



# AOH Division 61 January Newsletter

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2015



## Division 61 Officers:

Sean Kearns **President**,  
Marty Prendergast **Vice  
President**, John Joe Kelly  
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rian**, Chris Baker **Steward**,  
Tim Murphy **Assistant Stew-  
ard**, Jack Gill **Past Presi-  
dent**, Jay Hull, Brian Kelly  
Jr., Tony Smith, Garry  
Thomas **Trustees**,  
Msr. Kevin Lawrence  
**Chaplain**

## Upcoming Events

### AOH 61 Monthly Meeting January 9th 8:00 PM

Officer Installation January 31st 6:00 PM

Super Bowl XLIX February 1st 6:30 PM

AOH 61 Monthly Meeting February 6th 8:00 PM

AOH 61 Monthly Meeting March 6th 8:00 PM

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Parade March 15th

St. Patrick's Day March 17th

## 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

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
PO Box 65576  
Philadelphia, PA 19136

**AOH DIVISION 61**

**President's Letter**

Hello brothers,

2014 is almost behind us, it was a good year for the club. Jack Gill is stepping down as our President after 9 great years of service to our Division. He has left big shoes for me to fill but I plan on keeping us headed in the right direction with the support of our officers and all our members. I'm proud and honored to be our new President and will do my best to keep Division 61 strong and leading the way as true Hibernians in 2015 and beyond. Please stop by to support the bar or help out with events in the upcoming year. If you have any concerns or questions that I can help you out with do not hesitate to call or email me; 215-906-5620 or kearnselectric@comcast.net

Thank you,  
Sean Kearns

At the December meeting an election took place for 3 trustee positions as all other office positions were not contested. The following members won the office of trustee:

Brian Kelly

Tony Smith

Garry Thomas

Congratulations to these gentleman and all the members that stepped up to run for office.

**QUIZZO is BACK**

Come out and test your knowledge against fellow AOH 61 members on Friday January 16th @ 7 pm. As a reminder our Quiz Master is **TC Curran!!!** Members and quests are welcome. Remember to sign in your guests

**The monthly meeting for January will be held on Friday the 9th at 8:00 PM NOT THE 2nd due to the Holiday Season!**

### Steward's Message:

Get out of the cold and come on into the club this month and enjoy the warmth inside. The holidays are over and there'll be plenty of playoff football and bowl games on as well as our usual Flyers' specials. If you're heading to Wing Bowl at the end of the month, see Chris Baker ([bakersm9@gmail.com](mailto:bakersm9@gmail.com)) for details about a pre-Wing Bowl party. Enjoy YOUR division, everyone!

Thank you to all the members that attended, supported and volunteered their time for two of the Division's major fundraisers in December: Pegasus Riding Academy and Christmas is for giving. Both events were a great success which could not have been attained by the support of the membership!

### Saint Malachy Parish Food Drive

Our Chaplain Msr. Kevin Lawrence is also the Pastor of Saint Malachy Parish. St. Malachy's maintains a food pantry to help those in need in the community. To help Saint Malachy Parish replenish their community food pantry. We need food donations that do not require refrigeration or special handling such as bread, fresh fruit, etc. Donations can be dropped off at the club or at meetings.

### Irish Music

Irish Music has returned and now will be held on the 4th Friday of the month. On Friday the 23rd the Division will be presenting the best in local Irish Music in our bar area.



**IRISH MUSIC FOR JANUARY IS:**

### Welcome

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

**No new members**

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

### ***DUES***

***2015 dues are now being collected! 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.***

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## **AOH DIVISION 6 I**

As we say goodbye to 2014 and welcome 2015 here are some Irish traditions for ringing in the New Year.

Throughout the centuries, the Irish have celebrated the dawn of each New Year in a series of special ways. Originally, the New Year was rung in during the end of October, during the Pagan festivals of Samhain. Over time, Ireland converted to Christianity, and this hallowed date followed annual Christmas celebrations instead. Today, the rituals of the past still offer a glimpse into Irish culture and tradition, many modern ways of celebrating the New Year can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

### **Lore, Ritual, and Superstition**

According to Irish superstition, the first person to enter your home after the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve will bring some kind of special luck, whether good or bad! If a tall, dark and handsome man is first to cross the threshold, this is a lucky portent! However, many Irish dread the sight of a red-haired woman, who will bring all manner of trouble and complications. It's probable that this fear of redheads is derived from ancient superstitions regarding witchcraft. Red hair was considered a "mark" of a witch, just as being left-handed or having green eyes might be looked on with suspicion by devout townsfolk.

### **Mistletoe Is Believed To Bring Romantic Bliss To Irish Women On New Year's Eve**

The magical properties of the tender mistletoe plant are often associated with Christmas – many people hold a sprig of this distinctive, white-berried plant over their heads, hoping for a kiss from a love interest. According to Irish New Year's traditions, women who tuck a bouquet of mistletoe under their pillows will receive special luck in love. In the New Year, they will find their true love, due to the mystical powers of this romantic winter plant.

### **Honoring The Dead**

The poignant Irish New Year's Tradition of honoring loved ones who have passed on still continues today. Many houses will feature an extra place setting, or multiple place settings, each one representing a deceased friend or family member. In the past, the front door would also be left unlocked, perhaps to allow spirits to move freely in and out of the home. Cleansing For The New Year a fresh and spotless home is considered a conduit for luck in the New Year. Irish families will take pains to clean their homes meticulously, in the hopes that this immaculate environment will bring good fortune in the months ahead. This sense of "cleansing" is spiritual – making room for new memories, new joys, and new luck is the purpose of this tidying ritual.

### **Can A Simple Loaf Of Bread Bring Good Luck?**

One fun Irish ritual to try this year involves a simple loaf of bread. For true authenticity, consider baking some Irish soda bread,

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 Of  
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