



IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COUNTY WILL

Volume 25 Issue 4

October 2007

President's Letter

Dear Members:

I have been president of the IASCW for 3 years now. During my tenure, the Society has taken on many new endeavors to spread Irish Culture throughout the County.

I am often asked, why don't we have the golf outing anymore? Why didn't we have the family picnic this year. The answer to both questions is the same. We do not have the participation of the members.

I don't want to sound bitter, because I am not; I am tired. One person cannot run Irish Fest, the Society and work a demanding job, pursue a master's degree, and enjoy any kind of family life. We need to have, no, we must have more people to come forward and volunteer. Not just to tend bar at Irish fest!

One of our founding members, who has since departed., used to say, that a member can be any kind of member he wants, as long as he pays his dues.

We have the same people doing the organizing, year after year. They are called upon, because the board knows they will get the job done. However, that does not mean that an awards dinner for the Society is any different than a bowling banquet. It is way past time for you, the member to step up and help us out. Please....

Toward this end, at the September Board meeting, it was decided that the board would be contacting all of the members, to get more participation, not just *at* the events but to have a hand *in* the events



Member Jayne Malloy (left) entertains Jammer, the mascot of the Joliet Jackhammers at the recent Irish Night

Christmas Party

Plans are underway for a repeat of last year's IASCW Christmas party at the Galway Tribes in Frankfort. If you would like to help organize this, contact Vikki Loughrey at vloughrey@jackhammerbaseball.com

Awards Dinner — Elections — Annual Meeting

Citizens of the Year

It is with great pride and pleasure that the selection committee of the IASCW has chosen **Mike Dowd** and **Pat O'Neill** as the honorees for this year. **Dowd** is manager of City Beverages Inc, in Markham, has been a founding member, president and Chairman of the Board of the Society, and a regular supporter of the Society's Endeavors. **Pat O'Neill**, Will County coroner, has been an active member in the Society as well, garnering many awards and honors serving in his professional capacity. Hearty and well-earned congratulations to these leaders in business and government. Due to press time considerations, a full biography of each will be printed in the next issue.

Awards Dinner

This year's Citizen of the Year awards dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 100 S Infantry Dr. in Joliet on Saturday, Nov 10, 2007. Preceded by the annual meeting at 5:30, cocktails will begin promptly at 6:00 followed by dinner at 7:00.

A separate invitation will be mailed to the membership, and tables of 8 and 10 are available. Because this is a catered event, reservations are a must!

An annual event since 1985, the Society has honored many influential and significant individuals, including Judge Charles Connor, Mayor Art Schultz, Bishop Roger Kaffer, Coach Pat Sullivan and Businessman Terry D'Arcy.

Annual Meeting

In conjunction with the Awards Dinner, the Annual Meeting of the Irish American Society of County Will will be held Saturday Nov 10, 2007 at 5:30 pm, immediately preceding the start of the Awards Dinner. All Dues paying members are eligible to vote for the Officers and Board of Directors. (See article on p 3 for the proposed slate of candidates.)

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Dates to Remember

- Thu Oct 11 Irish Fest Meeting—Gallagher's Pub Manhattan
- Mon Oct 15 Board Meeting
- Sat Nov 10 Annual Meeting
- Sat Nov 10 Awards Dinner honoring Mike Dowd and Pat O'Neill
- Mon Nov 19 Board Meeting
- Mon Dec 17 Board Meeting
- Board meetings are held at the Joliet Elks Lodge I-55 and Jefferson Sts—Joliet
- Consult CountyWillIrish.net for last minute details, changes and corrections

Dues Statements

As the Society's year runs from November 1 through October 31, to coincide with the old Celtic year, the dues statements were mailed out by the Membership Secretary in late September. As a reminder, the member's dues must be paid in order to vote at the Annual Meeting. As a further convenience to our members, payments may be made via credit card from the web site, <http://www.countyWillIrish.net>. The pay pal site is secure, and convenient. Likewise, as in years past, payments may be sent to the membership secretary, or paid at the annual meeting.

So you think you're Irish #4

1. What is Ireland's official color ? A)Green B)White
C)Orange D)Blue
2. Who Introduced the Tricolor as Ireland's Flag? A)Padraig
Pearce B)Thomas Francis Meagher C)Brian Boru
D)Enya
3. "The Soldier's Song replaced what song as the National
Anthem in 1926? A)Amazing Grace B)Danny Boy
C)Auld Lang Syne D)God Save Ireland
4. What is the name of the Early Irish Runic Alphabet ?
A)Unical B)Gaelic C)Ogram D)Manx
5. What Co. Dublin town gave its name to a brawl?
A)Donneybrook B)Broohaha C)Toodoo D)Bally-
hooley
6. What Cake is associated with Halloween? A)Soda Bread
B)Cheese Cake C)Barmbrach D)Scones
7. Who introduced the potato to Ireland? A)Sir Walter
Raleigh B)St Patrick C)the Vikings D)the Earl of Tyr
Connell
8. What fowl is traditionally served for Christmas dinner?
A)Turkey B)Pheasant C)Duck D)Goose
9. When was The battle of the Boyne, between King James
II and William of Orange fought?
A)1690 B)1740 c)1916 D)1921
10. Who was the first Catholic to enter the House of Com
mons? A)Daniel O'Connell B)Robert Emmet
C)Charles Stewart Parnell D)Padraig Pearse

Answers

"So You Think You're Irish #3 From the June 2007 Newsletter

1. B)Crack (craig) means a good time
2. B) Padraig is the Irish form of Patrick.
3. C)The Irish National Anthem
4. C) The Civil War
5. D) Fifteen were executed
6. A)St Brigid. It was generally believed that she
traveled around the night before her feast day,
blessing people and livestock.
7. B) A shamrock is traditionally worn in the lapel.
8. D) Liam O'Flaherty
9. B) Dunquin, Co Kerry is where Ryan's Daughter
was filmed.
10. The Town of Cong, Co Mayo was where The
Quiet Man was filmed.

Irish Night at Silver Cross Field

August 30, one of the last home Jackhammers games brought thousands of Irish to Silver Cross field in downtown Joliet to celebrate Irish Night with the Jackhammers. A beautiful late summer evening guaranteed a good time. Besides a very entertaining game, those who came early were treated to a host of Irish activities. By the time the gates had opened, nearly a hundred members were waiting at the gate, heeding the warning to get there early for the festivities. The society's logo lit up the jumbotron in center field.

Sheila Corrigan headed up the Society's information booth on the mezzanine level of the field, handing out newsletter, brochures and membership applications to the really interested attendees. One remarked, "I've lived in Bolingbrook all of my life, and have never heard of the Society"

The Shamrock rugby club gave a demonstration of the sport on the Center Field Turf, much to the consternation of the head groundskeeper. Mick Brophy took the team through their paces, eloquently describing the finer points of rugby.

After they had finished, Eilish Sullivan, of the Sullivan School of Irish Dance in New Lenox gave a brief introduction to Step Dancing. When the music began, the dancers took over, doing Jigs and Reels on the roof of the home and visitor's dugouts.

As game time approached, Club Director Dan Maher and Treasurer Mike Malloy threw out the ceremonial opening pitch. Mike still can throw a pretty good fast ball !

Precisely as advertised, all stood at 7:05 to hear Brendan Loughrey sing Our National Anthem, and the Irish National Anthem (in Irish). A grand time was had by all. Those in attendance agreed that this would be worthwhile doing again next year. Special thanks goes out to Vikki Loughrey from the Jackhammers organization for putting on such a wonderful opportunity for the Society to participate. Also, special thanks to Mike Dowd of City Beverage for letting our valued senior members watch the game in comfort.

2006-2007**Officers**

President:

Coley O'Connell

First Vice President:

Raymond Slattery

Second Vice President

Sheila Corrigan

Secretary

Vikki Loughrey

Treasurer

Michael Malloy

Board of Directors

Timothy M. Brophy, Chairman

2007 Jim Lawler

David Kennedy

2008 Tom Blackburn

Al Klausmeier

2009 Dan Maher

David Harris-John

New Member Director

Shaun Mojzis

Historian:

Col. Wm. Ferguson

Rugby Club Representative:

Jim Hanley

Membership:

Michael J. McHugh

Honors and Degrees

James W. Lawler

Tommy Makem November 4, 1932 – August 1, 2007

By Col Wm Ferguson

Quite a few years ago Tommy Makem wrote a timely song about the bombing of the statue of Lord Nelson that stood by O'Connell bridge at the Liffey in Dublin City. Lord Nelson's statue stood across the river facing the statue of Daniel O'Connell whose base still shows the bullet scars from the 1916 rising.

Part of Makem's song, sung as if from the lips of O'Connell himself... "And then in 1966, on March the 7th day / A bloody great explosion made Lord Nelson rock and sway./ He crashed and Dan O'Connell cried in woeful misery, there are twice as many pigeons now will come and sh*t on me!"

Dan O'Connell himself must be crying once again for the (death) of Ireland's master of song, Tommy Makem, the Bard of Armagh. Mr. Makem passed away recently in Dover, NH of cancer at the age of 74. President Mary McAleese of Ireland, in tribute to Makem said "always the consummate musician, he was also a superb ambassador for the country, and one of whom we will always be proud".

The IASCW has our own memories of Tommy Makem. I remember seeing him on TV for the first time when he and the Clancy brothers appeared on the Danny Thomas Show. Songs both sung and written by Tommy Makem, such as Four Green Fields, Red is the Rose, and Gentle Annie became popular throughout the world. Many of us stayed later than we should have at the Milwaukee Irish Fest just to hear Tommy and Liam Clancy perform. They appeared on stage at the Rialto Theatre on Feb. 25, 1983, in a program sponsored by the IASCW. The day after the performance Tom Ward, my son Brad and I drove Tommy and Liam to Chicago where they had booked a room. We stopped for lunch and had a great visit with both of them. Our waitress kept coming back to the table and looking over her shoulder at the two of them. She thought that she should know them but couldn't place their faces. After a while, I got up to use the facility, and as I passed her I asked if she recognized the two. "Ah now! I should" she said, "but I can't be certain." I told her that it was Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy. She swallowed three or four times, gathered up her wits, her breath, and her skirt and nearly ran me over to welcome them to Chicago. She was from Ireland herself and had only been in the states for three months. After lunch we drove them to their hotel. Tom Ward was driving with Liam sitting in front. Tommy, Brad and I were in the back. The bouncing car, a lunch that hadn't settled well and the sun shining through the window were to blame for Brad getting sick and vomiting. As gracious as ever, Tommy and Liam invited us up to his room so Brad could clean up. Years later, in Milwaukee, I passed Tommy at the park. He jokingly looked quickly around and faking apprehension asked, "Where's your son?". Tommy Makem will always be remembered for his great contribution to Irish music, for his unique ability to move an audience to tears and laughter and for his humanity, God bless Tommy Makem!

Google This

When you "Google" the internet, looking for **Irish**, 141,000,000 hits are obtained. Trying **Irish Music**, gets almost 30 Million hits. **Irish Culture**, Over 9 million. With so many choices, who has the time to go through 141 million websites to find the good ones?

I have discovered live Ireland.com to be a great source of fine traditional and contemporary Irish Music. Shopireland.com is a good source for interesting gifts from Ireland.

Our readers are invited to eMail us with their favorite sites. Help fellow members sort through the clutter! The sites will be posted in the "Interesting Links" section of our website: <http://www.countywillirish.net>.

Elections

According to the Society's Constitution and Bylaws, elections are to be held at the annual meeting in November. Any member, whose dues are paid in full may serve as an officer. Board positions are for a two year term, with the exception of the new member director, who serves for one year.

This year, the election committee has placed the following names in nomination: Sheila M. Corrigan, President; Shaun Mojzis, First Vice President; Coley O'Connell, Second Vice President; Vikki Loughrey, Secretary, and Mike Malloy, Treasurer.

In addition, as the board of Directors sits for a three year term, the directors to serve until 2010 are Jim Lawler and Billy Boyle. Per the constitution and By-Laws, the New Member Director, who serves for a one year term will be Jim Curran.

Also per the constitution, nominations may be made from the floor of the annual meeting. The New officers will be introduced after the elections at the Awards Dinner.

Odds and Ends

Advertisers are now being sought for the 2007-8 Newsletter series. Current advertisers will be billed in October. Their Ad will be placed in all for anticipated issues for the 27th volume of The Irish American Society Newsletter. If you, or someone you know should be advertising with us, please contact the editor at PO Box 81 — Manhattan IL 60442 or call 815.478.3772

Chicago St Pub will host a **New Years Eve in Dublin** party, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, December 31 2007. They will have drink specials and Irish Music to help ring in the new year at Midnight, Dublin Time.

Scholarship—The IASCW will be holding its annual scholarship to the **Irish Way** this winter. Applications are available on our website, through your High School guidance department or by mail from PO Box 81 / Manhattan IL 60442.

Articles for this newsletter are being sought. You don't have to be able to write like Eugene O'Neill or Maurice Walsh to be a contributor please email your article, observation or news item to mike@mchughinsurance.com

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