



IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COUNTY WILL

Volume 25 Issue 1

June 2006

GOLF OUTING

A full day of fun has been planned for the 2006 Shilelagh Open Golf outing to be held on September 10, 2006 at the Inwood Golf Course on Joliet's West Side.

A hole in one contest, and several prizes for the longest drive and closest to the pin will be featured. The golf package includes golf cart, lunch at the turn and a steak dinner and prizes at the end of the day, all for \$ 90.00.

Contact Chairmen Al Klausmeier (815) 741-1151 for reservations, tee times and questions.

Sponsors –

Alternately, please consult the Society's web site at www.CountyWillIrish.org



Bob O'Reilly, Jim Albritton and Hon. Jack McGuire prepared to tee off at last year's Shilelagh open.

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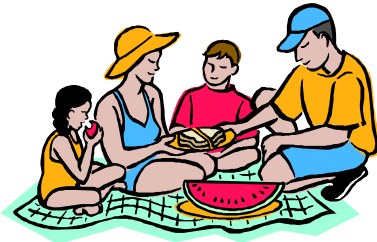
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Dates to Remember

- July 17 Board Meeting
- Aug 13 Society Picnic
- August 21 Board Meeting
- Sept 10 Golf Outing
- Sept 20 Board Meeting
- Oct 18 Board Meeting
- Nov ?? Awards Dinner
- Nov 15 Board Meeting
- Dec 20 Board Meeting
- March 2-3 2007 Manhattan Irish Fest !

SOCIETY PICNIC

Mark your calendars now for the IASCW Annual Picnic. Sunday August 13 beginning at 1:00 pm. The Manhattan Park District Central Park will play host this year to the Society's Annual Family Picnic. The site of the Society's Manhattan Irish Fest will serve as the venue for this year's picnic. President Coley O'Connell will serve as the contact for reservations



This year the fare will be hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. Those who attend are asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert, as well as their own drinks. The Society will provide the meats, salads and sodas.

The day will begin with an rugby scrimmage at 1:00, with food being served around 2:00. Brandon Lipke will host a fishing tournament at the park's pond, and inflatables and kids games are planned.

This year, the Society Picnic returns to Manhattan's Central Park. The last time it was held there was in 1988, the year of the drought. That Sunday, in the middle of July, was the only time it rained in the area all summer.

The Society is providing most of the food, and trimmings, but we will need to know how much to order, so we are asking you to make a reservation. Please call Coley O'Connell at Lincolnway East High School at 815 464-7117 with the number in your party who will attend.

Please plan on attending this event, and don't forget to make your reservations with Coley before August 10.

IRISH FEST UPDATE

All of the trash has been picked up, and green grass grows where there once was snow. All of the bills have been paid and the final numbers are in!

Through the work of countless volunteers, the 2006 Manhattan Irish Fest raised \$ 30,000.00 !

This amazing amount of money is to be spread among many not for profit associations in the area. Although the Society keeps a good percentage of the profits, significant sums of the profits will go to the Manhattan Park District Foundation, The Manhattan Fire and Police Departments, The Shamrock Rugby Club, the Manhattan Morrigans Rugby club, the Lincolnway High School Rugby Club, as well as the Society's Irish Way Scholarship fund.

Chairman Coley O'Connell has already been busy planning for Irish Fest '07. "We are looking at some different groups to perform, expanding the very successful "Snug" entertainment tent, and bringing back the Cultural Area to the festival. Irish Fest '07 will be bigger and better!"

Vendors of Imported Irish merchandise are likewise being sought. If you know of a possible vendor, please contact Dave Kennedy arkdavek@aol.com, for more information.



Again, volunteers are being sought to help with the management of the festival. Although the volunteers who just want to tend bar are much appreciated, we need help in publicity, logistics, sponsorship, planning, preparation and clean up.

The way the Society has grown over the last few years, as a result of our doing Irish Fest, we know we have many talented members who would be able to make the festival even better. Contact us !

2005-2006

Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President:

Coley O'Connell

First Vice President:

Raymond Slattery

Second Vice President

David Kennedy

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David Harris-John

Treasurer

Michael Malloy

Board of Directors

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2006

Dan Maher

Sheila Corrigan

2007

Jim Lawler

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2008

Tom Blackburn

Al Klausmeier

New Member Director

Eric Lindholm

IRISH WAY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Dan Malloy, chairman of the scholarship committee has announced the winners of the Society's Irish Way Scholarship.

Maureen McGreevy from Plainfield Central High School and Janel Couch from Joliet Central won the scholarship competition held in January by the society. They were selected from six, very qualified applicants from the eligible schools.

Malloy contacted all high schools in the County urging their students to apply for the scholarship. Six applicants were interviewed by the Scholarship Committee. According to Jim Albritton, "the competition gets tougher and

tougher every year. The two winners this year are outstanding."

The Irish American Society of County will has been an active participant in the Irish American Cultural Institute's Irish Way Program since 1983, and has been recognized by the Irish Way program as the longest continual sponsor of the thirty one year history of the program.

Open to any High School student, the program involves a five week stay in Ireland and learning about our native country. The students study in Dublin, Waterford and Galway, as well as a home stay with an Irish Family.

This year, their five week Irish Way odyssey will be held June 28 through July 27.



WEBSITE

Perhaps many members of the Society are unaware that we have a web site! Created in 2002 it is sporadically maintained and updated. The site, www.CountyWillIrish.org contains the latest news about both the Irish American Society of

County Will and the Shamrock Rugby Club.

In addition to the current events section, the site has become a repository of information about the Society. Former scholarship winners, Citizens of the Year, and current officers are

posted. There is a section of pictures of the Society's activities. Links to other things Irish, rugby club information and Irish jokes also are featured. Additions or corrections to the site may be emailed to the webmaster at mike@mch-ins.com.

2005 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS -- UPDATE

Mary Kate McHugh, IASCW Scholarship winner in 2005, recently became the Valedictorian at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox. Aside from being a scholarship winners as a Junior, Mary Kate has been active at Providence as vice president of the Habitat for Humanity chapter, treasurer of the National Honor Society, a four year honor roll student, and member of the Scholastic Bowl Team. She has been active in the Augustinian Youth Ministry. An AP scholar, Illinois State Scholar and winner of several academic awards, she will attend the University of Illinois this fall. She is the daughter of Mike and Mary McHugh of Manhattan. "The Irish Way was an incredible experience for me, and I thank the Society so much for offering me the opportunity to go", said Mary Kate.

Kaitlin Malloy, who also won the Society's scholarship last year, was a senior from Plainfield South. She has now completed her First year of studies at the he University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. During

her first year there, she made the Dean's list, majoring in biology and minoring in Spanish. With the internet and email, she still has been able to stay in touch with the many friends she made on the Irish Way, and would love to go back again.



Mary Kate & Kaitlin on the Irish Way in Waterford Ireland

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

As many readers are aware, the Newsletter is periodically published. Lately, the period in periodically has become more of an epoch. The cadre of volunteers which make the Society run have been incredibly busy with Manhattan Irish Fest.

The Board needs help! We need **you** to give of your talent and time. Volunteers are desperately needed to work on the following committees: Newsletter, Awards Dinner, Picnic, Irish Fest . We are also looking for some fresh blood to serve on the Board of Directors. President Coley O'Connell notes, "As the membership roster has grown, the involvement of new members has been missing. We need to get everyone involved!"

NEW EDITOR

Mike McHugh, long-time Membership Chairman of the Society, has recently been appointed Editor of the IASCW newsletter. McHugh, was the original editor when the Society was formed in 1981.

"I owe my journalistic style to Fr. Kevin Shanley, O'Carm. He taught a journalism class at Joliet Catholic. As an 8th grader, many years ago, I was privileged to learn the journalistic style from his talented hand." McHugh added that he will temporarily edit this newsletter, until someone can be found. This is a paid position on the board of the Society.

Since re-taking the helm of the newsletter, McHugh has stepped up and streamlined the printing process. A local printer electronically receives the newsletter and prints the addresses directly onto the paper. All we have to do now is lick the stamps to get the newsletter into the member's hand. The same software will be employed so that the newsletter may be viewed on line by way of a .pdf file format.

Hopefully some member will step forward and take over the reins from McHugh. If you are interested, please let a board member know!



New Editor Mike McHugh

Fr Kevin Honored

Society founder and Irish scholar, Fr Kevin O'Neill Shanley, O.Carm. was recently honored as one of the Irish American magazine's top 100 Irish Americans of the Year.

In his vocation as well as in his scholarly pursuits, Fr Kevin has stayed true to his Irish roots.

As a child growing up in New Jersey, Fr Kevin listened to stories of Ireland, told to him at the kitchen table by his Irish-born father. Inspired by those tales, Fr Kevin has spent his life writing about Ireland and the Irish-American experience.



Society members join with Fr Kevin at his celebration of 50 years of ordination

A teacher at Joliet Catholic High School for many years, as well as at St. Xavier University in Chicago, he founded the Celtic News Service and has authored over three hundred articles, "The Tinker's Damn" for the Irish American News in Chicago.

Fr Kevin's loyalty to his Irish heritage is also apparent in his work with the Irish American Cultural Institute. Founding the Irish Way summer study program in 1975, he has been on the Society's Scholarship Committee, selecting local candidates for this program, since the society began supporting the Irish way.

On May 26, 2006, Fr Kevin celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination at the Carmelite Spirituality Center in Darien IL.

Congratulations, Fr Kevin.

Mission Statement

According to the Society's Constitution and By-laws, enacted February 10, 1982, and revised November 1, 1993, the Purpose of the The Irish American Society of Will County is as follows:

The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:

- To promote Irish culture in American and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work in the community.



We're on the Web:
County Will Irish.org

We need you!

Please submit your news, stories
and ideas for the Society to :

Phone: 815.478.3772

Fax: 815.478.4997

Mail: PO Box 81
Manhattan IL 60442-0081

Email: mike@mch-ins.com

Visit our websites:

CountyWill Irish.org

Manhattan Irish Fest.com

ADVERTISERS

One way to offset the tremendous cost of putting out a nicely crafted newsletter on a fairly regular basis is by advertising in it. The cost is \$100.00 per year for a business card sized ad, which will be seen by the 300+ subscribers at least **four** times per year.

The last issue had almost 20 advertisers. Starting from scratch, advertisers should contact Mike McHugh for more information. The advertisements should be submitted via email attachment.

If more newsletter issues are forthcoming, the ads will be placed in the extra issues at no cost to the advertiser (free).

The Irish American Society of County Will

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