

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Joseph Duelk Jr. Division 1 OC

Next Meeting Friday June 12th, 7:30PM

DIVISION 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June Monthly Meeting -----Friday, 12th, 2015 7:30PM

JosephDuelk Mass-----Sunday, June 14th, 2015, 12:00PM

Celtic Festival at Palaia Vineyards -----Saturday, 20th, 2015 12:00PM

NYS Convention, Uniondale, NY---Wednesday, 8th-11th, 2015 11:00AM

President's Message

Greetings Brothers,

I hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for summer, presuming the cold rain we are experiencing as I write this ever stops and the sun comes back out! We do need the rain though and once again, God provides for us when we need him!

Our next general meeting will be on Friday, June 12th, 2015. Please come out to the meeting and get updated on upcoming events!

During May, we lost a great Hibernian in Jack Breheney, Jr. We had a great turnout at his wake, and gave him an honor guard at his Mass in Washingtonville. I thank all our Brothers who attended to pay our respects, as did his family in their conversations with me during a gathering at the Hall held in his honor after his funeral services. As a Charter Member and a Division Life Member, his contributions to this Division will never be forgotten. Our Division is named after Jack's first cousin, Joseph Duelk, Jr., and we will be draping the Charter which bears Joe's name in honor of Jack's memory at the June meeting. Another great reason to attend and pay tribute to a great Hibernian. May Jack, and all our Faithfully Departed Brethren, through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace.

Our Bethel Woods Raffle was a huge success again this year, raising a goodly sum of money for the Division which has been deposited in our charity and operating accounts. Thanks to all the Brothers and friends of the Division who bought tickets and a big congratulations to a well-deserving winner, our own Food Bank Chairman Martin Hogan.

Another great event held in May was a fund raiser for Brother Dennis Griffin's children. As many know, Dennis' beloved wife Helene passed on after a courageous battle with cancer. This fundraiser, conceived of and wonderfully executed by Brother Kevin Strommer, the Grand Knight of the Washingtonville Knights of Columbus, along with help from a number of people including most notably Kate Moloney of the Ladies AOH, was held to raise funds for his three beautiful daughter's education. Proud to say our Division was ably represented and in particular a shout-out to Brothers Rob Ronayne and Chris DeBold, who gave up their afternoon and evening to assist with the security of the event along with yours truly. I am equally proud to note that as the three of us manned the Beer Truck, this was among the safest and most secure places on the whole grounds!

Sunday, June 14th will be the Joseph Duellk Mass at St. Mary's Church in Washingtonville. Assembly at 11:40 for a 12 Noon Mass and Wreath Laying to follow at Joe's grave. Collation at the Hall thereafter. June 14th is the day Joe fell in Vietnam, so please attend Mass with us, to remember and honor Joe's sacrifice for his Country.

Saturday, June 20th is the Celtic Festival at Palaia Vineyards in Highland Mills, Route 32. Come out and support this event! We also need volunteers to sell entry tickets and help the Division sell 50/50 raffles to benefit the OC AOH and all the Divisions. Please attend the June Meeting and let the Board know if you can help that day. See the attached flyer for more details.

Long Range Planning:

July 8th to the 11th - NYS Convention, Uniondale, NY

September 19th - County Picnic at Division 2, Cornwall

October 18th - OC AOH Communion Breakfast at Sacred Heart Chapel, 9:30 AM, Breakfast at the Hall to follow, Division 4 Hosting

Remember, the Celtic Lounge is open for your visitation Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings and on the weekends, with 8 beers on tap, uncounted hundreds of choices in bottles (OK, perhaps its only a dozen, but who really counts these things...), a fine selection of spirits, hot snacks (always available if hunger pangs visit you) and great craic. Stop by and help support our Division by your presence. And, throw a dollar in the Food Bank and help our local community, or bring a toiletry to place in the collection box in the Lounge and support our Ladies AOH

Junior Division in their efforts to help homeless Veterans in Orange County (see details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

In Our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

George
George W. Anderson
President, OC AOH Division 1

GOOD WILL AND WELFARE

Please remember Brendan O' Dowd, Jack Breneny, Mary Comiskey, Dennis P. Browne in your prayers for an increase in his health.

It is with sadness I must report the passing of a great Hibernian Jack Breheney, Jr. Jack was a Division Life Member and key figure in the early days of the Division.

Play on, invisible harps, unto Love,
Whose way in heaven is aglow
At that hour when soft lights come and go, Soft sweet music in the air above
And in the earth below.

Important Dates/Events

Please note the following upcoming events:

Celtic Festival

Saturday, June 20th is the Celtic Festival at Palaia Vineyards in Highland Mills, Route 32. Come out and support this event! We need volunteers to sell tickets, sell 50/50 raffles to benefit the OC AOH and all the Divisions, and we need two young men interested in making \$50 to work the parking lot. Please see the sign up sheet at the May Meeting.

Joseph Duelk Mass

Sunday, June 14th will be the Joseph Duelk Mass at St. Mary's Church in Washingtonville. Assembly at 11:40 for a 12 Noon Mass and Wreath Laying to follow at Joe's grave. Collation at the Hall thereafter. Please support this event, a remember Joe's sacrifice for his Country.

by Marty Hogan

CELTIC PARK
A Training Ground for Olympic Champions

In 1898, before there was a NO. 7 train, a Queens Boulevard or a Queensboro Bridge to get across the East River, a group of Irish immigrants purchased a nine-acre plot of farmland on what is not the Sunnyside-Woodside border and built what would become a world renowned stadium and a training ground for Olympic champions.

They named their stadium "Celtic Park" after a stadium built by Irish immigrants in Glasgow, Scotland in 1888,(today the home of the Celtic Football Club). The Celtic Park stadium in Queens quickly became a meeting place for New York's Irish immigrant community, and the home of the Irish-American Athletic Club. From 1900 to 1924, members of the club won 55 Olympic medals for the United States at seven Olympic Games. In the 1908 Olympic Games in London, the Irish American Athletic Club members were one-sixth of the U.S. Olympic team, but they won half of the 24 gold medals awarded to the Americans that year.

Celtic Park was originally intended as a venue for the ancient Irish games of Gaelic football and hurling, but it also served as a track and field for competitions under the auspices of the amateur Athletic Union, the governing body of amateur sports in the U. S... National and world record frequently were set or broken at Celtic Park, sometimes only to be broken again within days of weeks. From 1902-1912, Celtic Park hosted six A.A.U. All-Around Championships, the predecessor of the modern day decathlon. It was at Celtic Park that Native American Jim Thorpe, one of the greatest American athletes of the 20th Century, qualified for the 1912 Olympic Games and won his All-Around Championship that same year.

The Irish-American Athletic Club was formed in part as a response to the more established New York Athletic Club's reluctance to accept recent immigrants as members. The symbol these men proudly wore to competition was a "Winged Fist" adorned with American flags and shamrocks, in contrast with the rival New York Athletic Club's "Winged Foot" Between 1904 and 1916, the I.AAC won ten National Outdoor Track and Field team championship titles and seven National Indoor titles, while individual athletes of the Winged Fist club won 81 National Outdoor titles.

In addition to serving as prime leisure destination for the Irish Diaspora in New York, Celtic Park also served as a venue for fundraising. It was here the clandestine Clan-na-Gael, a group dedicated to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland, raised tens of thousands of dollars to fund the 1916 Easter Rebellion, which eventually led to the creation of the Republic of Ireland. And in the bloody wake of the rebellion, it was at Celtic Park that the Irish community came together to grieve, and raise funds to send home for Irish relief.

This article was taken from the Daily News article written by Ian McGowan M.A. Mr. McGowan has dedicated part his research to honor those Irish-immigrants who contributed so much to the American Olympic teams.