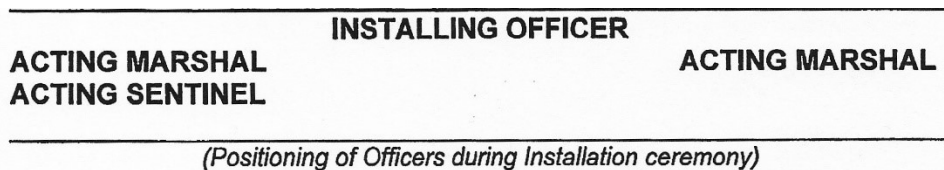
*Division President calls his Marshal and assistant to escort County President to the rostrum.*

*All three stop in the center of the floor and salute the Division President who salutes in return. The Marshal and assistant return to seat after County President mounts rostrum.*

President: **“I surrender the gavel as a symbol of the Unity of the Division with the County and in recognition of the superior jurisdiction.”**

Recording Secretary: **“I present the official list of the duly elected Officers of .....(name) Division.”** *(hands list to County President)*

*County President raps gavel and calls on Acting Marshals and Acting Sentinel to take their stations. (The Division Sentinel takes a seat.)*



**CEREMONY**

County President calls the names of the Officers-elect from the official list,

*Installing Officer shall then proceed with either Installation Option A. or B.*

**OPTION A. – STRAIGHT LINE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

*County President calls the names of the Officers-elect from the official list starting with the Sentinel.*



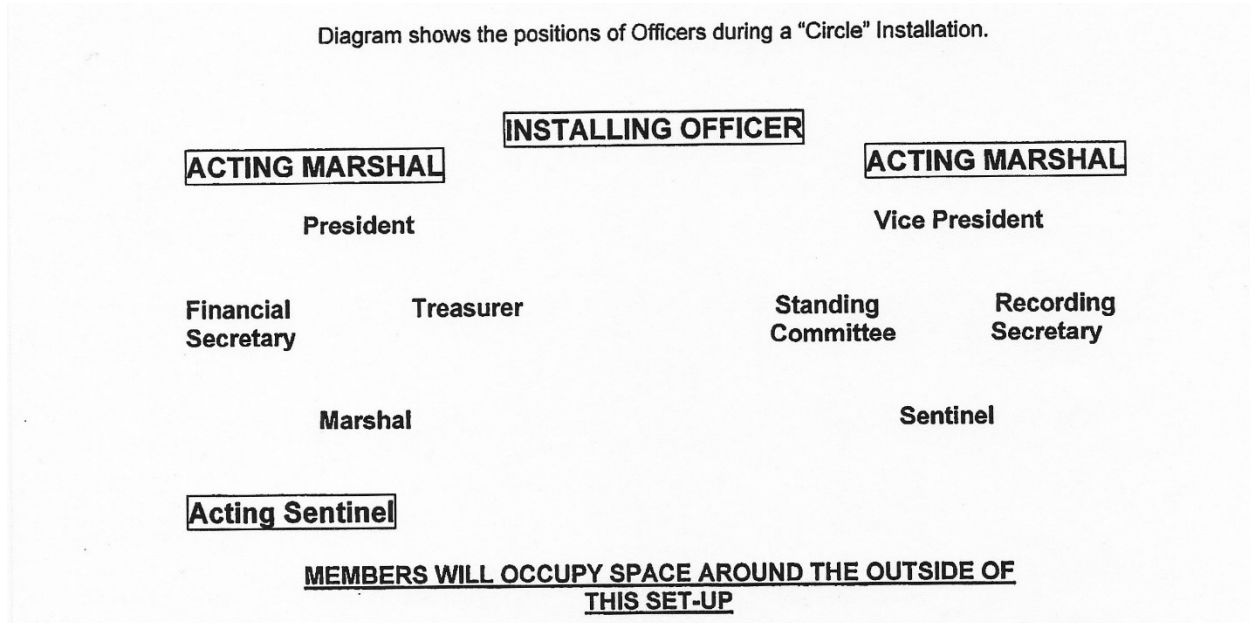
**OPTION B. – CIRCLE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

*County President calls the names of the Officers-elect from the official list starting with the Sentinel.*

*Sentinel will rise in his place and wait until the Marshals escort him to the center of the floor facing the rostrum. All salute the Installing Officer.*

*Sentinel is then escorted to the position shown in Diagram Option B.*

**DIAGRAM INSTALLATION OPTION B – CIRCLE**



*As each subsequent Officer's name is called in turn, he will rise in his place. The same procedure will be followed as in the Sentinel's case.*

*After the salute, he will be escorted to the positions shown in one of the two crosses.*

*The County President shall rap the gavel when all are properly positioned facing inward and forming two crosses.*

**County President: "Brother members, please form a circle around your Officers. Marshals please supervise. Officers, clasp your right hand with the Officer opposite you, thus forming two crosses on the floor. Place your left hand on your heart. Your Brothers will bind you in this endless circle."**

*Members form a large circle around the Officers-elect with arms interlocked, hand touching each other's shoulder.*

**County President: "Across from north to south, from east to west, Hibernian friendship extends. In the figure of the cross, you stand faithful children of the true Church, of which the cross is the holy emblem. With clasped hands you unite in earnest resolve to work for the**

interest of the.....(name) Division. With hand on heart, you pledge your support for the principles of our motto: "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity." Around you is the circle of true brotherhood, which will be loyal as long as you deserve the confidence now reposed in you. The cross is the sign of your faith, and the circle is typical of the loyalty of our people of the Holy Church."

*The Installing Officer will then proceed with Installation Ceremony – Common Elements portion of the proceedings as per below.*

## **INSTALLATION CEREMONY - COMMON ELEMENTS CLOSING**

### **OFFICERS DUTIES**

*County President:* "The duties of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal and Sentinel shall be as described in the appropriate Section of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Constitution, Article X.

*He continues:* "Certain Officers are required to give reports at each Division meeting; the Marshall and Sentinel are responsible for decorum at meetings. All Officers must surrender to their successors (or to those duly authorized to receive them) properties, funds and records of the Division at the expiration of their term, or when directed to do so by their superior Officers.

"If any Officer can not attend (or will be late for) a meeting, he should try to contact the President or another Officer. It is the duty of all Officers to attend the meetings of the Order, .....(name) County Board and the A.O.H.....(name) State Board to enable such bodies to function properly."

"Brothers, you have been selected the chosen ones among your fellows to guide and inspire this Division by example and word. Your official positions are simple, yet onerous, because on the performance of your duties depends the future welfare of the body for which you are now responsible. To appreciate the gravity of your position, it is necessary to bind you by a solemn obligation."

*The gavel is rapped.*

### **OBLIGATION**

*County President:* "I,.....(name) do hereby solemnly promise / to support and obey the Constitution, Ritual and By-laws of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, / and to yield obedience to my superiors in all things constitutional and lawful;/ to cause the same laws / to be obeyed and respected by those under my control, / and to faithfully and impartially administer the same.

**I furthermore solemnly promise / that I will surrender to my successors, / or to those duly authorized to receive them, / all properties and monies belonging to the .....(name) Division / that may be in my possession / at the expiration of my term of office, / or when directed to do so by my superior Officers; / and that I discharge the duties of my office / to the best of my ability.”**

*The gavel is rapped.*

### **INVESTITURE**

*The County President holds up two medallions and says:*

**“These medallions are the emblems of office and should be worn by the officers at all Division meetings, Communion Breakfasts, Requiem Masses and other Division functions. They may also be worn at formal dress affairs of the Order.”**

*The County President leaves the rostrum and invests each Officer with his emblem of office, starting with the Division President. (A Marshal may assist by handing over the medallions in the proper order.)*

**“I invest you as Division.....(name of office) with the emblem of your office.”**

*He continues with each Officer until all are invested.*

*The County President returns to the rostrum and raps the gavel.*

**“Officers, you have taken the obligation of office; be true to it and your administration will be a success. Your Brother members look to you for leadership; do not prove unworthy of their trust. You worthy President are the chief; remember that you must set the standards by which your associates will be guided.”**

**“Brother Members, your officers are installed, I ask you to give them your cordial support and co-operation during their term of office.”**

**“Please rise and pledge your support and obedience to the constitution of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and these, your Officers of .....(name) Division.”**

**“Raise your right hand and say after me, “I so pledge.””**

*The gavel is rapped.*

### **OFFICERS ASSUME STATIONS**

*County President: “Marshals will escort the new Division Officers to their stations, starting with the Sentinel, Marshal, etc.”*

*After the President is escorted to the rostrum, the Marshals return to the original stations facing the rostrum.*



*County President:* **“Worthy President, I hand you the gavel of authority, use it with justice, patience and charity. May the God of St. Patrick inspire your work; may the apostle of our race bless your efforts.”**

#### **IV.-C. DECEASED MEMBER RITUALS**

Rituals available to be performed at the wake of a deceased member with permission of the family of the deceased.

##### **RITUAL AT WAKE OF MEMBER - OPTION A.**

*Procedure: When members of a Division pay their last respects at the wake of a deceased brother, the Division Chaplain or a member designated will recite the following prayer before the casket.*

*Chaplain (or presiding Officer)* **“In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit and in honor of St. Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, we, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, grieving the loss of our Brother (name of deceased) who during life was joined with us in the bonds of Friendship, Unity, & Christian Charity, come to him in death, to offer our prayers for the happy repose of his soul and to look upon him for the last time, trusting that he has passed to his eternal reward happy in the consolation of the Faith of his Fathers and believing that we shall meet again beyond the vale of tears, when we shall join him in Heaven, the place of the blessed, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”**

**“Grant O Lord this mercy to Your servant departed, that he who in his desires did Your will, may not receive the punishment of his misdeeds: and that as true faith hath joined him to the company of the faithful here below. Your mercy may make him the companion of the holy angels in heaven through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Chaplain:* **“Eternal rest grant to him O Lord.”**

*Members:* **“And let perpetual light shine upon him.”**

*(Followed by a least one decade of the rosary.)*

*Chaplain:* **“May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen.”**

##### **RITUAL AT WAKE OF MEMBER – OPTION B.**

*Chaplain (or Presiding Officer):* **“In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

**“Dear Friends and Brothers, we gather today to pray for our brother, \_\_\_\_\_, who has gone before us in faith. He has passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus who**

died and rose to new life. Purified now of his faults, we pray that God may welcome him among all the Saints of Heaven. Repeat after me: “

“Lord have mercy.” ..... (r) “Lord have mercy.”

“Christ have mercy.” ..... (r) “Christ have mercy.”

“Lord have mercy.” ..... (r) “Lord have mercy.”

“Our response will be: Pray for him.”

“Holy Mary, Mother of God.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Saint Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Saint Brigid.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Saint Columcille.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Saint Oliver Plunkett.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Saint (name of deceased's Patron Saint)” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“All the Saints and Martyrs of Heaven.” ..... (r) “Pray for him.”

“Our response will be: Lord hear us.”

“Christ pardon all his faults.” ..... (r) “Lord hear us.”

“Christ remember the good he has done.” ..... (r) “Lord hear us.”

“Christ receive him into eternal life.” ..... (r) “Lord hear us.”

“Christ comfort all who mourn.” ..... (r) “Lord hear us.”

*Chaplain:* “With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption, let us pray to our heavenly Father in the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father, etc.”

“As he hung upon the cross, Jesus gave us Mary as His Mother, let us join all generations to call her Blessed. Hail Mary, etc.”

“The Good Shepherd leads us to lasting life; let us praise the love that has saved us. Glory be to the Father, etc.”

*Chaplain:* “Let us pray. Almighty God and Father, by the mystery of the Cross, You have made us strong; by your resurrection, you have sealed us as Your own, look kindly upon your servant, \_\_\_\_\_ who during life joined us in the bonds of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.”

“We, the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, offer our prayers for the happy repose of his soul. Now that he has passed to his eternal reward happy in the consolation of his faith and trusting in Your infinite mercy, count him among Your Saints in Heaven.”

“We believe your promise to prepare a place for us. Join us all together again beyond this vale of tears in Tir na n'Og, the place of the blessed, and make us companions of the Holy Angels and Saints in Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

*Chaplain:* **“Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord.”**

*Members:* **“And let perpetual light shine upon him.”**

*Chaplain:* **“May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”**

**“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

## **MEMORIAL FOR DECEASED MEMBER AT MEETING**

The following is a simple but touching ceremony and if carried out properly is very impressive and is a nice tribute to a deceased member.

At the Division meeting following the death, the Marshal will place the Division Charter on a chair or other stand immediately in front of the President’s pedestal.

When “New Business” is reached the President makes the announcement giving details, and makes a few appropriate remarks. A member, preferably a personal friend of the deceased, should then rise and, addressing the chair, deliver a short eulogy. The Charter of the Division is then draped.

### **DRAPING OF THE CHARTER**

The Marshal should station himself at the rear of the hall with two (2) escorts carrying pikes. The President raps the gavel and all shall rise.

The musician should then play “Nearer My God to Thee” and the Marshal carrying a black drape on his arm, escorts with pikes reversed should slowly march to the President’s station and salute him. The escorts should stand facing each other on either side of the Charter while the Marshal drapes it. The President raps the gavel and the members resume their seats.

When the prayers are offered at the end of the meeting, three (3) “Hail Mary’s” should be recited instead of the usual one. After a few seconds wait, the Marshal (with escort(s)) salutes.

## **APPENDIX**

### **AOH NATIONAL ADDRESS AND WEBSITE**

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.  
P. O. Box 539  
West Caldwell, NJ 07007  
Website: [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com)  
Facebook Page: "Ancient Order of Hibernians in America"

### **THE NATIONAL HIBERNIAN DIGEST**

Official Publication of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.  
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Email Address: [editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com](mailto:editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: 87-30 256<sup>th</sup> Street, Floral Park, NY 11001  
Phone No: (646) 436-0811

### **IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES**

January 30 – Anniversary of Bloody Sunday 1972  
February 1 – Feast of St. Brigid  
March – Irish American Heritage Month  
March 17 – Feast of St. Patrick  
April 23 – Anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf and the Death of Brian Boru  
April 24 – Anniversary of the Easter Rising (Often celebrated on Easter Monday)  
May 4 – Anniversary of the Founding of the AOH  
June 9 – Feast of St. Columbkil  
August 21 – Feast of Our Lady of Knock  
September 13 – Commodore John Barry Day  
November 21 – Anniversary of Bloody Sunday 1920

## O'Donnell Abu

Proudly the note of the trumpet is sounding,  
Loudly the war cries arise on the gale,  
Fleetly the steed by Lough Swilly is bounding,  
To join the thick squadron in Saimer's green vale.  
On every mountaineer, Strangers to fight and fear,  
Rush to the standard of dauntless Red Hugh.  
Bonnacht and Gallowglass,  
Throng from each mountain pass,  
On for Old Erin – O'Donnell Abu!

Princely O'Neill to our aid is advancing  
With many a chieftain and warrior clan  
A thousand proud steeds in his vanguard are prancing  
'Neath the borders brave from the banks of the Bann  
Many a heart shall quail under its coat of mail  
Deeply the merciless foeman shall rue  
When on his ear shall ring, borne on the breeze's wing  
Tirconnell's dread war cry "O'Donnell Abu!"

Wildly o'er Desmond the war wolf is howling  
Fearless the eagle sweeps over the plain  
The fox in the streets of the city is prowling  
And all who would scare them are banished or slain  
On with O'Donnell, then, fight the old fight again  
Sons of Tirconnell are valiant and true  
Make the proud Saxon feel Erin's avenging steel  
Strike for your country, O'Donnell Abu!

## **The Irish National Anthem “A Soldier’s Song”**

We’ll sing a song, a soldier’s song,  
With cheering rousing chorus,  
As round our blazing fires we throng,  
The starry heavens o’er us;  
Impatient for the coming fight,  
And as we wait the morning light,  
Here in the silence of the night,  
We’ll chant a Soldier’s Song.

### **Chorus**

**Soldiers are we, whose lives are pledged to Ireland  
Some have come from a land beyond the wave.  
Sworn to be free, no more our ancient sire land  
Shall shelter the despot or the slave  
Tonight we man the gap of danger  
In Enin’s cause come woe or weal  
Mid cannons’ roar and rifles peal  
We’ll chant a soldier’s song**

In the valley green, on towering crag,  
Our fathers fought before us,  
And conquered ‘neath the same old flag  
That’s proudly floating o’er us.  
We’re children of a fighting race,  
That never yet has known disgrace,  
And as we march, the foe to face,  
We’ll chant a Soldier’s Song.

### **Chorus**

Sons of the Gael! Men of the Pale!  
The long watched day is breaking;  
The serried ranks of Inisfail  
Shall set the Tyrant quaking.  
Our camp fires now are burning low;  
See in the east a silv’ry glow,  
Out yonder waits the Saxon foe,  
So chant a Soldier’s Song.

### **Chorus**

## IRISH LANGUAGE PRAYERS

### Sign of the Cross

In ainm an Athar  
agus a Mhic  
agus a spioraid Naoimh  
Aimen

### The Lord's Prayer

(In Irish)

As Gaeilge:

Ár nAthair atá neamh  
Go naofar d'ainm  
Go dtaga do ríocht  
Go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh  
Mar a dheantar ar neamh  
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu  
agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha  
Mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúnaithe féin  
agus ná lig sinn i gcathú  
ach saor sinn ó olc  
Óir is leatsa an ríocht  
agus an chumhacht  
agus an ghlóir  
Trí shaol na saol

### The Hail Mary

(In Irish)

As Gaeilge:

Sé do bheatha, a Mhuire,  
atá lán do ghrásta  
tá an Tiarna leat  
Is beannaithe thú idir mná  
agus is beannaithe toradh do bhroinne, Íosa  
A Naomh-Mhuire, a Mháthair Dé  
Guigh orainn na peacaigh, anois  
Agus ar uair ár mbáis, Aimen.