



THE CORK REBEL



The County Cork B. P. & P. Association
33-01 Greenpoint Ave. Long Island City, NY 11101

2019 BOARD OF OFFICERS

Chaplain

Fr. James Drew

President

Gary Power

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Catherine O'Shea

Recording

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Kathy McCarthy

Financial

Secretary

Kathy Feeley

Corresponding

Secretary

Mary Hurley

Sergeant at Arms

Larry Finn

Trustees:

Mary Power

Martin Hurley

Timothy Murphy

MEETINGS:

Thursday, January 3rd – 6:30 pm: Building Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 3rd – 7:30 pm: Officers Meeting

Sunday, January 6th – 3:30 pm: General Membership Meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, January 20th – Installation of Officers & Scholarship Awards Dinner, Cork Hall, 3pm

Friday, January 25th – United Irish Counties 115th Annual Dinner Dance, Antun's, 7:30pm

Saturday, February 2nd – Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade 44th Annual Ball, Antun's, 7pm

Saturday, March 2nd – Cork's 135th St. Patrick's Banquet, Antun's of Queens Village

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM 2017-2018 PRESIDENT TREASA GOODWIN-SMYTH

As President of our wonderful association for the past two years, I have so many good reasons to express my heartfelt thanks to the Board of Officers, Past Presidents, members, and friends of our Association. We have accomplished much together in the last two years and that time has passed by much too quickly.

I am proud to report some highlights of our achievements and successes during the last two years. Together, along with the Board of Officers, Building Committee, and you, the membership, we have embarked on a great journey that included line dancing, fundraisers, and introducing an evening meeting in early summer to benefit the membership. We have also successfully completed much-needed renovations both inside and outside of our building. Of course this journey was only possible because we were in it together, committed to the good of our Association.

I am immensely proud that *The Young Rebel Networking Group* is now up and running and many planned social events are in progress. This is our Association's future leaders. I sincerely ask you all to come out and support these highly motivated Young Rebels.

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped provide positive support and active engagement in all of our activities, with great pride in your accomplishments, respect and hard work.

I want to say one final thank you for the honor of serving as your President. Yes, it has been very rewarding and certainly a very wonderful experience. Since 1884 our Association has grown in so many great ways and deserves to continue to be successful. I know it will prosper and grow with your continued support.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our new President Gary Power and his incoming Board of Officers and committee members. I wish them every success going forward. As I take on the new role of Past President, I will be delighted to assist in any way that is needed in the future.

I humbly and sincerely thank you all.

"May your troubles be less and your blessings Be More, and nothing but happiness come Through your Door"

Sincerely,
President Treasa Goodwin-Smyth

2019 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, MEMORIAL MASS & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Past President Tim Murphy is once again chairing our annual Installation of Officers and Scholarship Awards Dinner. This will take place on Sunday, January 20.

A Mass to honor our deceased members will begin at 3pm and will be immediately followed by the Installation and Awards ceremony.

Please be sure to call Tim Murphy to reserve your seats. (718) 578-8761. Tickets are \$40/pp.

This is always a very popular event, so reserve your seats as soon as you can.



CORK HALL RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

The exterior renovation of the Cork Hall is continuing with the addition of a new front window and decorative molding. The transformation is really remarkable. Still to come: a new paint job and the reinstallation of the County Cork sign.

We hope you'll show your support for the Bantry Bay Publick House with your continued patronage. Whether it's a night out for dinner, or if you have a party to plan, Erika, Matt, and Jimmy have the newest, up-and-coming hotspot in western Queens.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: We'd like to welcome our newest members, **Dan O'Brien** (Ballydehob). Dan will be honored as Cork Man of the Year at our upcoming St. Patrick's Dinner Dance on March 2nd.

GOOD LUCK to **Thomas O'Driscoll** son of member Stephen and grandson of past president, the late Bill O'Driscoll, who has joined the Marine Reserve and started his basic training on December 3 at Paris Island.

FUNDRAISER FOR SUNNYSIDE FIRE VICTIMS: Donie Carroll hosted a fundraiser at the Cork Hall on 12/23 to raise funds for those affected by the terrible fire in Sunnyside that took place on December 13th, destroying a number of businesses on Queens Boulevard. Erika, Jimmy, and Matt from the Bantry Bay Publick House donated the food, and Donie and friends put on a great performance. There was a great turnout and a real coming together of the community.

CORK CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY was a great success once again and many thanks to all who assisted Santa in bringing Christmas to the Cork Hall including Martina O'Dowd, Treasa Goodwin-Smyth, Mary O'Sullivan, Deirdre O'Hea, Eileen O'Hea, Larry Finn, and all of the elves. Magic Dave dazzled us all, and the children enjoyed meeting Jolly St. Nick. Even the Grinch made an appearance! It was a magical day!

HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS: For the past 9 years, the Association has been sending Holiday gift baskets out to our ill or homebound members conveying our holiday wishes and letting them know that they are in our thoughts always. Many thanks to Mary Power for organizing this year's baskets.

UNITED IRISH COUNTIES 115TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE will take place on **Friday, 1/25**, at Antun's of Queens Village. 'Gael of the Year' is Patrick J. McGowan. The Rose Cosgrove Distinguished Service Award is being given to Michael F. Prunty. Rumour Has It will perform. Tickets are \$100pp. Catherine Hogan is in charge of reservations – (646) 489-5258.

QUEENS COUNTY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & CULTURAL COMMITTEE 44TH ANNUAL BALL will take place on **Saturday, 2/2**, at Antun's. Cocktails at 7pm followed by dinner and dancing from 8pm-12am. Honoring Grand Marshal Thomas A. Callahan, Honorary Grand Marshals John Norbury and Catherine T. Hogan, and Deputy Grand Marshals including Fr. Tom Basqual. Tickets are \$125/pp. For information contact Michael Benn at kroppyboy@aol.com.

FOLLOW ME BACK TO IRELAND 2019 TOUR, 7/6-16: Sean O'Shea, son of our late member and well-loved Irish entertainer Richie O'Shea, will be hosting a fabulous tour from 7/6-16/19. This special group departure with CIE Tours will include stays in Derry, Donegal, Westport, Tralee, and Kilkenny. The 10-day tour costs \$3,799 per person. To book or for more information contact: Sean O'Shea at osheatravel@gmail.com or call 516.962.4488.

CORK ASSOCIATION CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



✎ *Get Well Wishes & Prayers* ✎

We would like to send continued get-well wishes and prayers to our Past President **Joe Murphy**, **Alice Smith**, **Dan O'Neill**, **Ed Shevlin Jr.**, **Anne Guinee**, **Marjorie Hayes**, **Patricia Young O'Connor**, **Tim Hegarty**, and **Dan Murphy**. Prayers are also requested for **Sean & Mary Driscoll**, **Olivene Hurley**, **Brian Creedon**, **Liam Ahern** and **Martin Hurley**. Best wishes for continued recovery to our **Chaplain, Fr. Jim Drew**.

✎ *Condolences* ✎

Our sincere condolences to Patricia Young O'Connor on the passing of her brother **Fachtna (William) Young** of Ballybrack, Co Dublin and formerly Dunmanway, West Cork.

We are also sad to announce the passing of our chaplain Fr. James Drew's nephew **Paul Farrell** from Inishannon, Co Cork.

Deepest sympathies to Treasa Goodwin-Smyth on the passing of her uncle **David Coffey** on Christmas Eve.

ENTERTAINMENT: **Donie Carroll** hosts the Sunnyside Singers Club at Café Aubergine (Wednesdays, 8pm) on Skillman Avenue, Sunnyside. **Eileen Cronin** hosts the "Long Ireland Show" on Saturdays from 2-5pm on WRHU 88.7 FM Hofstra University www.WRHU.org. **Treasa Goodwin Smyth** and husband Tommy Smyth host the show "Ireland Calls" every Saturday. Listen live at irelandcallsradioshow.com at 6pm or on WVOX 1460 AM (Twitter: @irelandcalls). Tune in to hear **Gary Power** on his radio show "Full Irish" on WHPC 90.3FM on Saturdays from 11am-12pm.

CORK PUBLICANS/RESTAURATEURS: **John Browne's Grandstand Pub & Restaurant** located on Grand Avenue in Maspeth has a beautiful dining room that is a perfect place to bring your family, small or large, for a delicious dinner or drinks. Visit **Pat Burke's Brickyard Gastropub** in NYC, **The Courtyard** in Sunnyside, or **Woodbines** in LIC. Be sure to visit **Sharon Crowley** and her staff at **The Garth Road Inn**, Scarsdale, for great food and great craic and a traditional Seisun on Sunday afternoons and Trivia Quiz Night every Tuesday at 7:30pm.

COMPUTER SALES, SERVICES, AND REPAIRS: Visit the **Village Computer Shop** at 17 Boniface Circle in Scarsdale for all of your home or business computer needs: computer sales, network services, POS business solutions, diagnostics, repairs. Contact **Miles Spisiak**, proprietor, For information, call (914) 574-4900 or visit www.villagecomputershop.com.

VISITATION & FUNERAL PLANNING: Member **Clive Anderson** and his staff at the **Pelham Funeral Home** (64 Lincoln Avenue, Pelham) will help to honor and tell the story of your loved one in the serene environment of their beautiful home. Repatriation services also available. For information, call (914) 738-1060, email clive@pelhamfuneral.com, or visit www.pelhamfuneral.com.

IRISH EXAMINER USA ONLINE: Keep up to date on the important news, entertainment, and sports from Ireland thanks to member Paddy McCarthy who publishes this great paper. Go to www.irishexaminerusa.com/digital to read the online edition.

COUNTY CORK PIPE BAND is always looking for new members! Practices are held every Wednesday from 7pm – 9pm at the Cork Hall. Anyone interested can check out their Facebook page.

ARE YOUR DUES IN ORDER? Don't miss out on all of the great news and events that the County Cork B.P.&P. Association has planned for 2018. Please make an effort to catch up if you're in arrears, or contact Kathy to find out the status of your dues. You may forward dues of \$24.00 for the year 2018 to the attention of Kathy Feeley Financial Secretary and mail to the address noted on the masthead of the newsletter.

GOOD & WELFARE: To report births, marriages, illnesses, recoveries or deaths of a member or family member, contact Mary Hurley at (718) 898-1425.

CORK PHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ROBO-CALL): Sign up to get important updates on your phone. Send an e-mail with your telephone numbers or email address to the nycorkbpp@gmail.com or call Tim Murphy at (718) 578-8761.

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you are moving or have moved recently, please notify the Cork Association at the address listed on the letterhead. Or you can contact Corresponding Secretary Mary Hurley at (718) 898-1425.

PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT? The Cork Hall is available for rental to all members at special rates. The Bantry Bay Publick House & Restaurant, which has the best food in Long Island City, will provide for all of your catering needs. Plus, Association members receive discounts on meals. Call Matt, Jimmy, or Erika at (718) 784-9500 for information.

"I believe we stand on the threshold of great change. Previous generations have struggled for a United Ireland. But our generation has the best opportunity to achieve it." - Martin McGuinness

THE MARTIN MCGUINNESS PRINCIPLES

(1) EQUALITY - THE ENACTMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS:

"We have pressed consistently for the establishment of a Bill of Rights in the North and an all-Ireland Charter of Rights" - Martin McGuinness

The terms of the Good Friday Agreement called for the adoption of a Bill of Rights in the North of Ireland. Twenty years after the Good Friday Agreement was ratified by more than 70% of the voters in the North of Ireland and 94% of the people in the Republic there is still no Bill of Rights. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission was mandated to put forward recommendations. In 2008, the Commission made proposals to the UK government recommending the recognition of a broad range of social and economic rights. Successive British governments have failed to affirmatively act on these recommendations. Now, with significant opposition from within the British government to continuing to accept the jurisdiction of European human rights conventions, and a determination to scrap the Human rights Act, it becomes even more important that the rights of Ireland's citizens in the North be protected when it comes to critical human rights issues.

(2) RESPECT - FULL STATUTORY EQUALITY FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE:

"Successive British Governments...have totally failed to meet their obligations...to protect the rights of the Irish language community" - Martin McGuinness

The Good Friday Agreement affirmed "the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland...the British Government will, in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it: take resolute action to promote the language; facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand..." Eight years later, under the terms of the St. Andrews Agreement of 2006, the British Government committed to introduce an Act to give the Irish language official status equal to that accorded the Scots Gaelic and Welsh languages. They failed to honor this obligation, and the Democratic Unionist Party explicitly repudiated it. Subsequent DUP moves in government to defund Irish language study were a major contributing factor to the resignation of Martin McGuinness as Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister in 2017, when he cited that party's lack of "respect" for the rights and cultural traditions of the Irish nationalist community in the North.

(3) TRUTH - EQUAL JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT AND THEIR FAMILIES:

"Dealing with the legacy of the past remains one of the key outstanding challenges of our peace process. Unless it is dealt with in a comprehensive manner then the essential process of healing and reconciliation cannot gain momentum"

"Instead of working constructively to address the hurt and pain caused by the legacy of our recent conflict, the British Government has, at every turn, blocked and frustrated all efforts to reach a solution" - Martin McGuinness

Many victims of the conflict in the North and their families have waited decades to learn the full truth about what happened to them and their loved ones. Funding must be provided for proper inquests to move forward. The full story of collusion and cover-ups must be told, and those responsible for human rights abuses must be brought to justice.

(4) SELF-DETERMINATION - THERE MUST BE A REFERENDUM ON IRISH UNITY TO AFFIRM IRISH SELF-DETERMINATION:

"There is a democratic imperative to provide Irish citizens with the right to vote in a border poll on Irish unity to end partition and retain a role in the EU."

"A border poll on Irish unity is part of the process of building a modern and dynamic New Republic on this island – an agreed Ireland achieved by peaceful and democratic means." - Martin McGuinness

Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, the British Government committed to formally "recognize that it is for the people of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent..." Provisions were included for referenda on Irish unity, whose results would be given effect by the governmental parties to the Agreement. The Agreement went on to commit that the signatory parties (including the British Government) should not "make any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of a majority of its people" (italics added). Despite the fact that Brexit clearly represents a "change in status" of Northern Ireland, and despite the fact that the people of the north voted by a large majority to reject Brexit and remain inside the European Union, the British government is determined to impose this very significant change (having potentially profound consequences for Ireland), on the people of Ireland north and south, against their democratically expressed wishes. If the Good Friday Agreement's commitments to self-determination are to have any meaning, the British Government must allow the Irish people the opportunity to determine their future.

We support:

- A Bill of Rights.
- Full statutory equality for the Irish Language.
- Funding for legacy inquests as part of the process of healing and reconciliation.
- A referendum on Irish unity in keeping with the Good Friday Agreement.