



Division 61 Officers:

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Dr. Brian Sickel, D.B.S.

Ancient Order of Hibernians
PO Box 65576
Philadelphia, PA 19155

AOH Division 61 December Newsletter

Upcoming Events

County Board Meeting @ Div 39 December 2nd
7:30 PM

AOH 61 Monthly Meeting December 3rd 8:00 PM

Kathi McKenna Fundraiser for Pegasus Riding
Academy Sunday December 5th 2:00-6:00 PM

Tir Na Nog Christmas is for Giving Party
December 18th 3:00 PM

Christmas is for Giving Toy Distribution
December 19th 9:30 AM

Christmas December 25th

Quiz-o Saturday January 1st 8:00 PM

AOH 61 Monthly Meeting January 7th 8:00 PM

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2010

DIVISION 61 CLUB HOURS

Sunday Noon-10PM

Monday Noon-Midnight

Tuesday Noon-Midnight

Wednesday Noon-Midnight

Thursday Noon-Midnight

Friday Noon- 2AM

Saturday Noon-2AM

**“There are no strangers here;
only friends you haven’t met.”**
W.B Yeats

Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity!

AOH DIVISION 61 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**President's Letter**

Each year our division provides food and toys to those in need in our community. This year the need is expected to be greater than in years past, and our traditional corporate sponsors have discontinued their charitable giving. So, I'm asking each member to make a donation to our Christmas is for Giving effort. If you don't have time for shopping please consider a cash donation, again, every little bit helps. Donations can be dropped off at the club or at our December meeting. At the Division 61's Christmas Party (Scheduled for December 18th) we ask each child to "give" Santa an unwrapped toy for those less fortunate than ourselves. On Sunday December 19th starting at 9:30 at St. Dominic's Marion Hall we also need volunteers to pack and distribute toys and food, this is a great opportunity to help our community and for anyone required to perform community service to pick up a few hours.

Joe Schickling is selling calendars to benefit the AOH State Board for \$35 each. With the purchase of a calendar you have a chance to win a cash prize based on the daily number, they make a great Christmas present for the difficult to buy for person we all have. Calendars are available from Joe or at the club.

Hopefully, we will see each other at the next meeting on December 3rd, as always; I may be reached at 215-920-0910 or jgill@septa.org with any questions or concerns.

Yours in our motto,
Jack

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the December meeting there will be elections for the following offices with the respective candidates listed below. In order to be eligible to vote members must be in good standing (Dues Paid) & be on time for the December meeting (12/3/2010) starting at 8:00 pm. Once the voting begins no one will be admitted to the meeting. There are no absentee ballots except for those on active mili-

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Treasurer: | Tom Campbell Colin Dempsey |
| Steward: | Mike Kinney Marty Prendergast |
| Sentinel: | Jack Haggerty Shane Kelly |

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| Trustee (2 YEAR TERM): |
| Tom Byrne Joe Giorgi Sean Kearns |
| Trustee (3 YEAR TERM): |
| Jay Hull Chris Mullen Tim Murphy |

State Board Calendars

State Board Calendars are available. They are \$40 They make a GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT for all those hard to buy for moms and dads. Total prizes of over \$25,000 with the grand prize being a trip for two to Ireland. Please see Joe Schickling at the December meeting

Quiz-What?....Quiz-O!!!

Quiz-o for December will be **SATURDAY, January 1st** beginning at 8:00 PM. Come out with friends, wife, girlfriend whom ever and impress them with your knowledge of near useless information.

This month's theme:
TEEN IDOLS

CONGADULATIONS

After much begging (from Joe) I must congratulate Joe Weldon on his "three peat" winning Foursome in the men's Golf Outing, Chili winner in the Soup & Chili Cook-off & Thanksgiving Eve Football Game

Welcome

On behalf of AOH Division 61, we extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our family:

James Costello III & Matthew J. Ferguson

hope you enjoy everything this organization has to offer and that you continue to live in *Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.*

Benefit for Pegasus Riding Academy

Sunday, December 5th from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

AOH/LAOH Division 61 will host the 5th annual *Kathi McKenna Memorial Fundraiser for the Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy.*

As many of you know, our LAOH sister and friend, Kathi McKenna, who passed away, started this scholarship benefit in 2006. When Kathi approached several members of our division about hosting a benefit for a scholarship, we gladly accepted the challenge. This is our 5th year hosting this benefit.

As a brief background, Pegasus was incorporated in 1982 with the purpose of providing disabled individuals with therapeutic activity and exercise in various forms, while concentrating on ability rather than disability. It is the only fully certified medically approved riding therapy program in the City of Philadelphia.

Christmas is for Giving Party is Saturday December 18th 3:00 pm till 6:00pm. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and Children admission is an unwrapped new toy to give to Santa when he arrives at the club. Admission includes food for all, a craft for the kids and a candy cane from Santa. If you cannot make the party and would like to donate a toy (s) please have them to the club by Saturday

DUES

2010 dues are now due! They have now been increased to \$55. Dues may be paid at meetings, dropped off to the club in an envelope with your name and the amount or mailed to AOH Division 61 4131 Rhawn Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

AOH DIVISION 61 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Irish Christmas Superstitions

In the old days, children were usually charged with the responsibility of gathering the Yule-tide decorations and finding a holly bush loaded with berries was considered very lucky. Holly is a symbol commonly associated with Christmas and has been used in Yule-tide celebrations for almost two thousand years.

To the Druids, it was holly's evergreen nature that made it special. They believed that it remained green to help keep the earth beautiful when the other trees shed their leaves. It was also their custom to wear it in their hair when they ventured into the forests to watch the priests collecting mistletoe. Holly was also once used for protection, and in ancient times, people would decorate doors and windows with it, in hopes that it would capture, or at least dissuade, any evil spirits before they could enter the house.

While Mistletoe isn't very prevalent in Ireland, it can be found, and it was held in very high regard by our ancestors. In the Celtic language, Mistletoe means "All Heal." It was believed to have all sorts of miraculous qualities including the power of healing diseases, banning evil spirits, bringing good luck and bestowing great blessings. In fact, even enemies who happened to meet beneath a Mistletoe in the forest would lay down their arms, exchange a friendly greeting, and keep a truce until the following day. From this old custom grew the practice of suspending Mistletoe over a doorway or in a room as a token of good will and peace to all.

There are many superstitions associated with Christmas Eve. It was once believed that on Christmas Eve, an angel stands on every spike of the holly leaves. It was also said that the Good People would come in out of the cold to find shelter in the holly branches and that the mischief of the evil spirits was suspended for this Holy Night. One lovely belief is that honey bees celebrate the Nativity by waking up from their winter sleep and humming a song of praise to Christ.

In the old days, people believed that animals celebrated the arrival of Christ and that the cows in the cattle-sheds and the deer in the forests went down on their knees at midnight. Others believed that animals were able to speak like humans on Christmas Eve - but it was bad luck to try and listen in!

The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas Eve is still practiced today. Primarily it was, and still is, a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travelled looking for shelter. The candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'. To have no light meant that you shared the guilt of the Inn-keeper at Bethlehem who said, "No Room"!

After evening meal, the kitchen table was again set and on it were placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveler, could come in. It's also said that leaving a loaf of bread on the table will ensure bread for the coming year. And, you should also leave a bowl of water out to be blessed by the travelers - this water would be used for cures.

There were also sinister superstitions associated with the eve of Christ's birth. If, when all were seated round the fire, one shadow on the wall behind them was headless, then the person who cast the shadow would be dead before the end of the year. Someone would also die if a hoop fell off a cask. If the principal candle goes out for some reason during the Christmas season, it is a bad omen - possibly the death of the head of the household.

It was commonly held in Ireland that the gates of Heaven open at midnight and those who die would go straight in. It was also believed that no prayer would go unanswered on this most holy of nights.

As for Christmas Day itself, according to an old verse, "If Christmas Day on a Sunday fall A troublesome Winter we shall have all."

As might be expected, there are a number of superstitions associated with food: It's said to be lucky to eat breakfast by candlelight on Christmas morning. You should eat plum pudding on Christmas to avoid losing a friend before next Christmas. Refuse a mince pie at Christmas dinner and you will have bad luck for the coming day. Drink three sips of salted water before Christmas dinner for good health - But on the second day after Christmas, abstain from meat to prevent fever.

Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green. A blowing wind on Christmas Day brings good luck - but, wearing new shoes will bring bad luck. And never turn a mattress - very bad luck for the turner! The child born on Christmas Day will have a special fortune and good luck will come to the home where a fire is kept burning throughout the Christmas season. To bring luck and blessings, you should take a wisp of straw from the nativity scene at the church and bring it home.

The weather on each of the twelve days of Christmas signifies what the weather will be on the appropriate month of the coming year. And, all decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas or Twelfth Night - the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. It is considered to be bad luck to take them down before then. Also, you shouldn't fix a leak in the roof during the twelve days - the leak will come back if you do!

FREE BIG SCREEN TV

Now that we have completed our Hall remodeling, we still have the old 55” big screen TV. It’s not new, but still worlds, ideally we would like to donate it to a Catholic School or other organization in need.

We can even deliver

Contact Jack Gill @ 215-920-0910 for more information

ADVERTISEMENTS

Reminder to our advertisers your 2010 advertising renewals are due. Anyone interested in advertising in the newsletter contact Jack Gill or Sean Campbell. We greatly appreciate our current advertisers and welcome any new advertisements.

Before the invention of the bus, Greyhound customers actually rode dogs.

Please remember to support our Patrons. Thank You!

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Please remember to support our Patrons. Thank You!

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| <p>James H. Leonard, CPA</p> <p>Income Tax Returns College Financial Aid Accounting Phone (609) 458-5660 jhleonard@comcast.net Treasurer & Proud Member of AOH Division 61</p> | <p>Hall Guys Catering Catering for all occasions 215-904-7798</p> <p>Breakfast, Dinner, Specialty Entrees, and Desserts Special packages and pricing are available for customized events.</p> | <p align="center">EMERALD CONFECTIONS</p> <p>Gourmet Irish Potatoes Own make Irish Potatoes, Butter Creams, Peanut Butter Creams, Hand-Dipped Chocolate Covered Pretzels made fresh daily</p> <p align="center">Jodi and Denny Boylan (Division 61 Members)</p> <p>A Full Line of Guinness Merchandise, Belleek, Irish Music CD'S and DVD's Phillies and Eagles Irish T-Shirts</p> <p>15004 Endicott St. at Southampton RD. 215-676-7180</p> | |
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| <p>Free Estimates Licensed & Insured</p> <p align="center">Kearns Electric Inc. Residential/Commercial President Sean Kearns AOH 61 Member</p> | | <p align="center"><u>Re/Max Eastern Realtors</u> Thinking of Buying or Selling?? Call Michael J. Shields 30 Years Experience AOH 61 Member</p> <p>Offices 7908 Frankford Ave. Grant & Roosevelt Blvd.</p> <p align="right">Tel: 215-961-6031 Cell: 215-292-0007 Fax: 215-961-6013 m.shields@myway.com</p> | |
| <p align="center">In Memory of Kevin Pierce (1955-2002)</p> <p align="center">Past President and Steward Of Division 61</p> <p align="center">Loving Husband, Father and Friend</p> | <p align="center">Penguin Studios LLC. Banners, Stickers, Vehicle Graphics, Magnets, Signs & Window Graphics</p> <p align="center">Owned & Operated by Ed Rooney 856-829-2312 efrooney@verizon.net http://mysite.verizon.net/ vzer37ii</p> | <p align="center">215-708-1700 Fax: 215-708-1785</p> <p align="center"><u>Infinity Jewelers</u> Diamonds * Watches * Jewelry</p> <p align="center">Kevin Ferguson, President (Member of Division 61) AOH Discount 3528 Cottman Ave., Phila. PA 19149 Large selection of Celtic./Irish Jewelry Custom Made: AOH Rings & Pins w/Division Number (14Kt & White)</p> | |
| <p align="center"><u>The Selzer Company</u> Insurance Brokers Michael P. Egan, LUTCF Personal Insurance Specialist (Member of Division 61) Auto, Home, Life</p> <p>975 Easton Road, Suite 100 Mikeegan@selzercompany.com Warrington, PA 18976</p> <p align="right">215-491-1660 Ext. 116</p> | | <p align="center">Pennsylvania Auto Salvage Inc. Charles McMenamin AOH Division 61 Member</p> <p align="center">Top Cash Paid for Your Old Car Any Condition Free Towing 215-535-0300 ask for Audrey</p> | |
| <p align="center">Hall Rentals</p> <p align="center">Kevin Pierce Hall can accommodate your Parties from 10 to 60 people. AOH Member Discount</p> <p align="center">For more info. contact Jack Gill at 215-920-0910</p> | | <p align="center">Giannini & Son's Roofing</p> <p align="center">4352 Paul St. Phila. PA 19124 215-288-5176 856-786-0956</p> | <p align="center">Joe Beggin (215) 281-9680 jpbeggin@aol.com</p> <p align="center">Offering free help to members conducting Genealogical and family history searches</p> |



Kathi McKenna Memorial Fundraiser for the Pegasus Riding Academy scholarship fund

When: Sunday December 5th 2010

Where: AOH Division 61

4131 Rhawn Street Philadelphia PA 19136

(Behind the Wachovia Bank)

Time: 2pm to 6pm

Cost \$20

Includes: Domestic drought beer, wine and food

Contact Patti Vogler at 215 -338-1607 or Pat McKenna at 267-593-8164 for more information. Come and have fun with us as we support a great program for children and adults with disabilities!